

The Outpouring and Baptism of the Holy Spirit

Welcome to Harvest Community Church

Series: The Holy Spirit

Text: Joel 2:28-29, Acts 2:1-4, Acts 2:14-18

What took place in Acts chapter 2 is the fulfillment of the prophecy given by Joel. This beautiful gift is the privilege of all Christians today. As of 1983 there were 100 million Spirit filled believers worldwide. Today since that time that number has swelled to over a half a billion. The largest category of Protestants today are the Pentecostals – those Christians who have received the infilling of the Holy Spirit.

From the initial outpouring of the Holy Spirit on the Day of Pentecost until today the Holy Spirit has manifested Himself for a purpose. This has never changed. Everything that God does has a specific reason and intent.

There are three main works that the Holy Spirit does:

- Exalt Christ. **John 16:14**
- Lead us into all truth **John 16:13**
- Empower us for works of service and evangelism **Acts 1:8**

Hallmarks of the Holy Spirit's work within us.

- An emphasis on worship of Almighty God in spirit and in truth **John 4:24**
- A recognition of the person of Christ, His deity, His incarnation and His redemptive work
- A recognition of the person and work of the Holy Spirit
- A recognition of the authority of and to create a hunger for the Word of God
- An emphasis on the second coming of Christ **Revelation 22:17**
- An emphasis on prayer for the sick
- An emphasis on sharing Christ in witnessing and evangelism

What does it mean to be Pentecostal?

- A) Someone who understands and appreciates the historic fulfillment of the Feast of Pentecost as described in the second chapter of Acts.
- B) Someone who understands that the fruit and gifts and fellowship of the Holy Spirit are available for us today.
- C) Someone who believes that we all need the empowerment of the Holy Spirit to live the Christians life.

The Day of Pentecost - Acts 2:1-4

The Bible explains three things that set the stage for what happened that day. There was a time, a location and an attitude.

- The Time is the Jewish Feast of Pentecost
- The Location is that they were all in one place, an upper room in Jerusalem
- The Attitude is that they were all in one accord (unity of heart, purpose and desire)
They were also there in obedience to Christ's command. **Luke 24:49**

Three significant things happened on that day

- 1) The sound of a mighty rushing wind filled the house and was heard around the city.
- 2) Divided tongues as of fire sat upon each of them.
- 3) They were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues (languages) as the Holy Spirit gave the utterance or ability.
120 people began to speak in languages that they did not know. This is known as the initial physical evidence of the Baptism in the Holy Spirit. In the city of Jerusalem that day were people from many nations and regions and they heard the disciples speaking in their own languages.

There are two significant things to understand:

- ~ The Bible tells us that out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks and that life and death are in the power of the tongue. It is no mistake that the first thing that the Holy Spirit does when He fills a person is change the way that they speak.
- ~ The second significant thing is that God removed language as a barrier to knowing Him. It was at the tower of Babel that God caused division in mankind's language so that they would not be unified. When God baptizes us in the Holy Spirit, it is this new language that unifies Spirit filled believers.

The History of Pentecost

Pentecost was and is one of the three major feasts in the nation of Israel.

The three major holidays are the Feast of Passover, which commemorates when the death angel passed over the children of Israel while they were slaves in Egypt.

The Feast of Pentecost which is celebrated fifty days after the Passover festival. This celebrates God giving the Law to Moses on Mount Sinai fifty days after the exodus from Egypt.

The third main feast is the Feast of Tabernacles which will have its fulfillment at the Rapture.

What Pentecost means to us

For the first time since the fall of man in the garden, the coming of the indwelling of the Holy Spirit enabled people to walk righteously on this earth. Jesus came to make us righteous positionally. His death and resurrection put us in right standing with God. The Holy Spirit empowers us to live consistently with our righteous position in Christ.

When the Law was given to Moses for the Israelites, no one could keep it. The Law gave the Israelites an understanding of what pleased God but it could not give them the ability to live it.

