

Jesus Ascended (Acts 2:33)

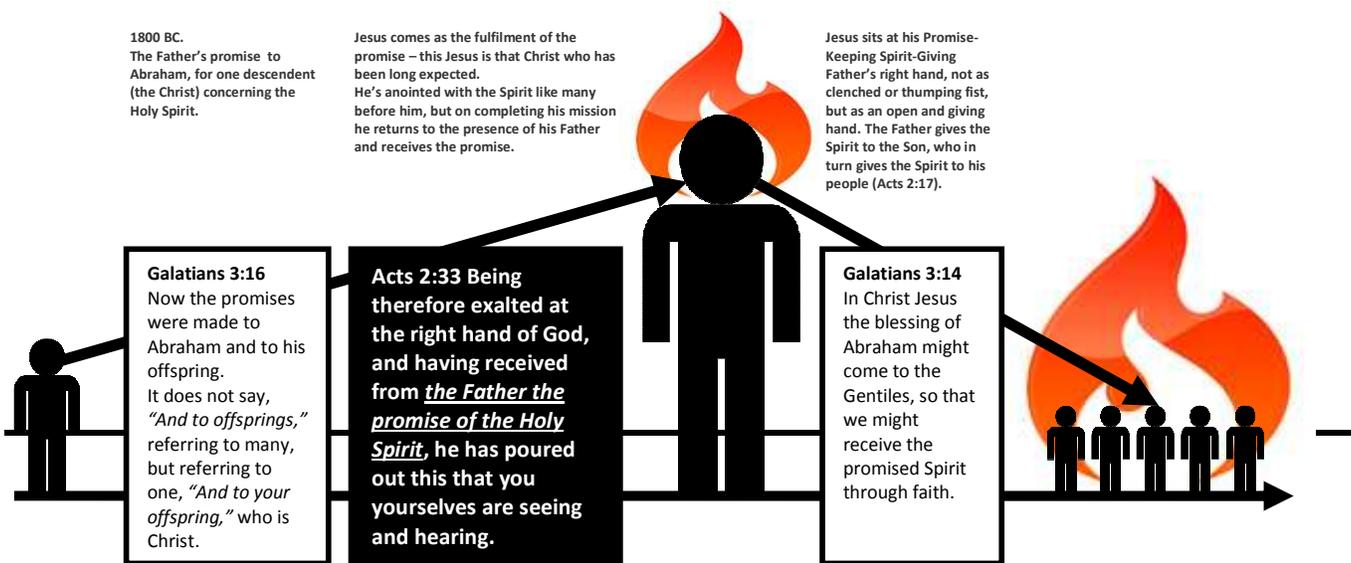
Richard Dawkins says: “someone as intelligent as Jesus would be an atheist.” Yet Jesus says he shows us the heart and face of God, he reveals his Father to us. God is who you know when you know Jesus. But how do we know God? Is he just distant and remote? Are we left to be alone?

The story of the Old Testament is the search for the coming of *The Christ*. One who would put death to death and set the world to rights. The Father had made a promise to Abraham that *This Christ* would come from his family. When Jesus ascends he has completed his mission to take on life, to put human flesh to death in his death, to defeat death and bring a human body into the very life of God.

He receives the promise of the Holy Spirit because **This Jesus is That Christ**.

God promised to give the Spirit, Acts 2:17. Now we see the Father gives to his Son, and the Son pours the Spirit on his people. As always everything the Father does he does through his Son.

A human body is in God, and now God will be in human beings; even the mob who lynched Jesus, even us.



The effects of the outpouring of the Holy Spirit are many including:

1. *People begin to speak good news about Jesus to the world (Acts 2:11). Are you bubbling over with good news about Jesus?*
2. *People begin to hear God in their dreams, and receive prophetic words (2:17) – God is sharing his plans with them (Amos 3:7). Have you ever received and given a prophetic word?*
3. *People are caught up in the love of God (John 16:27). Do you know the love of God for you?*

Are any/all of these your experience?

Jesus says when we ask of his Father (Luke 11:1) he delights to give us the Holy Spirit (Luke 11:13). So, ask for yourself and for others in your life group.