

# Acts The Gospel on the Move

## Study 2

### Baptism of the Holy Spirit

Acts 2:1-13

#### A. PENTECOST

##### Acts 2:1-4 (NIV)

When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them.

1. a) Fill in the Blanks. According to the video slide, fill in what is associated with Pentecost (Festival of Shavuot) for the Jews.

Association with Pentecost Event for the Jews	
1	God Himself came down in a cloud onto Mt. Sinai in fire
2	Anniversary of giving of Law in Sinai
3	Firstfruits of wheat were presented to God
4	Birth date of the nation of Israel

- b) Fill in the Blanks. According to the video slide, fill in the missing box below:

	Old Testament Believers	New Testament Believers
Covenant types:	Old Covenant: Receive the law from Mount Sinai	New Covenant: Receive the Spirit (Ezekiel 36:26-27)
Birth of:	Birth of the Israel Nation	Birth of the Church

**Quick Verse Reference**

Ezekiel 36:26-27

I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh. And I will put my Spirit in you and move you to follow my decrees and be careful to keep my laws.

**c) Fill in the Blanks. According to the video slide, fill in four significance of Pentecost (Festival of Shavuot) for Christians**

1.	The final act of the saving ministry of Jesus
2.	Empowered Apostles for their special role as Jesus' primary and authoritative witnesses, in fulfilment of His promise. The church as secondary witnesses
3.	Inauguration of the new era of the Spirit
4.	First revival, deep conviction of sin, 3000 conversions, a widespread sense of awe

**d) Fill in the Blanks. According to the video slide, fill in the three features of the Holy Spirit.**

	Features of the Holy Spirit	Additional Details
1.	Sound of the Wind	Gen 1:2 Spirit of God hovering over the waters Gen 2: Breath of God gives life John 3:5-8 The wind blows where it pleases... so is everyone born of the Spirit Acts 2 Spirit of God, Spiritual rebirth
2.	Tongues of Fire	Exodus 13:21 Pillar of Fire when Israel was led out Sinai Fire, Moses, and Burning Bush Fire signifies bringing light of God's revelation and warmth of His presence, now in the tongues of men
3.	Different languages	The Tower of Babel in Genesis 11:1-9 has different languages, but there is a reversal because in Genesis they are divided, and in Acts they are united

**e) Discussion Question. What are the differences between speaking in tongues in Acts 2 vs the one in 1 Corinthians 14:13-16?**

In Acts 2 everyone understood, but in 1 Corinthians 14:13-16, there was no understanding of what was being said.

**f) Fill in the Blanks. According to the video slide, fill in the blanks below in regards to the Holy Spirit.**

Filled (Acts 2:4), Baptized (Acts 11:16), Poured (Acts 2:17) and Received (Acts 10:46-47)	
of the Holy Spirit. Have the same meaning. A person who has received an initial filling	
of the Spirit can have repeated fresh subsequent filling to	<b>Empower them</b>
for a specific task	

**g) Discussion Question. Other than the cases of a single-stage conversion in Acts 2,4, 9 20, what are the other reasons against the two-stage conversion that the Pentecostal Controversy supports?**

- There is no phrase in the Bible that says "Baptism of the Holy Spirit"
- "Baptism" is only used for the initial receiving of the Holy Spirit
- "Filled with the Holy Spirit" has a looser range, and can be used for:
  - i) the initial reception of the Holy Spirit,
  - ii) baptism
  - iii) or subsequent filling again for empowerment

**h) Discussion Question. What's the difference between descriptive passage and prescriptive passage?**

The difference is this: a passage is descriptive if it is simply describing something that happened, while a passage is prescriptive if it is specifically teaching that something should happen. Read more here:

<https://www.gotquestions.org/descriptive-vs-prescriptive.html>

**i) Objective Question. Choose the most appropriate. What's the purpose of the Holy Spirit according to Romans 1:4-6?**

- A. To dazzle us with miracles
- B. **To help us obey in faith**

**Quick Verse Reference**

Romans 1:4-6 (NIV)

and who through the Spirit of holiness was appointed the Son of God in power by his resurrection from the dead: Jesus Christ our Lord. Through him we received grace and apostleship to call all the Gentiles to the obedience that comes from faith for his name's sake. And you also are among those Gentiles who are called to belong to Jesus Christ.

**B. LANGUAGES**

**Acts 2:5-13 (NIV)**

Now there were staying in Jerusalem God-fearing Jews from every nation under heaven. When they heard this sound, a crowd came together in bewilderment, because each one heard their own language being spoken. Utterly amazed, they asked: "Aren't all these who are speaking Galileans? Then how is it that each of us hears them in our native language? Parthians, Medes and Elamites; residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya near Cyrene; visitors from Rome (both Jews and converts to Judaism); Cretans and Arabs—we hear them declaring the wonders of God in our own tongues!" Amazed and perplexed, they asked one another, "What does this mean?" Some, however, made fun of them and said, "They have had too much wine."

**2. Reflection question. If this were to happen today and you were part of that crowd, how would you have responded?**

**Takeaway**

**Acts 2:1-13 describes the actions of the Holy Spirit that allowed believers to tell, in their own tongues, the mighty works of God (Acts 2:11)**

## Case Study

### Case 1 – Pentecostal Controversy

Nathaniel went to a church at the airport called the Vines Tabernacle of Jerusalem and the leaders there found out that he had not been baptized with the Holy Spirit because he did not speak in tongues. They told him that was why he was never very fruitful in his ministry. That was why he was not doing well in his business or his love life. The victory can only come when he is baptized with the Spirit. Nathaniel accepted Christ at the age of 21 years and received water baptism and fully trusted Jesus as His Lord and believed that Jesus rose from the dead and is the Son of God. They insisted to be complete, he must speak in tongues and be baptised. They derived their theology from the book of Acts in Acts 2 where the gift of tongues accompanied the impartation of the Spirit.

