

## Summary

### Big Idea

**The outpouring of the Holy Spirit empowers believers with spiritual gifts to declare God's greatness and edify the church today.**

Pentecost Sunday commemorates the coming of the Holy Spirit upon early believers, as described in Acts 2. On that day, they spoke in diverse tongues, declaring God's immense wonders—his 'megaleios,' a term that vividly expresses God's magnificent, sublime beauty and mighty deeds impacting our lives. Acts 19 introduces a situation where Paul encountered disciples in Ephesus who had not received the Holy Spirit because they were only baptized with John's baptism of repentance. Upon understanding their need, Paul baptized them in Jesus' name, and they received the Holy Spirit, speaking in tongues and prophesying. This transformation illustrates the role of the Holy Spirit in empowering believers to declare God's greatness across every language and culture.

Exploring gifts like tongues and prophecy reveals their ongoing importance to the church. Tongues, whether earthly or angelic, serve to edify both the church and individual believers through spiritual communication or prayer. Prophecy today does not equate to new scripture but instead guides and strengthens the believer's walk with Christ, pointing always to Christ's work. It is crucial to discern the genuine Spirit-led prophecies that encourage and confirm faith journeys. Regardless of one's denominational beliefs, opening our hearts to the gifts of the Spirit equips us to fulfill God's purpose through diverse expressions of His power and presence.

### Keys and Themes

#### 1. Pentecost and the Wonders of God

Pentecost marks the miraculous day when the Holy Spirit descended, empowering believers to speak in various tongues, announcing God's wonders. The Greek word 'megaleios' encapsulates God's magnificent, grand nature—his majestic deeds impact our lives tangibly. This proclaims not past or distant miracles, but God's active work here and now. The disciples' declarations invited all nations to experience this sublime beauty.

#### 2. Receiving the Holy Spirit

In Acts 19, Paul's interaction with Ephesus' disciples illustrates the necessity of receiving the Holy Spirit to experience God's empowering presence. Their initial baptism of repentance was incomplete without embracing Christ and receiving His Spirit. Upon their baptism in Jesus' name, the Spirit's arrival was evident through tongues and prophecy, underscoring the transformative role of the Spirit in Christian life.

### **3. Understanding Spiritual Gifts**

The sermon emphasizes the diversity and importance of spiritual gifts, focusing on tongues and prophecy. Tongues can manifest as both earthly and heavenly languages, serving different purposes—church edification or personal spiritual enrichment. Prophecy does not create new Scripture but directs believers towards Christ, affirming faith and encouraging spiritual growth. All believers should seek to understand and embrace their spiritual gifts to glorify God.

### **4. Tongues: Earthly and Heavenly Expressions**

Tongues, as described, are a Spirit-enabled communication, voiced in either known human languages or mysterious heavenly dialects. Earthly tongues can bridge language barriers miraculously, while heavenly tongues are intimate prayers aligning believers with God's will. This duality celebrates the Spirit's dynamic presence, inviting active participation in both communal worship and personal prayer.

### **5. Prophecy in the Modern Church**

In contemporary contexts, prophecy encourages, strengthens, and guides believers towards Christ. It unveils spiritual truths, confirming individual callings and paths aligned with God's Word. The key lies in discerning true prophecies that exalt Jesus, build up the church, and harmonize with Scripture. This spiritual insight transforms lives, turning hearts urgently towards Christ's redemptive work.

# Daily Devotional

## Sunday — Pentecost and the Wonders of God

Scripture: Acts 2:1-11

Pentecost Sunday celebrates when the Holy Spirit empowered believers to proclaim God's sublime beauty and active greatness in diverse languages. This miracle wasn't just about linguistic abilities but about revealing God's majesty in a manner that resonates deeply with our spirit. As you reflect on the awe-inspiring nature of God, consider how the Spirit moves through believers today to declare His living wonders. The 'megaleios' they spoke of isn't limited to the past; God's magnificence is relevant to every nation and every person even now. Have you felt the grandeur of God's presence in your life? How might He be inviting you to share His beauty with others?

*Reflect Questions:*

1. How can you experience and share God's 'megaleios' in your life today?
  2. In what ways can you celebrate Pentecost by declaring God's wonders?
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## Monday — Receiving the Holy Spirit

Scripture: Acts 19:1-6

In Acts 19, Paul finds disciples in Ephesus unfamiliar with the Holy Spirit, missing out on His transforming work. Their journey demonstrates the necessity of embracing the Holy Spirit's fullness to truly experience the life-changing power of Christ. As believers, acknowledging and receiving the Holy Spirit aligns us with God's purposes, equipping us with gifts to serve His church and the world. Are there areas in your life where you might be missing the Spirit's full impact? Consider how God might be inviting you to seek more of His Spirit and step boldly into the gifts He provides, just as Paul encouraged these early disciples.

