



Living Under the Care of the Holy Spirit

I deeply appreciate the season of Christmas with its amazing message that God has broken into our human existence and done marvelous things. It is a done deed.

Easter brings another fantastic message: Victory over death with Jesus' Resurrection. The victory is ours. Alleluia. It, too, is a done deed.



Then here comes Pentecost which is my favorite of the major festivals we celebrate. When Jesus ascended into heaven, returning to the Heavenly Father, he promised to send the Holy Spirit to be with us in his absence. The Spirit came on Pentecost in flaming glory. Thus, it is the Holy Spirit who is *God with us now*. We live under the dominion and care of the Holy Spirit. If we want to be current with God's activity throughout history, we need to be acutely aware of this latest and lasting phenomenon of living in the era of the Holy Spirit.

This dimension of God's activity holds for us a most exciting message because of how it connects with us. Both the messages of Christmas and Easter are ones we hold in our memories because they are completed acts. They are in the past. Not so with Pentecost. On Pentecost the Holy Spirit came into our human existence and *remains* as *God with us now*.

The most exciting part of this latest phenomenon is that the Holy Spirit lives *within* us. Imagine, God's dwelling inside our very being—closer to us than the very breath we breathe. What a wonderful gift we have within us every moment of life—God's very spirit engaging our own spirits.

This closeness of God to me and the constancy of God's presence within me every moment of my life is the reason why Pentecost is my favorite festival and season in our church life. It could become yours as well. Furthermore, there is no seasonal hype. It is just God and His people. That should be more than enough.

