

THE PROMISE IS FOR YOU

Receiving the Holy Spirit and Living in His Power

Michael D. Serbinski

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by

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Peter said to them, “Repent, and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is to you, and to your children, and to all who are far off, even as many as the Lord our God will call to himself” (Acts 2:38-39).

*The Promise Is for You:
Receiving the Holy Spirit and Living in His Power*

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Introduction

The Holy Spirit is God. The Holy Spirit is holy. When talking about the Holy Spirit we must remember we are speaking of a person—God. To speak or even think of the Holy Spirit as if he were a force, a thing, or a phenomenon is creating a false image of God—idolatry.

The Holy Spirit has been active in the affairs of this Earth from its very creation. In Genesis 1:2 we read that the Spirit hovered over the waters of the Earth. He was present in the garden with Adam and Eve, and he spoke to many others including Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. God's Spirit was with Moses, and all the prophets of the Bible. By his Spirit, God empowered whomever he chose with special gifts, but those who had a special anointing of the Holy Spirit upon them were relatively few under the old covenant. Since the day of Pentecost that we read about in Acts chapter 2, when God began to pour out his Spirit on all flesh, he has filled many with his Holy Spirit. Since the beginning of the church, God has been manifesting his presence through the gifts and ministries of the Holy Spirit, who is active in and among believers to this day.

Introduction

When I was seeking God to be filled with his Holy Spirit, I was only eighteen years old, and I had already grown to deeply love the Word of God. I had heard about, and had even seen, the power of the Holy Spirit among other believers, but I wondered what was real and what was just another religion. I did not want another religion; I wanted to know the truth about Holy Spirit baptism, and I trusted the written word of God, the Holy Bible, to reveal that truth to me.

The most powerful revelation of truth about baptism in the Holy Spirit did come to me through the Holy Bible. As I meditated on passages about receiving the Holy Spirit, I felt as if the living Word of God himself revealed to me the truth about his promise of the Holy Spirit. And indeed he did reveal the truth to me. After setting aside a day to fast, pray, and meditate on passages of Scripture such as the ones I will share with you in this book, I did receive the Holy Spirit. I received the same Holy Spirit Jesus' apostles and disciples received in Acts 2:4; for me there was no sound of a mighty, rushing wind, there was no visible flame of fire, but there was the reality of the presence of God and a distinct manifestation of his Holy Spirit.

Purpose

I was inspired to put this book together by all those who have asked me, "Where can I read in the Bible to learn more about the baptism in the Holy Spirit?" I have written this especially for those at the Mission Bible Training Center (Mission Teens, Inc.) in Gaastra, Michigan who have a deep hunger and a sincere love for the Word of God. It has given me much joy in the Lord to teach and to deliver the word of God at the Mission Bible Training Center, and I am sincerely grateful to have been given that privilege.

This book is a compilation of passages of Scripture for study

Introduction

and meditation on the baptism in the Holy Spirit and on life in the Spirit. I have prayerfully collected these passages to help everyone who sincerely desires a closer walk with the Lord, Jesus, and an exciting and new life in the Spirit.

My goal in writing this study was to be clear, concise, simple, and direct—to let the power of God's word come through without hindrance. The annotations are not intended to be a distraction, but to give the sense of what the Bible says. My comments are simply to serve as learning aids. Even when Ezra and other teachers read the Torah, the Law of God, to the people of Israel, they needed to add comments to help the people understand. “They [Ezra and the other Levites who read aloud] read in the book, in the law of God, distinctly; and they **gave the sense**, so that they [the assembly of the people of Israel] understood the reading” (Nehemiah 8:8, emphasis mine).

The World English Bible

For this book, I have chosen to use the World English Bible (WEB) because it is an accurate modern English translation, easy to understand, and in the public domain. I have included large portions of Scripture in this book, and because the World English Bible is in the public domain, I am free to quote or print as much of the WEB as I please without copyright issues. The WEB is a modern English translation that, in my opinion, is as good a translation as any other of the many recent English translations of the Bible. I appreciate and read quite a few of the other modern English translations of the Bible, although this book does not contain quotations from them.

