

Notes: Today is the day of Pentecost. To the church it is the day when God sent the Holy Spirit to indwell believers.

I. Jesus commanded the believers to wait for the arrival of the Holy Spirit before they started witnessing for Him. Acts 1:4-8 And, being assembled together with them, commanded them that they should not depart from Jerusalem, but wait for the promise of the Father, which, saith he, ye have heard of me. For John truly baptized with water; but ye shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost not many days hence..... But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth. Jesus tells them God is about to move in a mighty way. You are about to receive the baptism of The Holy Ghost and when that happens you will receive the power you need to be my witnesses. That should teach us that we need the power of the Holy Spirit to do the Lord's work as well. What was the promise of the Holy Spirit?

1. The Holy Spirit would be the great Comforter. John 14:16-18;26 And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever; Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you. I will not leave you comfortless: I will come to you.....But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you. The promise from Jesus is the Holy Spirit would live inside us forever and we would know He was present. Jesus tells us that would be the means that God would use to give us comfort and strength. This Holy Spirit would help the disciples to remember all they had been taught. The promise for us is that God help us remember and recognize His hand as He is helping us through this life. **1 John 14:27** Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid. The Holy Spirit is the provider of that comfort and the God that communicates spiritual truth to us.

2. The Spirit would point people to Jesus. John 15:26-27 But when the Comforter is come, whom I will send unto you from the Father, even the Spirit of truth, which proceedeth from the Father, he shall testify of me: And ye also shall bear witness, because ye have been with me from the beginning. The Holy Spirit teaches us about Jesus so we can witness to other folks about Him. That is why Jesus told His disciples wait for the Holy Ghost.

3. The Holy Spirit makes us aware that the only righteousness acceptable to God is Christ righteousness. Titus 3:5 Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost; The resurrection and ascension of Jesus confirms that God validated everything Jesus said about himself while he was on the earth.

II. The Holy Spirit is sent by God to indwell believers. Acts 2:1-4; 11

1. There were signs announcing the Spirit's arrival. And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them. There was the sound of wind and cloven tongues appearing on the heads of the believers. How do we know they were believers; the Bible says they were with one accord and in one place. Jesus had previously told them that the Holy Ghost would some come upon them and they were awaiting that promise.

2. They were all filled with the Holy Spirit. And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.....Cretes and Arabians, we do hear them speak in our tongues the wonderful works of God. Notice what happens when these folks are filled. They begin to speak the wonderful works of God. I believe they spoke in the language they knew and the people heard them in their own language. Peter later explains that what the people had witnessed was the filling of the spirit Joel spoke about in the Old Testament; He also said this spirit was available to whosoever would call upon the name of Jesus. Later the outpouring of the Spirit would go to the Samaritans and finally to all Gentiles who would call upon the name of the Lord. The signs were God's way of confirming his promise to send the Holy Spirit. Today at salvation a believer is spiritually baptized as the Spirit starts to indwell the believer; this is known as baptism of the Spirit. During the dispensation of grace the Holy Spirit has several important roles to play in the life of the believers; revealing the truth of God's word; confirming our relationship to Christ and empowering us to fulfill God's will for our lives.

III. They experienced a filling of the Holy Spirit which was evidenced by proclaiming the truth about God. The believers knew that God was giving them the messages they were proclaiming. The baptism of the Spirit means that I belong to His body; the fullness of the Spirit means that my body belongs to Him. The baptism is final; the fullness is repeated as we trust God for new power to witness. The filling of the Holy Spirit experienced at Pentecost is available to us. Pentecost also represents the beginning of a new relationship with God.

1. The Spirit reveals to our spirit our position with the Father. Romans 8:14-17 For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God. ¹⁵ For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father. ¹⁶ The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God: ¹⁷ And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with *him*, that we may be also glorified together. Notice the declaration that because I am led by the Spirit I am a son of God. Not the son but a son I'm one of the family. From an eternal perspective it means I am assured of heaven. I have not been appointed to wrath, so when the rapture happens I'll be called up. I'm not serving God because I am afraid of discipline. I'm like that orphan that world had beat up and God said son you need a family. Come be a part of mine. The Spirit of adoption lets me know what those verses mean. It means I have a heavenly Father that loves me, I have a Savior who died on a cross and I have the Holy Spirit who lets me know God is with me carrying my burden. **Jim Cymbala's book; Spirit Rising** "The Christian life is a choice, and I choose daily to remain in his presence. I practice joy by being thankful and grateful for all that has been given to me. And I find joy in the fact that I am still learning and growing. I know that a lot of people feel entitled to hang on to their anger and bitterness. I believe in entitlements too. I am a child of god, and I am entitled to his love, peace, and joy, and most of all his grace. I want every good thing he has planned for me." It is the Holy Spirit who will guide me and teach me how to be a son; to receive what God has already promised me. One last thought **Zephaniah 3:17** The LORD thy God in the midst of thee *is mighty; he will save, he will rejoice over thee with joy; he will rest in his love, he will joy over thee with singing.* This verse is God telling the nation of Israel that one day He would restore them to the land, forgive their and reestablish their relationship. The joy here is that the restored relationship will cause God to rest in His love; it will bring joy and cause Him to sing. When we are empowered by the Holy Spirit and God uses us for His glory it brings Him joy. When a sinner comes to the Lord it brings Him joy. Think of it like this. When one of our earthly children do something really well there is a sense of great pride and joy. Abba Father is a two way relationship, Yes, I have the benefits and blessings of a son but I also have the opportunity to bring joy to the Father. Maybe this day instead of just celebrating what God has done for us we can ask Him to empower us to be filled with His presence so we can bring Him joy and cause Him to sing.