

PENTECOST POWER!
FILLED WITH GOD THE HOLY SPIRIT (V4)!
ACTS CH2:1-13

ILLUSTRATION

Paris, France and the Metro!

PLACE! V1

The Place, Jerusalem, the date, it's 50 days since the Jewish Passover celebration (based on Exodus Ch12), a significant Jewish Festival, known as the "Feast of Weeks" where thousands of Jews have made a pilgrimage to Jerusalem, to participate in the commanded festival (Exodus Ch23:16; Exodus Ch34:22-23; Leviticus Ch23:15-22; Numbers Ch28:26-31; Deuteronomy Ch16:9-12)!

50 days since Jesus was crucified (7 weeks and 1 day after PASSOVER)! For us, this year 2022, that would be Friday 15th April, Good Friday, to Sunday 5th June, known in the Christian calendar as "Pentecost". In addition to the above, it is also believed that the Day of Pentecost, was also the day that God gave the Law to Moses at Mount Sinai around 1400 B.C.!

The promise of power made by Jesus, Acts Ch1:5 + Ch1:8, is being fulfilled. ***The giving of the Holy Spirit is the chief sign of God's Kingdom beginning!***

Without the Holy Spirit, Christian discipleship would be inconceivable, even impossible. There can be no life without the life-giver, no understanding without the Spirit of truth, no fellowship without the unity of the Spirit, no Christ likeness of character apart from His fruit and no affective witness without His power. As a body without breath is a corpse, so the Church without the Spirit is dead (John Stott, The Message of Acts, pg60).

PENTECOST! V2-11

At times the Holy Spirit makes Himself known with audible, visible and understandable manifestations. In the Old Testament there was the pillar of cloud and the pillar of fire (Exodus Ch13:21-22). At Jesus' baptism there was the dove (Luke Ch3:21-22). In Acts Ch4 the building shakes. In Acts Ch6 Stephen's face was like the face of an angel. In Acts Ch16 there is an earthquake! At times the Spirit stoops to give us audible, visible and understandable demonstrations of His presence and power.

On this particular Day, the blessing was for each individual who was part of the believing community!

V2 Sound - There is no wind, it only sounds like wind! (2 Sam Ch22:16; Job Ch37:10; Ezk Ch13:13)

V3 Sight - They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire! John the Baptist in Luke in Ch3:16, says that Jesus is going to baptise in this way! (Ex Ch19:18)

V4 Speech – Not unintelligible words but known languages! Recognisable languages! Filled by the Holy Spirit, empowered by the Holy Spirit for mission!

With these outward signs, came The Holy Spirit as an inward invisible reality that demonstrated the presence and power of God!

The “power” that Jesus refers to in Ch1:8, cannot be the power of “regeneration” (becoming a Christian) or the often slow sanctification power of being transformed into the likeness of Christ! For none of these is evident throughout Ch1+2 of Acts. So, what “power” is Jesus referring to?

The “power” that Jesus is promising, is the filling with the “Holy Spirit.” It is a special empowering for ministry that is described as “.....baptised with the Holy Spirit.” and this idea of “baptism” is almost always associated with this extraordinary power for ministry in the book of Acts. Notice that when the baptism with the Spirit happens in Acts Ch2:4, Luke says, “All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit” The effect of that filling was a powerful and even miraculous testimony to the truth of Christ that resulted in 3,000 people being converted (Acts Ch2:41).

What is the essence of being baptised with the Holy Spirit? Is it the sound of wind, the tongues of fire, the other languages, the words of praise, the prophecies and dreams and visions? Can we get at the essence of what it means to be baptized with the Holy Spirit, or does it have to include all these things?

I think the essence of being baptized with the Holy Spirit is ***when a person, who is already a believer, receives extraordinary spiritual power for Christ-exalting ministry!*** There are good reasons for believing that these disciples were already born again and converted and had the Holy Spirit dwelling in them (John Ch13:10; Ch15:3; Romans Ch8:9). ***But even more important than that is the fact that the issue of the new birth and conversion of the disciples is simply not in view at all in Acts Ch1 + Ch2.*** Jesus doesn't say, “Wait in Jerusalem until you are born again or converted or put into the body of Christ.” He says, “But you will receive power.....” He doesn't say, “You shall receive membership in the body of Christ when the Holy Spirit has come upon you.” He says, “But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you.”

