

“MARANATHA (Come, Holy Spirit)”

John 7:37-39

June 4, 2017

PENTECOST

THE BIG IDEA:

“God’s Spirit Endows LIFE!”

“Lord, you made all [creation] so wisely!” Psalm 104:24

INTRODUCTION

“Crying and Laughter”

I am reminded with every episode of Call The Midwife that new life enters with crying and laughter. A mother-to-be deals with changes to her body while hoping for a healthy baby. After a painful labor the child begins his/her new life crying loudly with laughter and tears from the parents.

Psalm 104 celebrates the power of God in endowing the heavens and the earth with life. And this endowment is linked to the work of God’s Spirit. The psalmist describes the joy of LIFE.

John’s gospel records the excitement of Jesus on the last and most important day of the festival when he stood and shouted, “All who are thirsty should come to me!” Jesus promised the living water of God’s Holy Spirit.

Acts 2 records a decisive proclamation by Peter that those presumed “drunk” have in fact been filled with NEW LIFE by God’s Holy Spirit. At the heart of the church’s new life is its experience of the crucified, risen Lord.

Finally, Paul points the Christians of Corinth to the reality that the gift of LIFE, having once been made, remains with the Spirit-led person in the form of a heart reoriented to new and marvelous deeds of witness.

- God sent His Only Son with the **PROMISE OF NEW LIFE**.
- Jesus’ disciples **RECEIVED NEW LIFE** at Pentecost.
- The church, the “body of Christ” **DEMONSTRATES NEW LIFE**.

*Through it all there are **CHANGES** and **HOPE** and **CRYING** and **LAUGHTER** - all the hallmarks of **NEW LIFE**.*

I. The Gift of LIFE Is Promised. (John 7:37-39)

“Those who believed in [Jesus] would soon receive the [Holy] Spirit.”
vs. 39

- *“Rivers of living water will flow out from within those who DRINK.*
- *Jesus’ disciples would never fully comprehend God’s gift of LIFE without experiencing being filled by the Holy Spirit.*

II. The Gift Of LIFE Is Received. (Acts 2:1-21)

“[The disciples of Jesus] were all filled with the Holy Spirit.” vs. 4

- **There was sound and fury howling like a mighty wind.**
- **There were “tongues” of flame alighting on Jesus’ disciples.**
- **And then the NEW LIFE came into human hearts.**

III. The Gift of LIFE Is Demonstrated. (1 Corinthians 12:3-13)

“A demonstration of the [Holy] Spirit is given to each person for the common good.”
vs. 7

- **No one person can cure the “ills of this old world.”**
- **Everyone can do something VERY WELL.**
- **When the Spirit’s gifts are united for the common good the church is given NEW LIFE to re-new the world.**

CONCLUSION *“Full Of LIFE!”*

God’s Holy Spirit creates, restores, and sustains NEW LIFE in all who believe in Jesus and pledge their allegiance to Him as Lord.

She comes sailing on the wind, her wings flashing in the sun;

On a journey just begun, she flies on.

And in the passage of her flight, her song rings out through the night,

Full of laughter, full of light, she flies on.

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