



When you hear “Holy Spirit”, what thoughts or images come to your mind? Are you concerned, intrigued, or excited? Today we begin the journey to see how the baptism of God the Holy Spirit empowers followers of Jesus to take the Gospel to the Planet.

You’ll remember that Jesus was with the disciples for about 40 days before He ascended. During that time, He told them...

#### Acts 1:4–5 (NET)

<sup>4</sup> ...“Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait there for what my Father promised, which you heard about from me.<sup>5</sup> For John baptized with water, but **you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.**”

#### What is Pentecost?

That “not many days from now” came during **Pentecost** (a.k.a. Feast of Weeks), an annual event celebrating end of the grain harvest. Pentecost is 50 days after Passover (the weekend that Jesus was crucified). This means the disciples had been waiting on who Jesus had promised for about 10 days after His ascension.

**Acts 2:1–4 (NET)** <sup>1</sup> Now when the day of Pentecost had come, **they** [who is this?] were all together in one place. <sup>2</sup> Suddenly a sound like a violent wind blowing came from heaven and filled the entire house where they were sitting. <sup>3</sup> And tongues spreading out like a fire appeared to them and came to rest on each one of them. <sup>4</sup> **All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit, and they began to speak in other languages as the Spirit enabled them.**

**They** certainly this applies to the apostles & the women who accompanied Jesus. It could certainly include the 120 mentioned in Acts 1:15. The context doesn’t make this clear, although there is a clue later in this story that will show this was not the apostles alone (2:17-18).

The **baptism of the Holy Spirit** spoken of in Acts 1:5 is the same as being **filled with the Holy Spirit** in Acts 2:4. Yet, as we will see in the book of Acts, believers experience many moments of being “filled with the Holy Spirit,” while **baptism of the Spirit** seems to refer to the initial moment when the Spirit comes to reside and renew those who turn from their sin and trust Jesus for life.<sup>1</sup>

Now the Spirit empowered the followers of Jesus with the supernatural ability **to speak in other languages.** (not languages they had studied in school nor strange babbling unintelligible words)

#### Acts 2:5 (NET)

Now there were devout Jews from every nation under heaven residing in Jerusalem.

Over the years, Jewish people had been taken to captivity in Assyria & Babylon. While many Jewish families made their way back to Israel, others did not. In the time of our story, many Jews who

<sup>1</sup> Marshall, I. H. “Acts and the ‘Former Treatise.’” In The Book of Acts, vol. 1, 69. \* “The basic act of receiving the Spirit can be described as being baptized or filled, but the verb ‘baptize’ is not used for subsequent experiences... The noun-phrase ‘baptism with the Spirit’ does not occur in the New Testament.”

had grown up in those distant lands came back to live in Jerusalem & other surrounding cities. Further, they were likely many visitors from other lands attending the Pentecost celebration.

\* Luke uses a term for people *living* in Jerusalem, not simply visiting (κατοικέω: to live or dwell in a place in an established or settled manner).<sup>2</sup>

**Acts 2:6-12 (NET)** <sup>6</sup> When this sound occurred, a crowd gathered and was in confusion, because **each one heard them speaking in his own language.** <sup>7</sup> Completely baffled, they said, “Aren’t all these who are speaking Galileans?” <sup>8</sup> And how is it that each one of us hears them in our own native language? <sup>9</sup> Parthians, Medes, Elamites, and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and the province of Asia,<sup>10</sup> Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya near Cyrene, and visitors from Rome,<sup>11</sup> both Jews and proselytes, Cretans and Arabs—we hear them speaking in our own languages about the great deeds God has done!”<sup>12</sup> All were astounded and greatly confused, saying to one another, “What does this mean?”

Galileans, who were notorious for poor linguistic skills, so when these Jews in Jerusalem heard the ‘red-neck’ Galileans speaking their native languages fluently, they were **completely baffled**.<sup>3</sup>

**Why are these people speaking in different languages from all over the known world?**

God breaks the human communication barrier to demonstrate that the Gospel is intended for all people - This demonstrates that God speaks in YOUR language. You don’t come to God; He has come to you...in the person of Jesus AND through witness of His people!

God isn’t skywriting how people can be forgiven & free. Instead...

**BIG TRUTH: *The Spirit empowers People to proclaim the Gospel.***

And the Jewish people from all over these places were about to hear that Gospel through God’s people, in Jerusalem, the place where Jesus had taught, performed miracles, been arrested, tried, convicted, killed, AND... resurrected from the dead.

**Acts 2:14–21 (NET)** <sup>14</sup> But Peter stood up with the eleven, raised his voice, and addressed them: “You men of Judea and all you who live in Jerusalem, know this and listen carefully to what I say. <sup>15</sup> In spite of what you think, these men are not drunk [see v.13], for it is only nine o’clock in the morning.<sup>16</sup> But this is what was spoken about through the prophet Joel [OT prophet from hundreds of years earlier] : <sup>17</sup> ‘*And in the last days it will be, God says, that I will pour out my Spirit on all people, and your sons and your daughters will prophesy, and your young men will see visions, and your old men will dream dreams.* <sup>18</sup> *Even on my servants, both men and women, I will pour out my Spirit in those days, and they will prophesy.* <sup>19</sup> *And I will perform wonders in the sky above and miraculous signs on the earth below, blood and fire and clouds of smoke.* <sup>20</sup> *The sun will be changed to darkness and the moon to blood before the great and glorious day of the Lord comes.* <sup>21</sup> ***And then everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.***”

Young and old, male & female, were empowered with spiritual insight, able to speak for the Lord [prophesy], and even see great miracles occur. Why all this?

