**John 15:26** 26“When the Counselor comes, whom I will send to you from the Father—the Spirit of truth, who proceeds from the Father—he will testify about me.”

Yes, here it is Pentecost. I will admit that there is absolutely no doubt that the events of this day were spectacular. Jerusalem is crowded with visitors for this festival day. The disciples are gathered together, especially for the last ten days, in the Temple courts and in the city preaching and teaching the wonder of Jesus. They are no longer afraid and hiding. They are preaching and teaching Jesus. They are telling people the wonders of Jesus. And who could blame them. On Ascension Day they watched as the now living Jesus ascended to heaven to rule over all things for the Father.

Jesus told them He would return. But just as important, Jesus told them of the Holy Spirit who would come and help them in their ministry and lives. They were to wait in Jerusalem. And now that day is happening. The Holy Spirit has come. He appears with the sound of a mighty rushing wind and upon each disciple were what appeared to be tongues of fire, making them all look like giant candles. They are filled with this Holy Spirit. Filled so that the Holy Spirit leads them to all the more preach and teach, but they do so now in the very languages of the people around them.

As I understand the miracle, the disciples are given the ability to speak in various languages, the languages of the people around them, not some sort of Holy Spirit babbling. They spoke actual languages they had never studied and now as Peter addresses the crowd with that message of Jesus each disciple is able to translate the message of Jesus for the people before them.

That is what is going on. People are hearing the message of Jesus. In a way, I am always a bit dismayed that at Pentecost many churches tend to focus on the miracles, specifically the speaking in tongues part as if that is the only thing that happened. Why is that? In a nutshell, it is because speaking in tongues is easily imitated, yes, I mean that speaking in tongues is easily faked! There are dozens of church bodies and people who do it. So why don’t they have tongues of flame appear if it is really the Holy Spirit on them? Why doesn’t everyone hear the sound of a might rushing wind if the Holy Spirit is upon you and your church? Answer: “It is hard to fake those things!”

And yet the fact is, that speaking in tongues was not the point nor the highlight of this day of Pentecost. The point is that Jesus Christ is proclaimed! The point is that the life and miracles of Jesus is held forth for all to hear. The point is that the crucifixion, death and resurrection of Jesus is announced! The point is that Jesus is proclaimed as the Lord and Savior from sin and as a result of that preaching by the end of the day some three thousand souls were brought to faith in Jesus, baptized recipients of the wonder and marvel of Jesus! This day is not about mighty wind, tongues of fire or even speaking in tongues. This day is about Jesus. Jesus as Lord and Savior. Jesus as the one that all of us are to hear and believe!

The text that is before us is from the High Priestly prayer of Jesus as He was preparing his disciples for the events of the Passion to come. In these words, Jesus is giving one of the promises concerning the Holy Spirit and what that Holy Spirit will do. Let’s you and I look at these words and contemplate their wonder under the theme: **THE SPIRIT SPEAKS JESUS!**

If you would, let me highlight for you all the things that Jesus said regarding the Holy Spirit and his coming. For the most part, these words are taken from the Gospel of John as a part of John’s record, under inspiration of the Holy Spirit, of the wonder of Jesus. I think it important to hear just what the Holy Spirit is going to be about.

John 14:15-17 “If you love me, hold on to my commands. 16I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Counselor to be with you forever. 17He is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive because it does not see him or know him. You know him because he stays with you and will be in you.

John 14:25-26 “I have told you these things while staying with you. 26But the Counselor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and remind you of everything I told you.

John 15:26-27 (our verses) “When the Counselor comes, whom I will send to you from the Father—the Spirit of truth, who proceeds from the Father—he will testify about me. 27And you also are going to testify, because you have been with me from the beginning.”

John 16:7-15 Nevertheless, I am telling you the truth: It is good for you that I go away. For if I do not go away, the Counselor will not come to you. But if I go, I will send him to you. 8When he comes, he will convict the world about sin, about righteousness, and about judgment: 9about sin, because they do not believe in me; 10about righteousness, because I am going to the Father and you will no longer see me; 11about judgment, because the ruler of this world has been condemned.

12“I still have many things to tell you, but you cannot bear them now. 13But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all truth. For he will not speak on his own, but whatever he hears he will speak. He will also declare to you what is to come. 14He will glorify me, because he will take from what is mine and declare it to you. 15Everything the Father has is mine. This is why I said that he takes from what is mine and will declare it to you.

Now, what did you notice about all of those passages, those things revealed about the work of the Holy Spirit? Well, first of all you should have noticed that the Holy Spirit is coming. He is coming because he is sent by the Father and the Son, sent to continue the work of salvation and eternal life. It is clear that although the Holy Spirit has always been active in bringing people to faith and in revealing the wonders and promises of God, this coming will be the one that marks the beginning of the Holy Christian Church, that church whose entire hope and foundation are in Christ Jesus as Lord and Savior.

What else can we say? As our text says, this spirit of God is called “The Spirit of Truth.” This truth will manifest itself in a few different ways. Just take the passages as I gave them. The Spirit of truth will lead you to hold on to the commands, the word of Jesus. Note that the world will not accept or abide by this. The importance of this is very simple. If you find something clearly stated in God’s Word and you refuse to believe it and follow it, is that what the Holy Spirit would lead you to or is that the world that cannot accept and receive the Spirit. Very simple measure of faith.