The King James Version of the Holy Bible is still an invaluable resource to me, especially for study, which is why this book includes some quotations from the King James Version.

Introduction

The heart and inspiration of this book is in the compilation of passages of Scripture—the Word of God. I have organized the selected passages to help convey the message of this book simply and clearly; and I have included subtitles, annotations, boldface type, and other means of emphasis to draw attention to what the Scriptures say. All annotations, headings, and subtitles, as well as the **boldface type** in the biblical text, are mine and are not part of either the text of the World English Bible or of the King James Version of the Holy Bible.

Gleanings of the Harvest

Leviticus 23:15-22 describes the Feast of Pentecost, and the last verse of this passage makes a special provision for the poor and the foreigner. “When you reap the harvest of your land, you shall not wholly reap into the corners of your field, neither shall you gather the gleanings of your harvest: you shall leave them for the poor, and for the foreigner. I am Yahweh your God” (Leviticus 23:22). Therefore, in honor of Pentecost—the fulfillment of which is subject of this book—an electronic edition of *The Promise Is for You*, is available free of charge at www.michaelserbinski.com.

My Prayer for You

For all who love the Word of God and desire to know more of Him and of his love, I pray the Lord himself will open the Scriptures to you,^a that you may receive and clearly understand^b his Word and grow in his love. I pray that you be filled with the

a “They said one to another, Weren't our hearts burning within us, while he spoke to us along the way, and while he opened the Scriptures to us?” (Luke 24:32).

b “Then he opened their minds, that they might understand the Scriptures” (Luke 24:45).

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Spirit “**because God’s love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who was given to us**” (Romans 5:5).

May God fill your heart with his love.

Michael Serbinski

Chapter 1

Waiting for the Promised Holy Spirit

*Behold, I send forth the promise of my Father on you
(Luke 24:49).*

Luke 24:44-53

Power from on High

⁴⁴He^a said to them, “This is what I told you, while I was still with you, that all things which are written in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms, concerning me must be fulfilled.”
⁴⁵Then he opened their minds, that they might understand the Scriptures. ⁴⁶He said to them, “Thus it is written, and thus it was necessary for the Christ to suffer and to rise from the dead the third day, ⁴⁷and that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name to all the nations, beginning at Jerusalem. ⁴⁸You are witnesses of these things. ⁴⁹Behold, I send forth **the promise of my Father**^b on you. But wait in the city of Jerusalem until you are clothed with power from on high.”

a (Luke 24:44) *He*. Jesus.

b (Luke 24:49) *the promise of my Father*. The promise is the gift of the Holy Spirit. The Spirit had not yet been given (See Acts 1:4-5).

⁵⁰He led them out as far as Bethany, and he lifted up his hands, and blessed them. ⁵¹It happened, while he blessed them, that he withdrew from them, and was carried up into heaven.^a ⁵²They worshiped him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy, ⁵³and were continually in the temple, praising and blessing God. Amen.

Acts 1:1-11

Jesus Is Alive

¹The first book^b I wrote, Theophilus, concerned all that Jesus began^c both to do and to teach, ²until the day in which he was received up, after he had given commandment through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. ³To these he also showed himself alive after he suffered, by many proofs, appearing to them over a period of forty days, and speaking about God's Kingdom.

