

Pentecost, Holy Spirit and Divine Love – Insights from the Bible

Part 1

A few weeks ago, some in the Christian world and some in the Divine Love community observed the day of Pentecost. This festival is mentioned in both the Old and the New Testaments, though under different names, and carries a lot of symbolism. According to the New Testament account in Acts 2, on the day of Pentecost following Jesus' death, the Holy Spirit came with visible and audible manifestations, filling and empowering Jesus' disciples. Peter rose up and taught those assembled in Jerusalem from far and wide for the Holy Day about the fulfilment of key Old Testament prophecies. Joel had prophesied about God's Spirit being poured out, and Jeremiah and Ezekiel had spoken of God giving people a new heart (Joel 2:28-32; Jer. 24:7 and Ezek. 36:26).

Joel 2:28-32 -- "And afterward, I will pour out my Spirit on all people. ...
Ezekiel 36:26 -- I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh.
(Also Jeremiah 24:7)

We understand this to have been the time when Jesus' disciples experienced the first true in-flowing of the Divine Love into their souls, and the Divine Love become available to all who would desire it. It signified the end of the Old Covenant and the transcending of Moses' laws, and the institution of the New Covenant and Jesus' Eleventh Commandment (Jer. 31:31-34).

Jeremiah 31:31-34 -- "I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah. It will not be like the covenant I made with their forefathers when I took them by the hand to lead them out of Egypt, because they broke my covenant, though I was a husband to them, " declares the LORD. "This is the covenant I will make with the house of Israel after that time," declares the LORD. "I will put my law in their minds and write it on their hearts. I will be their God, and they will be my people. No longer will a man teach his neighbor, or a man his brother, saying, 'Know the LORD,' because they will all know me.

Moses' Law as a whole, which included many national and ceremonial regulations, such as animal sacrifices, dietary rules, and male physical circumcision, came to an end for those who accepted the New Covenant. The moral laws of course continue and were actually magnified by Jesus in his teachings, for example, Matthew 5:21 "You have heard that it was said to the people long ago, 'Do not murder, and anyone who murders will be subject to judgment.' But I tell you that anyone who is angry with his brother will be subject to judgment." (There are more such examples in the rest of Matthew 5.)

While the Bible contains many errors, Jesus tells us that apart from the [Padgett/Samuels' revelations](#), there is "nothing in existence or in the knowledge of men that can supply the place of" the truths found in the Bible. In this two-part article, I would like to bring out some of the insights that the Bible can give us about the Holy Spirit and the Divine Love – which in some cases, due to inaccurate understanding by the writers and editors long after Jesus left the earth, the Bible uses synonymously.

The Holy Spirit

The Holy Spirit is God's instrument to impart Divine Love and nature into human souls, transforming the soul from just a divine image into divine substance. The Spirit is eternal and omnipresent, but is *not* God or a part of a divine trinity.

Also referred to as the Comforter or Counsellor (depending on the translation), it is the spirit of love, life, hope, and holiness. Additionally, in the Bible, the Spirit has the following descriptive titles: the Spirit of grace, the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of counsel and might, the Spirit of knowledge and of the fear [deep respect] of the Lord, the Spirit of promise, the Spirit of glory, and the Spirit of power, love, and a sound mind or self-discipline. It is also spoken of as the Spirit of God the Father, Spirit of the Lord, and the Spirit of Christ. (See Isaiah 11:2; Matthew 10:19-20; John 15:26; Acts 5:3-4, 9; Romans 1:4; 8:2, 9; Zechariah 12:10; 2 Timothy 1:7.)

Zechariah 12:10 -- And I will pour out on the house of David and the inhabitants of Jerusalem a spirit of grace and supplication.

Isaiah 11:2 --The Spirit of the LORD will rest on [Jesus]—the Spirit of wisdom and of understanding, the Spirit of counsel and of power, the Spirit of knowledge ...

John 15:26 -- When the Counsellor comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who goes out from the Father, he will testify about me.

