

Devotion for Pentecost

Psalm 139:1-18

O Lord, you have searched me and you know me.

You know when I sit and when I rise; you perceive my thoughts from afar.

You discern my going out and my lying down; you are familiar with all my ways.

Before a word is on my tongue you know it completely, O Lord.

You hem me in behind and before; you have laid your hand upon me.

Such knowledge is too wonderful for me, too lofty for me to attain.

Where can I go from your Spirit? Where can I flee from your presence

If I go up to the heavens you are there; if I make my bed in the depths, you are there.

If I rise on the wings of the dawn, if I settle on the far side of the sea,

even there your hand will guide me, your right hand will hold me fast.

If I say, "Surely the darkness will hide me and the light become night around me," even the darkness will not be dark to you; the night will shine like the day, for darkness is as light to you.

For you created my inmost being, you knit me together in my mother's womb.

**I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made;
your works are wonderful I know that full well.**

My frame was not hidden from you when I was made in the secret place.

When I was woven together in the depths of the earth, you saw my unformed body.

All the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be.

How precious to me are your thoughts, O God! How vast is the sum of them!

Were I to count them, they would outnumber the grains of sand. When I awake, I am with you still.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;

As it was in the beginning, is now and will be forever. Amen

Acts 2:1-47 The Holy Spirit inspires the church to proclaim the gospel

What purpose did the gift of tongues serve?

According to the passage from Joel, what is the purpose of the outpouring of the Holy Spirit?

What does Peter tell the repentant people to do?

John 16:1-33 The Helper

Why must the Spirit convict the world of sin?

How does the Holy Spirit glorify God and Christ?

In this life we have sorrow, how does the Holy Spirit give us hope and reason to rejoice?

Proclaim on the Housetops

Pentecost is the beginning of the church's public proclamation of salvation through faith in Jesus' name. In Matthew 10 Jesus said to the disciples, "*What I tell you in the dark, say in the light, and what you hear whispered, proclaim on the housetops.*" The day to shout from the housetops had arrived! On the Sunday of Pentecost, the Holy Spirit empowered believers to proclaim Jesus' teachings and the salvation He accomplished through His life, death and resurrection. The church began to speak loud and clear the good news of salvation, in the promise that everyone who calls on the name of the Lord Jesus will be saved!

Pentecost was a celebration of the covenant God made with Israel through Moses on Mount Sinai. It specifically commemorated the giving of the law through Moses; the Ten Commandments. Christian Pentecost is the celebration of the Covenant God made new through Jesus and extends to all people through the forgiveness of His cross. John wrote at the start of his gospel, "*The law was given through Moses, but grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.*" The pilgrims who had come to Jerusalem to celebrate Moses and the law, stopped dead in their tracks and stood in amazement, when they heard the good news that forgiveness was offered to them as a gift of God's grace for the sake of Jesus.

The most wonderful thing about God is His grace, which He expressed in love by giving Jesus to be our Saviour. Jesus said, "*God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son that whoever believes in Him would not perish. But have eternal life.*" Pentecost is the Holy Spirit working through the body of believers on earth, to make known the mystery of God's love in forgiveness and salvation through faith in Jesus and baptism into the divine name; Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Pentecost is the Holy Spirit opening our hearts to believe and opening our lips to proclaim the good news of Jesus and the promise that everyone who calls on His name will be saved. A blessed Pentecost!

Hymn: Oh, Bless the Lord, My Soul (Public Domain)
Oh, bless the Lord, my soul! Let all in me combine.
To aid my tongue to bless His name, whose favour is divine.

Oh, bless the Lord, my soul. Nor let His mercies lie.
Forgotten in unthankfulness. And without praises die.

The Lord forgives my sins. And He relieves my pain;
The Lord has healed my sicknesses. And made me whole again.

He crowns my life with love. He ransoms from the grave;
He that redeemed my soul from hell, has sovereign power to save.

He fills the poor with good; He gives the sufferers rest;
The Lord has judgements for the proud, Relief for those oppressed.

His works and laws and ways, He made through Moses known.
But showed the world His loving heart, In Christ, His only Son.

Prayer

Holy Spirit, you open our hearts to receive Jesus in faith, by the hearing of the gospel and the washing of holy baptism. On the day of Pentecost, you began to convict the world of sin, righteousness and judgement through the voice of the church. The crowd cut to the heart by Peter's words cried out, "*Brothers, what shall we do?*" Speaking clearly the truth of the gospel Peter said, "*Repent and be baptized everyone of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.*" You convicted them of sin and opened their hearts to receive Jesus and the forgiveness of sins. Holy Spirit, your first and greatest gift is faith to receive Jesus as Saviour. Bless us always with faith to believe. Your second greatest gift is to share the good news of Jesus with others. Bless us always to speak the good news of repentance and salvation with others through faith in Jesus. In His name. Amen

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father who art in heaven. Hallowed be Thy name. Thy Kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread And forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, Forever and ever. Amen

The Creed

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth. And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen

Benediction Acts 2:38-39

"And Peter said to them, 'Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is for you and for your children and for all who are far off, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to Himself.'"

Bible Knowledge Quiz

What is the spirit of prophecy?

How does the Spirit glorify Jesus?

What is the greatest gift of the Holy Spirit?

Answers to last week's quiz

Three days. (2 Kings 2:16-17)

He saw the horses and chariots of fire and Elijah being carried up (2 Kings 2:9-12)

10 days. (Acts 1:3 Jesus appeared over a forty-day period and ascended on the 40th day. Acts 2:1 Pentecost was the 50th day after His resurrection)

