

These Perilous Times

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What Do God's People Believe? Part V

More than a Feeling

There are many different beliefs among Christians today concerning the guidance, and the outpouring of the Holy Spirit. Some Christians believe that the Holy Spirit is some euphoric feeling of jubilation, and if you are not moved by emotional excitement you haven't been in His presence.

Others believe that there is no emotional feelings at all involved when receiving the Holy Spirit.

We do know however that the Bible records "that when the day of **Pentecost was fully come**, they were all with one accord in one place and suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of "a rushing mighty wind" which descended on God's disciples, empowering **them in the house where they were sitting to**

speaking in different languages/cloven tongues,
like fire ¹ {emphasis supplied}.

What does this mean for us?

Obvious Signs Do Tell The Season

Seventh-day Adventists Believe...

5. God the Holy Spirit

God the eternal Spirit was active with the Father and the Son, in Creation, incarnation, and redemption. He inspired the writers of Scripture. He filled Christ's life with power. He draws and convicts human beings; and those who respond He renews and transforms into the image of God.

Sent by the Father and the Son to be always with His children, He extends spiritual gifts to the church, empowers it to bear witness to Christ, and in harmony with the Scriptures leads it into all truth, ² {Gen. 1:1,2; Luke 1:35; 4:18; Acts 10:38; II Pet. 1:21; II Cor. 3:18; Eph.

¹ Acts 2:1-4

² Seventh-day Adventist Believe, "A Biblical Exposition of Fundamental Doctrines," Hagerstown Md. R&H Publishing Assn., 1988, pp. 69-89.

4:11, 12; Acts 1:8; John 14:16-18, 26; 15:26, 27; 16:7-13, Emphasis supplied}.

Who is the Holy Spirit?

The Bible reveals that the Holy is a *person*, not an impersonal force. Statements such as, it seemed good to the Holy Spirit, and us, {Acts 15:28} reveal that the early believers viewed Him as a person.

Christ also spoke of Him as a *distinct person*. “He will glorify Me,” He said, “for He will take of what is Mine and declare it for you,” {John 16:14}.

Scriptures referring to the triune God describe the Spirit as a person, {Matt. 28:19; II Cor. 13:14}. The Holy Spirit has personality. He thrives {Gen. 6:3}, teaches {Luke 12:12}, convicts {John 16:8}, directs the church affairs {Acts 13:2}, helps and intercedes {Rom 8:26}, inspires {II Peter 1:21}, and sanctifies {I Peter 1:2}.

These activities cannot be performed by a mere power, influence, or attribute of God. Only a *person can do them*, “³ {Emphasis supplied}.

³ Ibid. Seventh-day Adventists Believe, p. 70.