Matthew 10:19-20 -- ... do not worry about what to say or how to say it. At that time you will be given what to say, for it will not be you speaking, but the Spirit of your Father speaking through you.

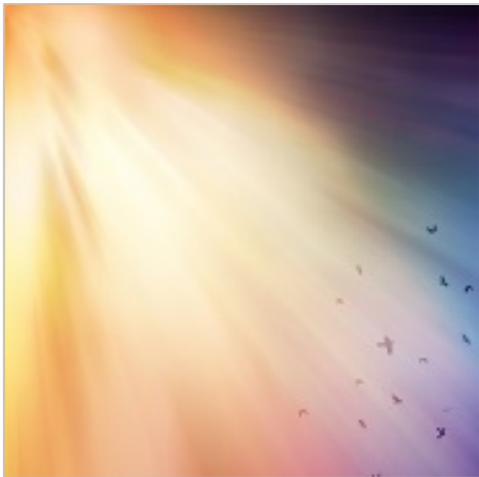
Acts 5:3-4, 9 -- ... Peter said to her, "How could you agree to test the Spirit of the Lord? ..."

2 Timothy 1:7 -- God did not give us a spirit of timidity, but a spirit of power, of love and of self-discipline [*sound mind* in other translations].

Romans 8:1-2, 9 -- Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit of life set me free from the law of sin and death. ... You, however, are controlled not by the sinful nature but by the Spirit, if the Spirit of God lives in you.

It is possible that some of the above descriptors refer to God's Spirit rather than the Holy Spirit, which is the part of God's Spirit that exclusively conveys the Divine Love into human souls. God's Spirit demonstrates to humans the operation of God's Soul in such directions as being His creative spirit, His caring spirit, and the spirit maintaining the operation of the universe through God's laws and designs. However, upon reflection, most if not all of the above descriptors would fit the Holy Spirit as well in that the Divine Love, which it imparts, contains or brings about elements such as comfort, wisdom, sound mind, understanding of truth, eternal life and immortality, and hope for and ultimate realization of glory in the Celestial Kingdom.

Biblical Holy Spirit References Can Be Seen as Divine Love References



As God's instrument which imparts the transforming Divine Love and nature into the souls of those who desire and pray for it, the Holy Spirit acts as a bridge between God the Father and a receptive human. Even though the Spirit is not the same as the Divine Love, in the Bible, in many instances, the use of the phrase *Holy Spirit* can be seen as synonymous with the Divine Love.

With the above in mind, we can learn the following about the Divine Love – remembering that often words used to refer to spiritual realities need to be understood metaphorically, rather than literally. As God's Love flows into the souls / hearts of God's children, it communicates to them the deep things of God, which of and by themselves they could not come to understand. It transforms the souls of those who pray for It, and imparts the

qualities listed as the fruit of the Spirit – love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. It conveys divine nature and divine substance into the souls of God's children and guarantees their [MN1][EP2]future new birth and inheritance in the Kingdom of God (Celestial Heavens) as divine angels. Those so born become heirs of God and co-heirs with Jesus Christ – the first to be born of the Spirit or born of God – to the Celestial Kingdom. (See John 1:12-13; 3:6-7; 14:26-27; 16:12-13; Romans 5:5; 8:15-17; 1 Corinthians 2:9-10; Galatians 4:6-7; 5:22-25.)

Romans 5:5 -- ... God has poured out his love into our hearts by the Holy Spirit.

John 14:26-27 - But the Counselor, the Holy Spirit, ... will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you. Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.

John 16:12-13 -- I have much more to say to you, more than you can now bear. But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all truth. He will not speak on his own; he will speak only what he hears, and he will tell you what is yet to come.

1 Corinthians 2:9-10 -- ... It is written: "No eye has seen, no ear has heard, no mind has conceived what God has prepared for those who love him", but God has revealed it to us by his Spirit. The Spirit searches all things, even the deep things of God.

Galatians 5:22-25 -- But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law. Those who belong to Christ Jesus [follow the Divine Love path] have crucified the sinful nature with its passions and desires. Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit.