V9 – V11 A new united Table of Nations – From Genesis Ch10 to Acts Ch2, the descendants of Shem, Ham and Japheth, no longer confused but united!

Luke now gives a list of the nationalities represented. It begins with three countries to the east of the Roman Empire in the area known as Persia or Iran, and then (with a change of construction) moves westward to Mesopotamia, modern Iraq, and Judea. Next come various provinces and areas in Asia Minor, (modern Turkey), and then Egypt and the area immediately westwards, followed by Rome. Finally, and somewhat surprisingly, the list includes people from Crete and Arabia. It is an odd list!

John Piper puts it this way “The reason I say they are overflowing with worship and praise is because of verse 11: “We hear them telling in our own tongues the mighty works of God.” Luke calls this the fullness of the Holy Spirit in verse 4: “And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.” Being filled with the Holy Spirit here is being overwhelmed with the greatness of God. The literal translation of verse 11 is that they were speaking “the greatnesses of God.” Since the Spirit was giving them utterance, and since the utterance was of God's greatness, I take the fullness of the Spirit to mean that the Spirit's experience of the greatness of God becomes our experience of the greatness of God.

The flames on their heads had set fire to the knowledge of God, and turned it into passion. And the violence and loudness of the wind had drowned out all the puny voices of doubt

and uncertainty. And so every remnant of timidity and hesitancy and weakness is swallowed up in the experience of God's greatness. And a tremendous boldness and courage and zeal was unleashed as they gave witness to the greatness of God."

PEOPLE! V12-13

Two types of responses! People are either amazed and drawn to God as He releases His power, or they mock! **In verse 12** the demonstration of God's power in the miracle of tongues causes amazement and perplexity among everyone. "Amazed and perplexed." But the perplexity gave way to two very different responses. Some seriously asked, "What does this mean?" Others (in verse 13) mocked and leaped to a naturalistic explanation: "They have had too much wine."

Whenever revival comes — whenever the Holy Spirit is poured out in extraordinary power— division happens in the Christian community! Some genuinely inquire as to what this is, and test all things, and hold fast to what is good. Others stand outside and mock and write off the enthusiasm as merely human, "They have had too much wine."

APPLICATION

The Bible talks about us being baptised in the Holy Spirit. That happens once at conversion when you become a Christian. Ephesians Ch1 talks about being sealed with the Holy Spirit. All right, this is a one-time event when you become a Christian. Then you're going to read it, like me, in Acts Ch2 and you're going to read it repeatedly in the remainder of Acts and other places, like Ephesians Ch5, where the Bible talks about believers being filled with the Holy Spirit. Filled with the Holy Spirit. There is one baptism and there are multiple fillings, and this is empowering by The Holy Spirit.

So, let's say you're a new Christian and you want to figure out what your gifts are to serve Jesus. You're asking the Holy Spirit to fill you and to show you what your ministry is. Let's say you're going to get married, you're asking the Holy Spirit to fill you so that now you can learn to be a loving and faithful spouse. You're pregnant and now you want to be parents, and it's a great season, you're asking the Holy Spirit to fill you so you can have that God-given instinct to love and to lead your children to the glory of God. You're struggling, you're suffering, you're sick, you're hurting, you're asking the Holy Spirit to fill you, so that you might persevere and through your sufferings, learn more about Jesus and become more like Jesus. There are multiple fillings, and there is one occasion in which the believer is baptized.

So, the Mission of Jesus, has started through the outpouring of His Holy Spirit to **sustain the completion of World evangelism**. Let's get praying and asking for Jesus to pour our His Holy Spirit in our lives, in our area, and see people become Christians!

This same Holy Spirit empowered filling for world evangelism for any believer within the Gospel Community, is available, always!

The Passover and Pentecost are the only two Festivals/Feasts from Judaism that the Christian Community celebrate!