The Spirit of Truth is called the “Counselor.” The simple translation of this word would be “counselor or advocate.” One of the better definitions of this word is found Earle’s Word Meanings of the New Testament, page 93. He quotes Westcott’s definition: *“In the Gospel again the sense of advocate, counsel, one who pleads, convinces, convicts, in a great controversy, who strengthens on the one hand and defends of the other, meeting formidable attacks, is alone adequate.”* I am told you could think of the word in the sense of legal or professional counsel where you go to get the absolute best advice and guidance. That’s the Holy Spirit. The Spirit works in us through the Bible, the Word of God, more specifically, the gospel in words and sacraments. To cut yourself off from the Gospel is to be absent this wonderful counselor to guide you in life and truth.

Another aspect of this Spirit of Truth is that he will be involved in testifying, that is witnessing to certain facts and realities in every way. In one section it is specifically mentioned that the Holy Spirit **“will teach you all things and remind you of everything I told you.”** In light of those words, how could we ever doubt or question the record and eyewitness accounts of the Disciples, apostles and evangelists who gave us the New Testament? What they recorded and reported is absolute truth, given them by the Spirit. Again, how important it is to fathom this simple fact of how the Holy Spirits work.

Why? Because the Holy Spirit if the force and power that gave us God’s holy and infallible word. Do you mean to say that you don’t think God is capable of giving us a truthful, accurate, perfect record of Jesus and his life and redemptive work? Are you going to imply or state forthright that God’s Word has errors, throwing unbelief into the very face of God because you don’t think God can do such a thing? In essence that is rejecting the very thing we are told by Jesus the Holy Spirit came to do! It is again a rejection of the Holy Spirit and says something very important about your faith, or should I say, “The lack of your faith!”

And then finally we need to grasp that the Holy Spirit is called the Spirit of Truth. More specifically in John 16 we are told, **“But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all truth.”** I know, you want to be of the world and say with Pontius Pilate, **“What is truth?”** Dear people, just because the world cannot grasp this truth or fathom its wonder and wisdom does not mean it does not exist. The truth is there, it is God’s Word from beginning to end. It is actually about Jesus. We will highlight more from John 16.

John 16:8 tells us very specifically what the Spirit’s truth is. **“When he comes, he will convict the world about sin, about righteousness and about judgment.”** To grasp and understand this section is so very important.

The Holy Spirit convicts of sin. Sin is a reality. Sin is a problem. Sin was brought about by Adam and Eve as they disobeyed the one law God had given them. Sin has brought spiritual and physical death to our world. Because of sin, evil has the upper hand in our world and if you are not careful, sin will gain the upper hand in your own life. Sin is the destructive horror that Jesus came to deal with.

But I want you to notice how when Jesus spoke these words he defined this “sin.” In verse 9 he says, **“about sin, because they do not believe in me.”** I want you to just let that sink in. I don’t think Jesus is ignorant about sin, the how, what, when, where and impact on mankind. I think Jesus had in mind that since God’s Word is so clear and precise in speaking of sin and its facts that Jesus just jumps to, what I can only call a clear cut reality of the Christian faith. You cannot deny sin, deny its existence, its power, its horror and its spiritual destruction without denying and rejecting the very truth and purpose of Jesus! Now again, ask yourself, just what does this simple truth of Jesus say to those churches that deny the fact and reality of sin and have stopped preaching about sin, its cause and cure? That is a truth! Jesus says rejecting that truth is rejecting Him!

Jesus says the Holy Spirit will convict the world about righteousness. Yep, this is that word that speaks to the fact that before God’s Judgment throne, the believer in Jesus will be and is pronounced “not guilty”, literally “innocent of all charges.” This happens only in Jesus. Because Jesus died on the cross and paid for our sins. Because Jesus willingly suffered hell on our behalf. Because Jesus actually and physically rose from the dead to make sure you grasp this total victory as God planned it and carried it out. This victorious Jesus has ascended into heaven and now lives and rules eternally for the sake of our very souls!

Did you notice how Jesus sums up righteousness in his words? He said, **“About righteousness, because I am going to the Father and you will no longer see me.”** Jesus isn’t denying anything about his redemptive work in any way. He is telling you point blank, that His sitting on the throne of Heaven as the King of kings and Lord of lords in total and absolute victory is the very culmination of his redemptive work. That victory is only ours by faith! You don’t believe in the redemptive work of Jesus, the entirety of the redemptive work of Jesus then you have a problem. I shudder to think how many churches and how many souls of this world refuse to believe in Jesus and his eternal salvation because “if it isn’t seen, it isn’t true.” The totality of the work of Jesus has its facts in Jesus now in heaven living and ruling for us.

And then the final revelation of the work of the Spirit. It says the Holy Spirit will convict the world “about judgment.” The Friberg dictionary gives this definition for this word: “(1) as the action of a judge *decision, judgment* (JN 5.30); especially as the activity of God in a final time for judging.” It is all in Jesus’ hands. We will stand before Jesus and he will read our hearts. Either we have believed or we have not.

Again how interesting to note how Jesus sums up this word. He says, ”about judgment, because the ruler of this world has been condemned.” Jesus points to the defeat of Satan as his proof that He is the sole and only judge you and I need to be concerned with. That defeat of Satan is guaranteed in both the resurrection, yes, the actual and physical resurrection of Jesus and in his ascension into heaven. Both actions declare Satan defeated and chained. Unfortunately Satan still has an influence and impact in this world of ours. To deny Satan’s defeat is to deny the work of Jesus. Either Jesus is the total Victor or you can guess you have a faith problem. Every soul will answer to Jesus and the only answer to give is, “Jesus, I have believed.”

There you have it. The importance of the Holy Spirit. Not miracles like healings or speaking in tongues. I would even tell you that his importance is not in emotionalism or even claiming feelings of power and God’s presence. The power is in the message of Jesus. That Jesus is our Lord and Savior from sin! That Jesus is our foundation and core because Jesus lives and rules eternally. May your faith be centered in Jesus! Amen.