John 3:6-7 - Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit. You should not be surprised at my saying, 'You must be born again.'

Romans 8:15-17 -- ... You received the Spirit of sonship. And by him we cry, "Abba, Father." The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children. Now if we are children, then we are heirs —heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory. (See also Galatians 4:6-7).

John 1:12-13 – Yet to all who received [Jesus and his teaching], he gave the right to become children of God — children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God.

Holy Spirit Analogies as Applicable to Divine Love



Several physical analogies for the Holy Spirit in the Bible help us understand its characteristics and abilities, which would also apply to the Divine Love. These include water, fire, wind (or breath or spirit), oil, and the dove. Analogous to water, the Spirit/Divine Love revives those who at the soul level were dead in sins; washes away sins and soul encrustations as it fills the soul; brings about renewal and spiritual growth; and is essential for eternal life and

immortality. Akin to fire, the Holy Spirit/Divine Love purifies hearts, transforms minds and souls, and gives light -- spiritual enlightenment -- through developing soul perceptions. Similar to breath, the Spirit/Divine Love sustains life, guaranteeing immortality in the Celestial Kingdom. Comparable with oil, the Spirit/Divine Love has a unifying power, smoothing friction among people. And as the dove is a symbol of peace, the Holy Spirit/Divine Love imparts peace that transcends understanding. (See Matthew 3:16; 25:1-13; John 3:8; 7:38-39; Acts 2:1-4; Romans 8:13; 12:2; 1 Corinthians 6:11; Ephesians 1:17-18; 2:1-5; 4:22-23; Philippians 4:7; 1 Peter 1:22-23; 2 Peter 3:18.)

John 7:38-39 – “Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, streams of living water will flow from within him.” By this he meant the Spirit, whom those who believed in him were later to receive.

Ephesians 2:1-5 – ... You were dead in your transgressions and sins, in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world ... gratifying the cravings of [your] sinful nature and following its desires and thoughts. ... But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ ... — it is by grace you have been saved.

1 Corinthians 6:11 -- ... You were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified ... by the Spirit of our God.

Ephesians 4:22-24 -- You were taught ... to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires; to be made new in the attitude of your minds; and to put on the new self, a created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness.

2 Peter 3:18 – But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Acts 2:2-4 -- When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit ...

Romans 12:2 – Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is — his good, pleasing and perfect will.

Ephesians 1:17-18 – I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know him better. I pray also that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints, ... [prayer for soul perceptions].

1 Peter 1:22-23 – Now that you have purified yourselves by obeying the truth so that you have sincere love for your brothers, love one another deeply, from the heart. For you have been born again ...

John 3:8 – “The wind blows wherever it pleases. You hear its sound, but you cannot tell where it comes from or where it is going. So it is with everyone born of the Spirit.”

Romans 8:13 -- For if you live according to the sinful nature, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the misdeeds of the body, you will live.

Matthew 25:1-13 – At that time the kingdom of heaven will be like ten virgins who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish and five were wise. The foolish ones took their lamps but did not take any oil with them. The wise, however, took oil in jars along with their lamps...

Matthew 3:16 – As soon as Jesus was baptized, he went up out of the water. At that moment heaven was opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and lighting on him.

Philippians 4:7 – And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus [the Divine Love].

May we all continue to be enlightened, renewed, purified, and transformed as we walk in the Divine Love given to us by God’s grace.

This reflection is continued in the next section on the theme of **Work of the Holy Spirit/Divine Love in God’s Children.** (For further insights on the concept of the Divine Love in the Bible, see [Gospels Reflection.](#))

Holy Spirit and Divine Love – Insights from the Bible

Part 2

In the previous part, we featured a reflection on what the Bible says about the Holy Spirit and Divine Love and what insights we can gain – despite the fact that the Bible contains many errors. As God’s instrument which imparts the transforming Divine Love and nature into the souls of those who desire and pray for it, the Holy Spirit acts as a bridge between God the Father and a receptive human. Even though the Spirit is not the same as the Divine Love, in the Bible, in quite a number of instances, the use of the phrase *Holy Spirit* can be seen as synonymous with the Divine Love. With this in mind, we’ll end this reflection on the theme of how the Holy Spirit/Divine Love works in our lives and what responsibility we have.