The Promise of the Holy Spirit

⁴Being assembled together with them, he commanded them, "Don't depart from Jerusalem, but wait for the promise of the Father,^d which you heard from me. ⁵For John indeed baptized in water, but you will be baptized in the Holy Spirit not many days from now."^e

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- a (Luke 24:51) *carried up into heaven*. See Acts 1:9-11.
- b (Acts 1:1) *The first book*. The author, Luke, refers to his gospel (see Luke 1:1-4).
- c (Acts 1:1) **began**. The word *began* is significant, for what Jesus "both began to do and to teach" he **continues** to do and to teach through the Holy Spirit. In the book of Acts, Luke wrote of the continuing work of the Lord through the power of the Holy Spirit.
- d (Acts 1:4) *the promise of the Father*. Jesus was referring to the promise of the Holy Spirit (see vv. 5, 8; Acts 2:33; John 14:16-18; Luke 24:49).
- e (Acts 1:5) John the baptist proclaimed that Jesus would baptize with the Holy Spirit. See chapter 2, "Jesus and the Holy Spirit."

Waiting for the Promised Holy Spirit

You Will Receive Power

⁶Therefore, when they had come together, they asked him, “Lord, are you now restoring the kingdom to Israel?”

⁷He said to them, “It isn’t for you to know times or seasons which the Father has set within his own authority. ⁸But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you. You will be witnesses to me in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the uttermost parts of the earth.”^a

Jesus Will Come Again

⁹When he had said these things, as they were looking, he was taken up, and a cloud received him out of their sight. ¹⁰While they were looking steadfastly into the sky as he went, behold, two men stood by them in white clothing, ¹¹who also said, “You men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into the sky? This Jesus, who was received up from you into the sky will come back in the same way as you saw him going into the sky.”^b

a (Acts 1:8) The Holy Spirit will give power—power to be witnesses.

b (Acts 1:11) Jesus is coming again. See chapter 15, “When the Perfect Is Come,” especially 1 Corinthians 15:12-58.

Chapter 2

Jesus and the Holy Spirit

*He [Jesus] will baptize you in the Holy Spirit and fire
(Luke 3:16).*

Jesus Will Baptize with the Holy Spirit



Study Helps

These next few verses, one passage from each of the four gospels, contain quotes from John the Baptist. John clearly declared that Jesus would baptize with the Holy Spirit. Anyone who would receive the Holy Spirit must receive him through the Lord Jesus Christ.

Matthew 3:11

“I indeed baptize you in water for repentance, but he who comes after me is mightier than I, whose shoes I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you in the Holy Spirit.”

Mark 1:6-8

⁶John was clothed with camel’s hair and a leather belt around

his waist. He ate locusts and wild honey. ⁷He preached, saying, “After me comes he who is mightier than I, the thong of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and loosen. ⁸I baptized you in water, but he will baptize you in the Holy Spirit.”

Luke 3:16

John answered them all, “I indeed baptize you with water, but he comes who is mightier than I, the latchet of whose sandals I am not worthy to loosen. He will baptize you in the Holy Spirit and fire.”

John 1:32-34

³²John testified, saying, “I have seen the Spirit descending like a dove out of heaven, and it remained on him. ³³I didn’t recognize him, but he who sent me to baptize in water, he said to me, ‘On whomever you will see the Spirit descending, and remaining on him, the same is he who baptizes in the Holy Spirit.’ ³⁴I have seen, and have testified that this is the Son of God.”

Jesus Tells Us about the Holy Spirit



Study Helps

In the Bible, we read what Jesus told of the character and nature of the Holy Spirit. He called the Holy Spirit “the Comforter” and “the Spirit of truth.” He said the Spirit would guide us in truth and flow from within us like rivers of living water. Jesus also promised to send us the Holy Spirit; and when he promised to be with us even to the end of the age, Jesus was promising to be with us by his Holy Spirit.

John 7:37-39

The Feast of Booths and Living Water

³⁷Now on the last and greatest day of the Feast,^a Jesus stood and cried out, “If anyone is thirsty, let him come to me and drink!

³⁸He who believes in me, as the Scripture has said, from within him will flow rivers of living water.”^b ³⁹But he said this about the Spirit, which those believing in him were to receive. For the Holy Spirit was not yet given, because Jesus wasn’t yet glorified.

