



Acts of the Apostles Chapter 2

¹ When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. ² Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. ³ They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. ⁴ All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues^[a] as the Spirit enabled them.

⁵ Now there were staying in Jerusalem God-fearing Jews from every nation under heaven. ⁶ When they heard this sound, a crowd came together in bewilderment, because each one heard their own language being spoken. ⁷ Utterly amazed, they asked: "Aren't all these who are speaking Galileans?" ⁸ Then how is it that each of us hears them in our native language? ⁹ Parthians, Medes and Elamites; residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia,^[b] ¹⁰ Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya near Cyrene; visitors from Rome ¹¹ (both Jews and converts to Judaism); Cretans and Arabs—we hear them declaring the wonders of God in our own tongues!" ¹² Amazed and perplexed, they asked one another, "What does this mean?"

¹³ Some, however, made fun of them and said, "They have had too much wine."

The Baptism of the Holy Spirit

For many of us this is a much too familiar story. You might even have skipped through this passage thinking—I know its beginning, and its end! But have you studied to know what it means for you and your life?

Every year the Church celebrates Pentecost as one of the major feast of the Christian liturgical year. But what if Pentecost happened? What would it look like if it did? Consider the facts of what it looks like when the Spirit of God comes to his people:

- 1) Violent wind
- 2) Tongues of fire
- 3) Speaking in tongues

What is occurring in this event? 40 days before Pentecost the Lord Jesus said to the Apostles,

"in a few days you will be baptized in the Holy Spirit ... you will be my witness"

(Ac 1:8).

We know what it is to receive the Sacrament of Baptism. For most of us this happened when we were new born babes. John the Baptist says in Mark 1:8—

"I baptize you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

We have all been baptized with water through the waters of baptism. But what did John mean when he said that Jesus would baptize us with the Holy Spirit? Does this

passage cause you to ask, "Have I been baptized in the Holy Spirit?" Just like you can point to a date when you received the Sacrament of Baptism you should be able to point the date of your Baptism in the Holy Spirit. The Apostles could point to that date—Pentecost. When did you experience Pentecost? And what does Pentecost look like?



The Baptism of the Holy Spirit is when a baptized member of the Body of Christ surrenders to the Lordship of Jesus Christ and Jesus empowers them with the Presence and Power of the Holy Spirit to be his witness in the world. It is the believer's personal moment of Pentecost in their life.

It is truly a baptism because the believer is immersed in the Presence of the Holy Spirit to be empowered with the Holy Spirit's gifts

and manifestations as enumerated in 1 Corinthians 12:7-11.

⁷ Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good. ⁸ To one there is given through the Spirit a message of wisdom, to another a message of knowledge by means of the same Spirit, ⁹ to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by that one Spirit, ¹⁰ to another miraculous powers, to another prophecy, to another distinguishing between spirits, to another speaking in different kinds of tongues,^[a] and to still

another the interpretation of tongues.^b 11 All these are the work of one and the same Spirit, and he distributes them to each one, just as he determines.

These gifts are called the Charismatic Gifts of the Holy Spirit (*charismatic is the Greek word for gifts. Thus the Charismatic Renewal is a movement approved of the Church to reminds us of Pentecost and awaken the use of the charisms in the Church*).

Most believers receive the gift of a prayer language at this time, the gift of tongues, and many other also receive the gift of prophecy (Ac 10:44-46, 19:6).

How to Receive the Baptism of the Holy Spirit:

Most believers make this prayer with others who have either received the Baptism of the Holy Spirit or are seeking it. You might have other believers pray over you as you pray the following prayer.

Repent of all sin.

Invite Jesus to come and minister the Baptism of the Holy Spirit by praying a prayer something like —

*Lord Jesus Christ, I profess that you are my Savior and Lord. Jesus I give you my life just like on the day of my baptism and I ask you to take me into the River that flows from your Heavenly Temple, the river of the Holy Spirit, and Baptize me in your Holy Spirit like the Apostles on the day of Pentecost.
Holy Spirit, I open my heart to any gifts that you would give me to build the Body of Christ, which is the Church.
I especially ask for the gift of a heavenly prayer language, the gift of tongues.*

Begin to praise God in your own language and allow the Holy Spirit to move you from your language to the gift of ton

Personal Reflection

On a scale of 1-10, how would you rate your surrender to the Lordship of Jesus Christ? 10 = really close. 1 = far away.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

On a scale of 1-10, how would you rate your relationship with the Holy Spirit? 10 = really close. 1 = far a

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

Read Mark 1:8, Acts 1:4-5 and 7-8, Acts 2:1-13. What did you learn from these passages about the coming of the Holy Spirit?

Read Luke 24:49. What do you think it means to be "clothed with power from on high"?

Have you known anyone that was Baptized in the Holy Spir

What are your thoughts or feelings about being Baptized in the Holy Spi

How do you think your life would be changed if you were immersed in the Presence and Power of the Holy Spirit?



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