Work of the Holy Spirit/Divine Love in God’s Children

The Bible speaks of individuals being called or drawn by God. This drawing awakens interest in the things of God, convicts people of having come short of God’s requirements (which is sin), and leads them to repentance and turning to God (conversion). When a person’s soul is thus opened and receptive, the Holy Spirit imparts God’s Love and nature, empowering the individual to overcome the downward pulls of human nature. He or she starts becoming a new creation, which results in a new perspective on living life and being at one or in harmony with God. (See John 6:65; Acts 2:37-39; 3:19; 11:15; 26:20; Romans 8:5-10; 2 Corinthians 5:17; Galatians 5:16-17; 2 Peter 1:3-4.)

John 6:65 -- He went on to say, “This is why I told you that no one can come to me unless the Father has enabled him.”

Acts 2:37-39 -- When the people heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and the other apostles, “Brothers, what shall we do?” Peter replied, “Repent ... And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off—for all whom the Lord our God will call.”

Acts 3:19 -- Repent, then, and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out.

Acts 26:20 -- First to those in Damascus, then to those in Jerusalem and in all Judea, and to the Gentiles also, I preached that they should repent and turn to God and prove their repentance by their deeds.

Acts 11:15 -- As I began to speak, the Holy Spirit [Divine Love] came on them as he had come on us at the beginning. Then I remembered what the Lord had said: ‘John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.’

Romans 8:5-10 -- Those who live according to the sinful nature have their minds set on what that nature desires; but those who live in accordance with the Spirit [follow the Divine Love promptings in their soul] have their minds set on what the Spirit desires. The mind of sinful man is death, but the mind controlled by the Spirit is life and peace; ... You, however, are controlled not by the sinful nature but by the Spirit, if the Spirit of God [Divine Love] lives in you. And if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Christ. But if Christ [Divine Love] is in you, your body is dead because of sin, yet your spirit is alive because of righteousness.

2 Corinthians 5:17 -- Therefore, if anyone is in Christ [has the Divine Love], he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!

2 Peter 1:3-4 -- His divine power has given us everything we need for life and godliness through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness. Through these he has given us his very great and precious promises, so that through them you may participate in the divine nature and escape the corruption in the world caused by evil desires.

Galatians 5:16-17 -- So I say, live by the Spirit [Divine Love in the soul], and you will not gratify the desires of the sinful nature. For the sinful nature desires what is contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit what is contrary to the sinful nature. They are in conflict with each other, so that you do not do what you want.

The Spirit provides the assurance of being true and redeemed children of God. We are led into deeper truth and gradually transformed into the likeness of Jesus – the first recipient of the Divine Love in his soul, who gained immortality and is now the Master of the Celestial Heavens. (See Romans 8:13-16, 26-27; 1 Corinthians 2:11-14; 2 Corinthians 3:18; Galatians 4:3-7.)

Romans 8:13-16; 26-27 -- ... those who are led by the Spirit of God [Divine Love] are sons of God. For you ... received the Spirit of sonship. And by him we cry, "Abba, Father." The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children. In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groans that words cannot express. And he who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints in accordance with God's will.

Galatians 4:3-7 --When we were children, we were in slavery under the basic principles of the world. But when the time had fully come, God sent his son, born of a woman, born under law, to redeem those under law, that we might receive the full rights of sons. Because you are sons, God sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, the Spirit who calls out, "Abba, Father." So you are no longer a slave, but a son; and since you are a son, God has made you also an heir.