John 14:15-18, 26

The Holy Spirit With You Forever

^{15c}“If you love me, keep my commandments. ¹⁶I will pray to the

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- a (John 7:37) *the last and greatest day of the Feast*. See John 7:2, 14. The Feast of Booths (*Sukkot*) was an eight-day festival. The “greatest day” most likely refers to *Hoshanah Rabbah* (the Great Salvation) celebrated on the seventh day of Sukkot. The eighth day was a solemn day of rest. For more about the Feast of Booths, see the next footnote and chapter 16, “The Feasts of Israel.”
- b (John 7:38) *living water*. This is the Hebrew term for *running water*; however, the term *living water* does carry spiritual significance, especially here, as a metaphor referring to the Holy Spirit (see v. 39 and compare with John 4:10, 13-14). Each day during the Feast of Booths (except for the solemn day of rest), the Jews celebrated with two ceremonies: the Pouring of the Water, *Nisuch HaMayim*, and the Rejoicing at the House of the Water Drawing, *Simchat Beit HaShoeiva*. Although not mentioned in the Bible, these ceremonies are described in the Talmud and were important rituals during the Feast of Booths, *Sukkot*. As celebrated before the destruction of the Temple in Jerusalem, priests drew water from the living waters of the Pool of Siloam, marched to Jerusalem in a ceremonious procession, and poured out this living water into the basins of the Temple. Sukkot was a time to rejoice, and, according to the Talmud, the Jews performed these ceremonies with particularly exuberant expressions of joy.

Father, and he will give you another Counselor,^a that he may be with you **forever**—¹⁷the Spirit of truth, whom the world can't receive; for it doesn't see him, neither knows him. You know him, for he lives with you, and will be in you.^b ¹⁸I will not leave you orphans. I will come to you."^c

²⁶"But the Counselor,^d the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you^e all things, and will remind you of all that I said to you."

John 15:26

The Spirit of Truth

"When the Counselor^f has come, whom I will send to you from

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- a (John 14:16) **Counselor**. KJV: Comforter.
- b (John 14:17) **he . . . will be in you**. Jesus made a distinction between the Spirit living **with** them and the Spirit living **in** them. Later, on the day of Pentecost, the day that God began to pour out his Spirit on all flesh, they were filled with the Holy Spirit, and the Holy Spirit began to live in them.
- c (John 14:18) **I will come to you**. Jesus did leave them to go to the Father, yet he came to them after his ascension in that the Holy Spirit was sent to be in them forever. Jesus said, "Nevertheless I tell you the truth: It is to your advantage that I go away, for if I don't go away, the Counselor won't come to you. But if I go, I will send him to you" (John 16:7). Jesus and the Holy Spirit are one with each other and with the Father; so if a believer has the Spirit, he has the Son (compare with John 14:23). Moreover, Jesus is also coming again bodily (see John 14:1-4). For more on Jesus' return see chapter 15, "When the Perfect Is Come: Our Present and Future Salvation."
- d (John 14:26) **Counselor**. KJV: Comforter.
- e (John 14:26) **he will teach you**. Compare with 1 John 2:20-21, 26-28.
- f (John 15:26) **Counselor**. KJV: Comforter. Other translations use "Advocate" or "Helper."

the Father, the Spirit of truth, who proceeds from the Father, he will testify about me.”^a

John 16:7, 12-15

Jesus Promises to Send the Holy Spirit

⁷“Nevertheless I tell you the truth: It is to your advantage that I go away, for if I don’t go away, the Counselor won’t come to you. But if I go, **I will send him to you.**”

The Work of the Holy Spirit

¹²“I have yet many things to tell you, but you can’t bear them now. ¹³However when he, the Spirit of truth, has come, he will guide you into all truth, for he will not speak from himself; but whatever he hears, he will speak. He will declare to you things that are coming. ¹⁴He will glorify me,^b for **he will take from what is mine, and will declare it to you.** ¹⁵All things whatever the Father has are mine; therefore I said that he takes of mine, and will declare it to you.”