**1. a) Discussion question. Nathan is very troubled so how would you explain to him whether there was a need for this second baptism?**

Firstly not all occasions of the outpouring of the Spirit are like that in Acts 2, there are two other occasions in the conversion of Gentiles in Acts 10 and Acts 19 involving John's disciples, and in each case, it was a historically significant people group where the tongues and even prophesy was seen demonstrated. However, in the conversion of Samaritans, there was no manifestation of tongues at all. If we are to say true Spiritual experience must mimic the Acts 2 event then each time a person is baptized with the HS then we would also expect miraculous and extraordinary phenomena like earthquakes, wind-sounds, and fire. So we cannot agree with some that speaking in tongues is necessary or even the normal sign of the fullness of the Spirit.

In the Corinthian passages, it is clear that not everyone has the gift of tongues which is certainly one of the many manifestations of the Spirit, those who do not have them are urged in Cor 14 to desire them.

- Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him (Romans 8:9 ESV) clearly states that every single Christian has the Holy Spirit.
- For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body— Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and all were made to drink of one Spirit (1 Corinthians 12:13 ESV)
- This last verse in 1 Cor 12 makes it very clear all believers have the One spirit and one becomes a believer on profession of faith and not at a second experience.

If we look at Luke's descriptions of the "fullness of the Spirit" in his gospel, we see Elizabeth (Luke 1:41) and her husband Zechariah (Luke 1:67) becoming filled with the Holy Spirit. In both cases, they immediately begin to declare the redemptive works of God with joy and power. [This is identical to Acts 2:11, for the "wonders" that the apostles declare is the word *megaleia* — "the mega-deeds of God".

They are talking about the redemptive acts of God in history — the gospel. Next in the gospel of Luke we see the Spirit descending on Jesus (3:21) so that he too goes off "full of the Holy Spirit". In Jesus' case, there are two characteristics.

First, he received with the Spirit a strong assurance of his sonship and the Father's love for him: "You are my Son, whom I love". Second, he received the Spirit in order to endure a major confrontation with Satan, which he met by declaring the Word of God (see Luke 4:1-13). [Note: Maybe he received the Spirit so he could confront Satan. But maybe he got confronted by Satan because he had received the Spirit. Probably, both are true!] Again, we see that the fullness of the Spirit equipped Jesus to declare the Word of God.

In summary, what do all these incidents have in common?

- 1) We see that the "fullness of the Spirit" Luke speaks of is episodic. It does not occur continuously. Paul was "filled with the Spirit" in order to speak to the sorcerer. That means it came upon him, and later left.
- 2) We see that the "fullness" is repeatable. It may happen frequently or infrequently.
- 3) We see that the "fullness" always consists of a) a powerful assurance that God loves us and is with us, and b) an ability to effectively witness. The fullness is "assurance for service".
- 4) Finally, we see that the "fullness" seems sometimes to be connected to a) prevailing prayer, and b) persecution or confrontation and temptation.

What do these incidents not have in common? Though speaking in tongues is attached to the experience of the fullness of the Spirit in Acts 2:4, and also in Acts 10:46 and Acts 19:6, tongues are not connected in these other incidents. Also, miraculous and extraordinary phenomena like earthquakes, wind sounds, and fire are not necessary. So we cannot agree with some that speaking in tongues is necessary or even the normal sign of the fullness of the Spirit.

The unique phenomena of Pentecost show that in some ways it was unique and unrepeatable. Jesus gave his Spirit to his church on that day as the newly ascended Lord. Now he proceeds to minister in the world through his Spirit-filled church. Perhaps, we can even say that it was on that day that the church was “baptized with the Holy Spirit”. Jesus had promised in Acts 1:5 that Pentecost would be Spirit-baptism. On that day, it says that they were “filled with the Spirit”. But then the repeatable series of “Spirit-filled” experiences is not called “Spirit-baptisms”. Rather, the baptism of the Spirit was their once and for all inauguration into a new realm of spiritual experience. In the repeated episodes of spirit-filledness, the disciples were drawing on their Spirit baptism. So in one sense, Pentecost was a once for crossing into a new realm and era. In another way, it was repeatable. In the same way, we are baptized once with the Spirit (1 Cor 12:13) when we enter the Body of Christ at conversion. But the baptism of the Spirit now provides us with the potential for multiple and deepening experiences of assurance and power.

**b) Discussion question. So how can Nathan know that he has the Holy Spirit in him?**

There will be signs and symptoms of the fruit of the Holy Spirit. It's not about fantastical gifts, it's about the change in character. One of the greatest miracles is God changing our evil heart of stone into a heart of flesh capable of love.

**John 15:8 (NIV)**

This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.

**Galatians 5:22-23 (NIV)**

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. Against such things, there is no law.

**c) Discussion question. You decided to join an inter-denominational bible study group going to the book of Acts. Some of the members are from a Pentecostal/Charismatic background that trains others to speak in tongues because they believe in the second baptism. Would you bring up what you believe?**