1 Corinthians 2:11-14 -- For who among men knows the thoughts of a man except the man's spirit within him? In the same way no one knows the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God. We have not received the spirit of the world but the Spirit who is from God, that we may understand what God has freely given us. This is what we speak, not in words taught us by human wisdom but in words taught by the Spirit, expressing spiritual truths in spiritual words. The man without the Spirit does not accept the things that come from the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him, and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually discerned.

2 Corinthians 3:18 -- And we, who with unveiled faces all reflect the Lord's glory, are being transformed into his likeness with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord

Christians are to be filled with the Divine Love – literally, to keep on being filled – and to walk in the Spirit/Love. Implied is a prayerful relationship with God and seeking to be in tune with the leading of the divine nature within – that is, working toward having love as the guiding motivation in each area of life. No one is a true, redeemed child of God without the Divine Love dwelling in them. Finally, God's children are admonished not to resist or quench the Spirit/Divine Love by following their sinful nature. Rather they are to love one another as Jesus loved them, thereby bearing abundant spiritual fruit and glorifying their heavenly Father. (See John 15:8-12; Acts 7:51-53; Galatians 5:16-25; 1 Thessalonians 5:19.)

Ephesians 5:8-10, 18 – For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light (for the fruit of the light consists in all goodness, righteousness and truth) and find out what pleases the Lord. ... Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery. Instead, be filled with the Spirit [Divine Love].

Galatians 5:16-25 – So I say, live by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the sinful nature. For the sinful nature desires what is contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit what is contrary to the sinful nature. They are in conflict with each other, so that you do not do what you want. But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under law. ... Those who [follow the acts of the sinful nature] will not inherit the kingdom of God.

1 Thessalonians 5:19 – Do not put out the Spirit's fire.

John 15:8-12 -- This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples. As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love. If you obey my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have obeyed my Father's commands and remain in his love. I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete. My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you.

By the power of the Holy Spirit/Divine Love within, the true children of God will be "raised from the dead". With the potentiality of the Divine Love that was lost by the first parents and reintroduced by Jesus, humanity again received the potential for immortality. Upon seeking and growing in the Divine Love, mortals become one with God and immortal – children of the true resurrection. They will gain entrance into the Celestial Kingdom and receive glorious imperishable and incorruptible bodies like Jesus Christ's body. In their state as divine angels, they will see Jesus as he is – in his glory – and be forever grateful to the one who taught and exemplified the way, the truth and the life, and thus became the resurrection to immortality and the first to achieve this state. He is the head of the church in the Celestial Heavens, whose members are only those who have had the resurrection from sin, error and death of the soul into the knowledge of the Divine Love and life everlasting. (See John 11:25-26; 14:6; Romans 8:11; 1 Corinthians 15:51-54; 2 Thessalonians 2:13-14; 1 John 3:2.)

Romans 8:11 – And if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead [Divine Love] is living in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit, who lives in you.

1 Corinthians 15:51-54 – Listen, I tell you a mystery: We will not all sleep, but we will all be changed ... For the perishable must clothe itself with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality. When the perishable has been clothed with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality, then the saying that is written will come true: "Death has been swallowed up in victory."

2 Thessalonians 2:13-14 – But we ought always to thank God for you, brothers loved by the Lord, because from the beginning God chose you to be saved through the sanctifying work of the Spirit [Divine Love] and through belief in the truth. He called you to this through our gospel, that you might share in the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.

John 14:6 – Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

John 11:25-26 – Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies; and whoever lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?"

1 John 3:2 – Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when he appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is.

May we all continue to grow in understanding and soul perceptions, and have our souls more and more filled with the Divine Love till we reach a complete transformation, and upon leaving this world, will soon enter the Celestial Kingdom of God in a bright and beautiful glorified body and countenance. May we never forget and forever remain grateful to our heavenly Father for his saving grace in making available His Divine Love. And may we always appreciate our brother Jesus Christ for bringing to light by word and example the way to salvation and immortality through the new birth enabled by the Divine Love being planted in human souls.

(For further insights on the concept of the Divine Love in the Bible, see [Gospels Reflection](#), as well as the links on that page.)