Luke 11:13

The Gift of the Holy Spirit

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?**”

a (John 15:26) *he will testify about me.* The Spirit will reveal to us the truth about Jesus.

b (John 16:14) *He will glorify me.* The Spirit glorifies Jesus, so those filled with the Spirit will also give glory, thanks and praise to Jesus. Compare with 1 Corinthians 12:3.

Luke 24:49

The Promise of the Father

⁴⁹“Behold, I^a send forth the promise of my Father on you. But wait in the city of Jerusalem until you are clothed with power from on high.”^b

Mathew 28:18-20

I Am with You Always

¹⁸Jesus came to them and spoke to them, saying, “All authority has been given to me in heaven and on earth. ¹⁹Go, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰teaching them to observe all things that I commanded you. Behold, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.” Amen.

The Holy Spirit Our Teacher

Jeremiah 31:34

And they shall teach no more every man his neighbor, and every man his brother, saying, Know Yahweh; for they shall all know me, from their least to their greatest, says Yahweh: for I will forgive their iniquity, and their sin will I remember no more.^c

a (Luke 24:49) *I*. Jesus is speaking.

b (Luke 24:49) Jesus had sent forth, commissioned, the Holy Spirit to fill believers; however, the disciples here had to wait until Pentecost for the Spirit to come. Compare with Acts 1:4-8.

c (Jeremiah 31:34) See 1 John 2:27 below.

1 John 2:20-21, 26-28

An Anointing

²⁰You have an anointing from the Holy One,^a and you all have knowledge. ²¹I have not written to you because you don't know the truth, but because you know it, and because no lie is of the truth.

²⁶These things I have written to you concerning those who would lead you astray. ²⁷As for you, the anointing^b which you received from him remains in you, and you don't need for anyone to teach you.^c But as his anointing teaches you concerning all things, and is true, and is no lie, and even as it taught you, you will remain in him.^d ²⁸Now, little children, remain in him, that when he appears, we may have boldness, and not be ashamed before him at his coming.

Luke 12:11-12

The Holy Spirit Will Teach You

¹¹“When they bring you before the synagogues, the rulers, and the authorities, don't be anxious how or what you will answer,

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- a (1 John 2:20) ***anointing from the Holy One***. In other words, John was saying, “You have the presence of the Holy Spirit in you.” Both the Hebrew word *Messiah*, and the Greek word *Christ*, mean *anointed* or *anointed one*. Jesus was the “Anointed One.” He had the full presence of the Holy Spirit upon him (John 3:34; Colossians 1:19).
- b (1 John 2:27) ***the anointing***. The anointing refers to the blessing of having received the Holy Spirit.
- c (1 John 2:27) ***you don't need for anyone to teach you***. Compare with Jeremiah 31:34 and Ezekiel 36:25-27. A proper perspective on this phrase is provided in the fact that teaching is one of the gifts and ministries of the Holy Spirit (see 1 Corinthians 12:28).
- d (1 John 2:27) ***remain in him***. Abide, continue, stay in him. Do not depart from Christ Jesus. The Holy Spirit teaches us to remain and live in Christ Jesus (compare 1 John 2:24).

or what you will say; ¹²for the Holy Spirit will teach you in that same hour what you must say.”

John 14:26

“But the Counselor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things, and will remind you of all that I said to you.”

John 15:26

“When the Counselor has come, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth, who proceeds from the Father, he will testify about me.”^a

John 16:13

“However when he, the Spirit of truth, has come, he will guide you into all truth, for he will not speak from himself; but whatever he hears, he will speak. He will declare to you things that are coming.”

