

Essentials of the Holy Spirit  
Pentecost Sunday - May 23, 2010  
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1.) Jesus taught His disciples that Holy Spirit empowerment was not optional, but rather, essential to living the life He ordained for them to live. He **COMMANDED** them to seek and to wait until they were endued with this experience, before they went out on their own to accomplish anything He had taught them.

Acts 1:3-5 NASB To these He also presented Himself alive after His suffering, by many convincing proofs, appearing to them over a period of forty days and speaking of the things concerning the kingdom of God. (4) Gathering them together, He **commanded** them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait for what the Father had promised, "Which," He said, "you heard of from Me; (5) for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now."

This shows us that there was another experience, besides spending all that time with Jesus personally, that He commanded His disciples to wait for and receive.

2.) The Gift of the Holy Spirit is for today. The Bible clearly teaches us that this was not an experience designated only for the initial group of people to receive that first time, but rather, was available to many generations and nations of people, in different locations and times, who were hungry for more of God.

Acts 2:37-40 NASB Now when they heard this, they were pierced to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, "Brethren, what shall we do?" (38) Peter said to them, "Repent, and each 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. (39) "For the promise is for you **and your children and for all who are far off**, as many as the Lord our God will call to Himself." (40) And with many other words he solemnly testified and kept on exhorting them, saying, "Be saved from this perverse generation!"

This phrase in bold and underlined above indicates that this was for more than just one generation of people (children), one time, or one location (all who are far off). "Far off" here is a term which means geographically, and in relation to time; that is, far away in other lands, and far out in time. Even contained within other scriptures we can see other people, in other places, at other times, experienced similar encounters with the Holy Spirit as the early disciples did in Acts 2:4.

3.) Spirit-Filled living was the norm, and the Lord's expectation; not the exception. Even in the gospels, we can see both John the prophet, and Jesus talking about the Holy-Spirit-Empowered life that He expected His followers to pursue and live. Below are some, but not all, of the verses in the Gospels that talk about the Holy Spirit, and the Lord's

expectation for us:

Matthew 3:11 KJV I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance: but he that cometh after me is mightier than I, whose shoes I am not worthy to bear: he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost, and with fire:

Matthew 28:18-20 KJV And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. (19) Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: (20) Teaching them to observe **all things whatsoever I have commanded you:** and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world. Amen.

**\*\*Notice Jesus said to teach all things He commanded; we have seen in #1 of this lesson, that Jesus commanded them to wait for the experience of Holy Ghost Empowerment. He not only wanted them to experience a personal relationship with Him, but also to experience the Holy Spirit in His fullness.**

Mark 1:7-8 KJV And preached, saying, There cometh one mightier than I after me, the latchet of whose shoes I am not worthy to stoop down and unloose. (8) I indeed have baptized you with water: but he shall **baptize you with the Holy Ghost.**

Mark 16:15-20 KJV And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. (16) He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned. (17) And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues; (18) They shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover. (19) So then after the Lord had spoken unto them, he was received up into heaven, and sat on the right hand of God. (20) And they went forth, and preached every where, the Lord working with them, and confirming the word with signs following. Amen.

Luke 3:15-16 KJV And as the people were in expectation, and all men mused in their hearts of John, whether he were the Christ, or not; (16) John answered, saying unto them all, I indeed baptize you with water; but one mightier than I cometh, the latchet of whose shoes I am not worthy to unloose: **he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost and with fire:**

Luke 24:47-49 KJV And that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. (48) And ye are witnesses of these things. (49) And, behold, I send the promise of my Father upon you: but tarry ye in the city of Jerusalem, **until ye be endued with power from on high.**

4.) One way that those in the early church determined that a person was saved, and knew Christ, was because of the manifestation of the Holy Spirit in their life. It was understood that if someone had received the experience Jesus talked about, then they surely were already in relationship with Him, or they could not have gone to this next level of experience. (It is important to note that while this is not the only indicator that someone

has been saved or has a relationship with Christ, it is certainly one valid indicator we can see in the Scriptures.)

Acts 10:44-48 NASB While Peter was still speaking these words, the Holy Spirit fell upon all those who were listening to the message. (45) All the circumcised believers who came with Peter were amazed, because the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out on the Gentiles also. (46) For they were hearing them speaking with tongues and exalting God. Then Peter answered, (47) "Surely no one can refuse the water for these to be baptized who have received the Holy Spirit just as we did, can he?" (48) And he ordered them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they asked him to stay on for a few days.

Acts 11:15-18 NASB "And as I began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell upon them just as He did upon us at the beginning. (16) "And I remembered the word of the Lord, how He used to say, 'John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.' (17) "Therefore if God gave to them the same gift as He gave to us also after believing in the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I that I could stand in God's way?" (18) When they heard this, they quieted down and glorified God, saying, "Well then, God has granted to the Gentiles also the repentance that leads to life."

Incidentally, the above passages also illustrate that the experience of the Holy Spirit was not just a one-time event on the day of Pentecost; these were another race of people, at a different time, in a different (distant) place.

5.) Not only did Jesus command the disciples to wait until they had received this special experience with the Holy Spirit, we see that God the Father desires to give us the Holy Spirit.

Luke 11:11-13 NASB "Now suppose one of you fathers is asked by his son for a fish; he will not give him a snake instead of a fish, will he? (12) "Or if he is asked for an egg, he will not give him a scorpion, will he? (13) "If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him?"