***The Spirit empowers People to proclaim the Gospel.***

<sup>2</sup> Johannes P. Louw and Eugene Albert Nida, Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament: Based on Semantic Domains (New York: United Bible Societies, 1996), 730.

<sup>3</sup> Charles H. Talbert, Reading Acts: A Literary and Theological Commentary on the Acts of the Apostles, Rev. ed., Reading the New Testament Series (Macon, GA: Smyth & Helwys Publishing, 2005), 25–26.

Then **those who call on the Lord will be saved** - forgiven & free. Peter continues...

**Acts 2:22–24** (NET) <sup>22</sup> “Men of Israel, listen to these words: Jesus the Nazarene, a man clearly attested to you by God with powerful deeds, wonders, and miraculous signs that God performed among you through him, just as you yourselves know—<sup>23</sup> this man, who was handed over by the predetermined plan and foreknowledge of God, you executed by nailing him to a cross at the hands of Gentiles.<sup>24</sup> But **God raised him up**, having released him from the pains of death, because it was not possible for him to be held in its power.

In verses 25-30 (read on your own), Peter reminds the Jewish people that the Messiah was to come through King David’s family line. Quoting from from Ps 16:8–11, Peter shows that David’s prophecy was to be fulfilled by someone BEYOND himself.

**Acts 2:31–32** (NET) <sup>31</sup> David by foreseeing this spoke about the resurrection of the Christ, that *he was neither abandoned to Hades, nor did his body experience decay.*<sup>32</sup> **This Jesus God raised up, and we are all witnesses of it.**

Remember now, here are the 12 apostles of Jesus standing in the city Jesus had been convicted, crucified, & buried in...and proclaiming - Jesus is alive - ALL 12 OF them had seen Him alive! Peter speaks about that next.

**Acts 2:33-34** <sup>33</sup> So then, exalted to the right hand of God, and having received the promise of **the Holy Spirit** from the Father, **he has poured out what you both see and hear.** <sup>34</sup> For David did not ascend into heaven, but he himself says, *“The Lord said to my lord, “Sit at my right hand<sup>35</sup> until I make your enemies a footstool for your feet.”*’

David wasn’t speaking about HIMSELF. Now comes the big finale. The Holy Spirit has empowered the believers to share the goodness of God in lots of languages so that the people in Jerusalem will hear and respond to THESE WORDS.

**Acts 2:36** <sup>36</sup> Therefore let all the house of Israel know beyond a doubt that God has made **this Jesus whom you crucified both Lord and Christ.**”

Imagine what this means: the Messiah, the Savior, the ONE you have been awaiting, He has already come - and you didn’t recognize Him...in fact, you **KILLED HIM!**

Sharing the Gospel is more than just saying God loves you and has a great plan for your life. In fact, Peter hasn’t said that, has he? Instead, he helps the Jewish people see their sin and need for a Savior.

The full gospel message goes like this: **GOD, MAN, SIN, JESUS, JUDGMENT.**

Look how the people respond to the fact that they have killed their Messiah.

**Acts 2:37** (ESV) \* the NET doesn’t translate this as well  
<sup>37</sup> Now when they heard this **they were cut to the heart**, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, **“Brothers, what shall we do?”**

That’s the same question YOU might need to ask today. Is there a way to REPAY what we owe? How many good things do we have to do to outweigh the bad? How can we cover up our sin? After rejecting Jesus...is there any hope? That was THEIR question...and it should be ours.

Then *“what shall we do?”* - they asked. There is ONE answer.

**Acts 2:38–39** (NET) <sup>38</sup> Peter said to them, **“Repent, and each one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.”** <sup>39</sup> For the promise is for you and your children, and for all who are far away, as many as the Lord our God will call to himself.”

**Repentance:** a change of mind that results in a change of action. (not covering up or justifying our sin - it's TURNING from our sin and turning to Jesus)

**Baptism in the name of Jesus** recognizes the death, burial, & resurrection of Jesus and us. This is the 1st step of obedience in following Jesus.

**You will receive the gift** (baptism & filling) **of the Holy Spirit too!** In that moment you will know you are forgiven & free! But you aren't saved to sit, but to serve. And...

***The Spirit empowers People to proclaim the Gospel.***

This Jewish Pentecost celebration had turned into a confrontation - **highlighting the weight of their sin and the graciousness of Jesus.** This is the King that Peter and the apostles proclaimed - the one who left His royalty to do more than just dress & eat with them - but to GIVE HIS LIFE for them!

**Acts 2:40–41** (NET) <sup>40</sup> With many other words he testified and exhorted them saying, **“Save yourselves from this perverse generation!”** <sup>41</sup> **So those who accepted his message were baptized, and that day about three thousand people were added.**

Have you turned from your sin? Are you following Jesus?  
Are you sharing your faith in the Lord Jesus?

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Please call us if we can answer any questions or help you in any way.

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