1 Corinthians 2:12-16

The Holy Spirit and Spiritual Teachings

¹²But we received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit which is from God, that we might know the things that were freely given to us by God. ¹³Which things also we speak, not in words which man’s wisdom teaches, but which **the Holy Spirit teaches**, comparing spiritual things with spiritual things. ¹⁴Now the natural man doesn’t receive the things of God’s Spirit, for they are foolishness to him, and he can’t know them, because

a (John 15:26) *he will testify about me*. Jesus was saying that the Holy Spirit will teach us about him.

they are spiritually discerned. ¹⁵But he who is spiritual discerns all things, and he himself is judged by no one. ¹⁶“For who has known the mind of the Lord, that he should instruct him?”^a But we have Christ’s mind.^b

a (1 Corinthians 2:16) A quote from Isaiah 40:13.

b (1 Corinthians 2:16) *Christ's mind*. See John 16:12-15.

Chapter 3

Fulfillment on the Day of Pentecost



Study Helps

Pentecost is a Greek word simply meaning *fiftieth*. When reading Leviticus 23:15-16 we understand why this feast is called Pentecost. The Hebrew term for this feast is *Shavuot*, meaning *weeks*. More information on this Jewish festival is in Appendix B, “Pentecost Is a Harvest Festival.”

Leviticus 23:15-16

Counting to 50

¹⁵You shall count from the next day after the Sabbath,^a from the day that you brought the sheaf of the wave offering;^b seven Sabbaths shall be completed: ¹⁶even to the next day after the

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- a (Leviticus 23:15) ***Sabbath***. The Sabbath is the last day of the week, Saturday. The Sabbath is a day of rest, and it has particular significance in Jewish law and tradition (see the footnote on Leviticus 23:3 in chapter 16, “The Feasts of Israel”).
- b (Leviticus 23:15) ***the day that you brought the sheaf of the wave offering***. This day was the Feast of Firstfruits, or *Bikkurim*. On Firstfruits, a festival marking the beginning of the barley harvest, a sheaf of barley was waved as an offering to the Lord. Both Firstfruits and Pentecost were celebrated on the day after the Sabbath—a Sunday. The sheaf of the first fruits prophetically represented the resurrected Messiah, Jesus (see 1 Corinthians 15:20, 23).

seventh Sabbath you shall number fifty days;^a and you shall offer a new meal offering to Yahweh.



Study Helps

As you read the second chapter of Acts, please keep in mind that the history of Pentecost goes back to the time of Moses. The Feast of Pentecost, called *Shavuot* in Hebrew, was given to the people of Israel at the time of the Exodus along with the other major festivals, including Passover.

God gave these feasts to Israel so they would remember the mighty acts he performed and the commandments he had given them. God also designed the feasts with prophetic elements which foreshadowed the coming Messiah, the new covenant, and the fulfillment of God's plan of salvation. Although the feasts are mentioned in a few places in the Bible, Leviticus 23 lists the seven major feasts of Israel with some very brief instructions for each one.

On the day of Pentecost in Acts chapter 2, the prophetic elements of the festival were fulfilled: the Holy Spirit was poured out and the church began. All the things prophetically indicated in four Jewish feasts became a reality on the very day they were celebrated: Jesus was crucified on Passover, he was buried on Unleavened Bread, he rose from the dead on Firstfruits, and the Holy Spirit was given on Pentecost.

The prophets of the Bible spoke of many things concerning the Messiah, the new covenant, and the pouring out of the Spirit. From Moses to the Psalms to the

a (Leviticus 23:16) ***you shall number fifty days***. The Jews refer to this time as the Counting of the Omer, or *Sefirat Ha'omer*, and they count fifty days from Firstfruits (day one) to Pentecost (day fifty).

Prophets, the Old Testament is rich with messianic prophecy. In the second chapter of Acts, we read how Peter quoted from the prophet Joel and from the Psalms as he preached on the day of Pentecost, using those passages to explain what was happening. In Acts chapter 15 James quoted from Amos and Isaiah. “Yes, and **all the prophets** from Samuel and those who followed after, as many as have spoken, they also told of these days” (Acts 3:24).