When the Holy Spirit fills a person's life a previously dead human spirit is regenerated. The Holy Spirit writes a new Law upon the hearts of the believer. This Law is not the Ten Commandments, it is the Law of Love: A love for God and a love for people. Anyone who fulfills this law will never be guilty of violating the Ten Commandments.

Matthew 22:37-40, Matthew 7:12

When a person receives the full release of the Holy Spirit's power, they receive the empowerment to walk in love. It is not possible to walk and live righteously without the power of the Holy Spirit. The outpouring of the Holy Spirit involves so much more than the power to be an effective witness in sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ. It is more than having signs and wonders following those who believe. It is more than seeing the sick healed and people delivered from demons. The Holy Spirit gives us the ability to live a holy and righteous life and to walk in the Law of Love. **1 Corinthians 13:1-3, Romans 8:13-17**

The Baptism in the Holy Spirit

It is important to remember that John the Baptist spoke of another baptism that Jesus would bring. **Matthew 3:11, Mark 1:8**

The word baptism means to immerse or to saturate.

Being baptized in water is a forerunner to being baptized in the Holy Spirit. Just as Baptism in water is a sign of our commitment to God and an identification into the death and resurrection of Jesus, the baptism of the Holy Spirit is a recognition of our need to be totally dependent on God to live the Christian life.

Jesus and Peter refer to this outpouring of the Holy Spirit as the Promise of the Father.

Acts 1:4-5 When the people in Jerusalem saw and heard what had happened to the disciples, Peter stood up and preached to them and explained what was happening. They asked Peter, "what do we need to do to have a relationship with God?" **Acts 2:37-41**

Peter outlines three important steps:

- 1) Repent
- 2) Be water baptized
- 3) Receive the Holy Spirit

For those who would argue that the baptism in the Holy Spirit is not for today it is important to read Peter's words. This promise is for YOU (the disciples and converts in Jerusalem that day), your children (the next generation) and all who are far off as many as the Lord our God will call (those who accept Christ as Savior in all proceeding generations).

Just as we can be saved today, people can be filled with the Holy Spirit in our day.

Pentecost was the initial outpouring of the Holy Spirit, initiating an experience that continues to this day. The Holy Spirit is still here, still working, still drawing people to Jesus and still filling them with power from on high. **Hebrews 6:1-2**

The Basics of the Pentecostal Faith

1. Prayer and Intercession Acts 1:14

Every Godly spiritual awakening in history has been birthed in Prayer. This is true of the Day of Pentecost, Azusa Street and the Birthing of the Assemblies of God in Hot Springs Arkansas.

2. Close scrutiny and study of the scriptures

God's Word is our final rule of faith and practice. The Holy Spirit will never take us beyond or outside the bounds of scripture. Acts 2:42, Acts 17:11-12

3. The discovery of ways and means by which we can win the lost and lead them in discipleship Matthew 28:18-20

Hindrances to Receiving the Baptism in the Holy Spirit

A. Feelings of guilt, self-doubt and a false sense of unworthiness

Satan is known as the accuser of the brethren. Undo feelings of unworthiness do not come from God.

- a) He has created you.
- b) He has redeemed you.
- c) He loves you.
- d) He now seeks to empower you.

- Our righteousness is found in Christ's righteousness and was paid in full at Calvary.

B. Fear of the unknown 2 Timothy 1:7

When stepping into the new and unknown, all kinds of fears present themselves.

- Will I do something stupid ?
- Will I speak gibberish and make a fool of myself?
- I know God wants to take me into an experience that I have never had before, but how do I know that it is really God?

There comes a time when each of us takes a bold step of faith into the unknown.

C. Unhealed and unresolved hurt in our lives

Remember, the first work the Holy Spirit will do is in our own heart and lives.

D. A lack of understanding - which contributes to the lessening of faith Acts 19:1-7

This is why it is important to teach on the Holy Spirit.

E. A cold spiritual environment

F. Discouragement

G. A tendency to quit or give up just short of reaching the total experience in God Luke 24:49

The disciples were told to tarry or wait until they received the promise.