

## Show Us the Father

**Text: John 14:8–17**

Open your Bible to John 14:8–17 and follow along as I read. And keep it open . . . (READ) Have you ever asked God for something, and you felt like the answer wasn't clear? Well, our lesson today is the moment Philip, one of Jesus' twelve apostles who played a key role in the early Church, made a very honest statement to Jesus. He requested a deeper understanding of Jesus, which led to one of Jesus' clearest statements about His Divine identity. Philip said, *"Lord, show us the Father; and we will be satisfied."* That was sincere. You might make it in one of your own moments of doubt and searching when you want assurance from God. Jesus responded not with frustration, but with revelation. He said, *"Whoever has seen Me has seen the Father."* In other words: *God's not far off. God's right here! — in Me!* Now, let's look at verses 8–11. Philip asked for a vision of God. He wanted to see God! But Jesus said Peter had already seen God. In Him! Jesus was the living, breathing presence of God. Not just a go-between. The disciples had walked with God. Talked with God. Eaten with God who was in human flesh! Then, Jesus said something astonishing: *"Whoever believes in Me will do the works I do — and greater works than these."* How can that be? Greater than healing the blind? Greater than raising the dead? No, Jesus wasn't weakening His own works. He was enabling His followers through the power of the Spirit, to spread the Gospel. Believers could take the message of Christ beyond their own county. Even to the ends of the earth. And *Greater* here refers to distance and power. You see, your faith isn't just about holding on. It's about stepping out! Faith gives purpose to prayer. It's power in Jesus' name! Jesus knew His time with the disciples was short. So, He gave them a promise — the coming of the Holy Spirit, described here as another Advocate or Helper. It's the fire that came down upon the disciples in the Book of Acts known as Pentecost.

Now, turn just a few pages to Acts 2:1–4. . . . The literal meaning of Pentecost is *"Fiftieth."* The 50th day after Easter Sunday. 50 days after Jesus' resurrection. And it marks the day the Holy Spirit was poured out on the apostles. It's considered the *"birthday of the Church."* The fulfillment of Jesus' promise. Acts 1:8 states: *"You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you, and you will be My witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."* This verse highlights giving power to believers through the Holy Spirit to spread the Gospel Message of Jesus beyond their immediate surroundings. It serves as a key theme in the book of Acts highlighting the mission of the early church. Here's a description of Pentecost in the Bible. Look at Acts 2:1. . . . *"When the day of Pentecost arrived, they were all together in one place."* They, meaning the 120 followers of Jesus which included the twelve apostles, that now included Matthias, a follower of Jesus from the beginning of John the Baptist's ministry all the way through to Jesus' ascension when after His resurrection, He returned to Heaven in the presence of His disciples. It marks the end of Jesus' earthly ministry and the beginning of the Church's mission. Matthias replaced Judas Iscariot who hanged himself by that time. (Acts 1:26) And Mary, the mother of Jesus. Jesus' brothers, who likely were His younger half-brothers. Children of Mary and Joseph after Jesus' birth. (Acts 1:14) And other men and women who followed Jesus. *"Suddenly, there came from heaven a sound like a mighty rushing wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting,"* meaning the Holy Spirit had arrived. *It's here!* *"And divided tongues, as of fire, appeared to them and rested on each one of them."* Those *Tongues of Fire* were visible displays that came to rest on each of them. It wasn't literal fire burning them. It was a spiritual, visible sign-like fire which often represented God's presence.