*Reflect Questions:*

1. Reflect on any areas in your life where you feel the absence of the Holy Spirit.
  2. How can you seek a deeper acknowledgment of the Holy Spirit's work in your life?
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## Tuesday — Understanding Spiritual Gifts

Scripture: 1 Corinthians 12:8-10

Paul teaches about the diversity and purpose of spiritual gifts—tongues and prophecy being the focus here. These gifts are bestowed to edify the church and glorify God. While tongues serve as expressions of worship and intimate prayer, prophecy strengthens and guides believers. Understanding these gifts opens pathways for participating in God's work. Don't shy away from exploring your spiritual gifts or from inviting the Spirit's guidance. God has uniquely equipped you to contribute to His mission on earth. Are you open to discovering these gifts? Consider praying and asking God to reveal how you can use them for His glory.

*Reflect Questions:*

- 1. Are you aware of your spiritual gifts? How might you start discovering them?*
  - 2. How can you use your gifts to contribute to God's mission in your community?*
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## **Wednesday — Tongues: Earthly and Heavenly Expressions**

Scripture: 1 Corinthians 14:2-4

The gift of tongues presents a fascinating intersection between human understanding and divine mystery. Earthly tongues serve to bridge language divides, revealing God's presence in communal worship. Conversely, heavenly tongues offer a profound personal connection, allowing unrestricted prayer communication with God. When earthly language fails to carry the weight of your heart's cry, heavenly tongues access a sacred space for God's Spirit to intercede. God's diverse expressions through tongues remind us of His boundless creativity and engagement with our lives. Have you ever experienced this kind of intimate prayer with God? Inviting the Spirit to lead can transform your prayer life.

*Reflect Questions:*

- 1. Have you experienced a moment when earthly language couldn't express your prayers?*
  - 2. How might inviting the gift of tongues enhance your connection with God?*
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## **Thursday — Prophecy in the Modern Church**

Scripture: 1 Corinthians 14:3

Prophecy today plays a crucial role in edifying the church and pointing believers towards Christ. It is not about foretelling new revelations but about unveiling God's truth and confirming journeys in His will. True prophecy strengthens, encourages, and aligns with Scripture, urging believers to embrace their identity in Christ. Ask yourself: how is God calling you to prophetic moments in your life? Whether speaking, creating, or serving, listen for His voice directing you to reveal Jesus to others. How can you discern His voice in your daily walk? Consider opening your heart to become an instrument of His prophecy.

*Reflect Questions:*

- 1. In what ways can you be an instrument of God's prophecy today?*
  - 2. How can you discern the voice of true prophecy in your life?*
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## **Friday — The Importance of Baptism in Jesus' Name**

Scripture: Acts 19:3-5

The disciples in Ephesus had only received John's baptism, a baptism preparing for the Messiah. Their belief needed completion through baptism in Jesus' name to receive the Holy Spirit. This shows the importance of fully embracing Christ's work for new life. Christianity isn't just a series of rituals; it's about entering a living relationship with Jesus. Acknowledging Christ and receiving the Spirit marks the transformation from mere religious practice to vibrant faith-filled living. What areas of your spiritual journey might need a deeper understanding of Christ's transformative work? Reflect on the fullness of baptism in Jesus' name as you walk with Him.

*Reflect Questions:*

- 1. How does embracing baptism in Jesus' name impact your faith journey?*
  - 2. In what ways can you invite Christ's transformational power into your daily life?*
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## **Saturday — Living Daily in the Spirit's Power**

Scripture: Galatians 5:16

Walking in the Spirit is a daily invitation to live under God's guidance and empowerment. Galatians 5:16 encourages believers to let the Spirit lead, shaping actions, thoughts, and lives to reflect Christ. It's about a continual yielding, inviting the Spirit to equip with gifts and empower for service. This walk isn't without challenges, but it's a journey filled with purpose and growth as we rely on the Spirit rather than our understanding. Daily choices impact how faithfully we walk in the Spirit's power. Are there areas of your life where you need to step aside for the Spirit's guidance? Let His presence lead you to new depths.

*Reflect Questions:*

- 1. What does it mean for you to walk daily in the Spirit's power?*
- 2. How can you allow the Spirit to guide areas you struggle with?*

# Study Questions

*Read Ac. 19:1-6 and listen to the Sermon "Tongues and Prophecy," May 24th, 2026*

## **Observation**

- 1) What event is celebrated on Pentecost Sunday?
- 2) In Acts 2, what were the believers speaking about in other tongues?
- 3) Who did Paul encounter in Ephesus in Acts 19:1-6?
- 4) What happens when Paul lays his hands on the disciples in Ephesus?

## **Interpretation**

- 1) What does the word 'megaleios' mean in the context of Acts 2?
- 2) Why might Paul have asked the disciples if they received the Holy Spirit?
- 3) How are tongues described as both earthly and heavenly languages?
- 4) What does the sermon suggest about the modern understanding of prophecy?

## **Application**

- 1) How can understanding 'megaleios' change the way we speak about God today?
- 2) What steps could you take to discover your spiritual gifts?
- 3) How might you respond to a prophetic word given to you?
- 4) How can you test if a prophecy is truly from God?