Jesus told his disciples to wait in Jerusalem until they received power from on high. Exactly fifty days after the resurrection of Jesus, on the very day of the Feast of Pentecost, just as prophesied in the Old Testament, the Holy Spirit was poured out. This was both the fulfillment of ancient prophecy, and of Jesus' promise that he would send the Holy Spirit (John 16:7).

The Beginning of the Church

Acts 2:1-43

The Holy Spirit, Pentecost and Power

¹Now when the day of Pentecost had come, they were all with one accord in one place. ²Suddenly there came from the sky a sound like the rushing of a mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. ³Tongues like fire appeared and were distributed to them, and one sat on each of them. ⁴**They were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and began to speak with other languages,^a as the Spirit gave them the ability to**

a (v. 4) **languages**. KJV: tongues. The plural form indicates that many different languages were spoken (see verses 8-11).

speak.^{a 5} Now there were dwelling in Jerusalem Jews, devout men, from every nation under the sky. ⁶When this sound was heard, the multitude came together, and were bewildered, because everyone heard them speaking in his own language. ⁷They were all amazed and marveled, saying to one another, “Behold, aren’t all these who speak Galileans? ⁸How do we hear, everyone in our own native language? ⁹Parthians, Medes, Elamites, and people from Mesopotamia, Judea, Cappadocia, Pontus, Asia, ¹⁰Phrygia, Pamphylia, Egypt, the parts of Libya around Cyrene, visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, ¹¹Cretans and Arabians: we hear them speaking in our languages the mighty works of God!”^b ¹²They were all amazed, and were perplexed, saying one to another, “What does this mean?”^c ¹³Others, mocking, said, “They are filled with new wine.”^d

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- a (v. 4) The Spirit gave them the ability to speak in tongues and they spoke. The Spirit did not force them to speak—the text says that **they began to speak** with other tongues as **the Spirit gave them the ability**. Each one was able to decide whether to use that ability, and to speak what the Holy Spirit was giving him to speak.
- b (v. 11) At least some of the tongues uttered were in the languages spoken by the visitors who had come from many nations. Anyone present could hear that those filled with the Holy Spirit were speaking many different languages. Most likely the people who witnessed this event did not understand most of the languages being spoken, which accounts for the mocking (verse 13).
- c (v. 12) Many people recognized the hand of God in this supernatural phenomenon and were in awe at the miracle they were witnessing.
- d (v. 13) The mockers, having observed the disciples speaking in tongues and joyfully proclaiming the mighty works of God, could make no sense of the phenomenon other than to conclude that the disciples were drunk. These mockers were of those of whom it is written in Isaiah 28:11-12, “But he [God] will speak to this nation with stammering lips and in another language . . . yet they would not hear.” God was speaking through a new and supernatural means, and yet for all this there were still unbelievers who did not even recognize that a miraculous phenomenon was occurring. See also 1 Corinthians 14:21-23.

Peter Preaches Jesus after Receiving the Holy Spirit

¹⁴But Peter, standing up with the eleven, lifted up his voice, and spoke out to them, “You men of Judea, and all you who dwell at Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and listen to my words.

¹⁵For these aren’t drunken, as you suppose, seeing it is only the third hour of the day.^a ¹⁶But this is what has been spoken through the prophet Joel:

¹⁷“It will be in the last days, says God,

that **I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh.**^b

Your sons and your daughters will prophesy.

Your young men will see visions.

Your old men will dream dreams.

¹⁸Yes, and on my servants and on my handmaidens in those days,

I will pour out my Spirit, and they will prophesy.

¹⁹I will show wonders in the sky above,

and signs on the earth beneath;

blood, and fire, and billows of smoke.

²⁰The sun will be turned into darkness,

and the moon into blood,

before the great and glorious day of the Lord comes.