Fire! One of the most powerful and vivid symbols of God's presence throughout the Bible. It appears in key moments to show the presence of divine power, holiness, guidance, judgment, unity. God in the burning bush. One of the most powerful moments in Scripture where God revealed Himself in fire. (Exodus 3:1-6) Or the pillar of fire guiding Israel through the desert at night. That fire was a visible sign that God Himself was with them. Not just a symbol! It was God going before His people, leading them through the Sinai Desert during their Exodus from Egypt. (Exodus 40:36–38). If the fire moved, the people moved. If it stopped, they stopped. They didn't need a map. They had God's presence! And the Holy Spirit still brings God's presence. Not just to prophets or priests. But to *all* believers! Pentecost had God now dwelling *within*, not just *among* His people. Each disciple was filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak *in tongues* as some Bibles have it. Which means in other languages, so people could clearly understand the words the Spirit gave them. *"They began speaking in various languages, enabled by the Spirit, which allowed people from many nations to understand them in their own native tongues."* Because Jerusalem was a crossroad for trading for people from other countries, and those disciples spoke in foreign languages—not gibberish—but real languages people from many nations understood what they were saying. (Acts 2:5–11) Some in the crowd were amazed. Others were confused. Mockers dismissed the miracle saying it was just drunkenness. *"They are filled with new wine."* That was a sarcastic reference to cheap, freshly fermented wine. They couldn't understand the supernatural. So, they tried to explain it with human logic. And they were right! Those believers were *"under the influence"*—not of alcohol! They were filled with the Holy Spirit! Not wine! Ephesians 5:18 says, *"Do not get drunk on wine... but be filled with the Spirit."* And Peter's response in Acts 2:14–15 was, *"These people are not drunk, as you suppose. It's only nine in the morning!"*

Then, he explained what was happening. It was what the Prophet Joel, one of the minor prophets in the Old Testament, said concerning the Holy Spirit. His message was powerful and prophetic. Especially about the last days. He

prophesied in Joel 2:28–32 that God would be pouring out His Spirit on all people. Sometimes people mock or misunderstand the work of God when it challenges their expectations. Especially when the Spirit moves in unexpected or disturbing ways. Our responsibility is to witness boldly, like Peter, and point to the truth behind the mystery.

So, what was the meaning of all this? Pentecost was more than just a moment in history. It was the day heaven broke into earth in a new and lasting way. . . . There's a beautiful Gospel song that reflects this. — *"Heaven came down and glory flooded my soul"* It's filled with imagery of joy and God's presence. And echo's themes from Pentecost, our salvation, and the Holy Spirit's indwelling. It was the birthday of the church! The Church was born! Not through strategy. But through the Spirit! And that same Spirit is still at work today! Pentecost is a reminder God is not distant. He has come near. And He dwells *within* us. The Gospel is for all people. Language barriers fall because the Spirit speaks in every tongue. And we're not alone. The mission Jesus gave is being carried out by **His** power. Not ours! So, today, ask yourself, *Am I making space to listen for the Spirit's wind? Am I willing to be set on fire with God's presence? Where is God sending me to speak His truth—in love, and with boldness?*

At Pentecost, fire symbolized the purifying and powerful presence of the Holy Spirit being poured out, not just on individuals, but on the new community of believers launching the mission of the early Church. When we want to know what God is like, we don't have to guess. We look to Jesus! His compassion. His truth. His power. And His humility. Jesus invites you to believe, not only in His words, but in His works. The miracles. The mercy. The love poured out. Those are windows into the heart of God. Let Pentecost not be a memory, but a movement in your heart, your church, and your world. **"Come, Holy Spirit."** is one of the most ancient and powerful prayers in the Christian tradition. The world may not recognize the Spirit. But the believer *knows* Him — because the Spirit is personal, and present. God's not only with us. God lives within us. His Spirit brings truth, guidance, conviction, and comfort. Pentecost celebrates the moment when His Spirit was poured out — not just on a few. But on all who believe. And Jesus' words to Philip are words to us all: *"Have I been with you so long, and you still do not know me?"*

Friends, God is not distant. In Jesus, God has drawn near in the Spirit. And God remains in the present. It's through faith we are empowered to live boldly for Him. So let our prayer today not just be, *"Lord, show us the Father,"* But also: *"Lord, open our eyes — for You are here. Let us believe, receive, and live in the Spirit You've given."* *"Come, Holy Spirit."* Let us pray.

Come, Holy Spirit. Fill our hearts with Your fire. Breathe new life into Your Church. Stir in us the courage to witness Your love. Just as You came with wind and flame, come now with peace and power. Help us speak Your truth boldly. To love without fear. And to serve with joy. Send us out Spirit-filled, to be Your light in the world. In Jesus' name, "Come, Holy Spirit." Amen.