²¹**It will be, that whoever will call on the name of the Lord will be saved.**^c

Peter Preaches on the Resurrection and on the Promise of the Holy Spirit

²²“Men of Israel, hear these words! Jesus of Nazareth, a man approved by God to you by mighty works and wonders and signs which God did by him in the midst of you, even as you yourselves know, ²³him, being delivered up by the determined

a (v. 15) *the third hour of the day*. About 9:00 a.m.

b (v. 17) *all flesh*. The baptism in the Holy Spirit is available to all: Jew and Gentile, male and female, young and old, slave and free. Compare with verse 21.

c (v. 21) A quote from Joel 2:28-32.

counsel and foreknowledge of God, you have taken by the hand of lawless men, crucified and killed; ²⁴whom God raised up, having freed him from the agony of death, because it was not possible that he should be held by it. ²⁵For David says concerning him,

‘I saw the Lord always before my face,

For he is on my right hand, that I should not be moved.

²⁶Therefore my heart was glad, and my tongue rejoiced.

Moreover my flesh also will dwell in hope;

²⁷because you will not leave my soul in Hades,^a

neither will you allow your Holy One to see decay.

²⁸You made known to me the ways of life.

You will make me full of gladness with your presence.’^b

²⁹“Brothers, I may tell you freely of the patriarch David, that he both died and was buried, and his tomb is with us to this day.

³⁰Therefore, being a prophet, and knowing that God had sworn with an oath to him that of the fruit of his body, according to the flesh, he would raise up the Christ to sit on his throne, ³¹he foreseeing this spoke about the resurrection of the Christ, that neither was his soul left in Hades,^c nor did his flesh see decay.

³²This Jesus God raised up, to which we all are witnesses.

³³Being therefore exalted by the right hand of God, and **having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, he has poured out this, which you now see and hear.** ³⁴For David didn’t ascend into the heavens, but he says himself,

‘The Lord said to my Lord, “Sit by my right hand,

³⁵until I make your enemies a footstool for your feet.’”^d

³⁶“Let all the house of Israel therefore know certainly that God

a (v. 27) *Hades*. KJV: Hell.

b (v. 28) A quote from Psalm 16:8-11.

c (v. 31) *Hades*. KJV: Hell.

d (v. 35) A quote from Psalm 110:1.

has made him both Lord and Christ, this Jesus whom you crucified.”

³⁷Now 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?”

The Promise Is for You

³⁸Peter said to them, “Repent, and be baptized,^a every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.^b ³⁹For the promise is to you,^c and to your children, and to all who are far off, even as many as the Lord our God will call to himself.” ⁴⁰With many other words he testified, and exhorted them, saying, “Save yourselves from this crooked generation!”

⁴¹Then those who gladly received his word were baptized. There were added that day about three thousand souls. ⁴²They continued steadfastly in the apostles’ teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and prayer. ⁴³Fear came on every soul, and many wonders and signs were done through the apostles.^d

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- a (v. 38) **baptized**. For the Christian, baptism in water is a step of obedience, demonstrating and publicly professing one's faith in Christ Jesus—water baptism must not be neglected.
- b (v. 38) The gift of the Holy Spirit is **the Holy Spirit himself**, not a particular spiritual gift. See also Acts 10:45; 11:17.
- c (v. 39) **the promise is to you**. This promise is the gift of the Holy Spirit (see verses 33 and 38). In order to receive the Holy Spirit, there must first be repentance (v. 38) and forgiveness of sins through faith in the blood of Jesus. Romans 10:9 says “that if you will confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.” In Romans 3:25 we read that we have forgiveness of sins through Jesus, our Redeemer, “whom God set forth to be an atoning sacrifice through faith in his blood.”
- d (v. 43) The signs and wonders were done by the power of the Holy Spirit **through** the apostles.

Isaiah 44:3

For I will pour water on him who is thirsty,
and streams on the dry ground.

I will pour my Spirit on your seed,
and my blessing on your offspring.

