

The Promise of Another: Introduction

Fifty days after the crucifixion (Passover) is Pentecost. The word 'pentecost' derives from the Greek for 'fifty'.

Turning our attention to Pentecost and the arrival of the Holy Spirit, we not only reflect on the experiences of the Early Church but also on the relevance of these events in our lives today, made possible by the sacrifice on the cross and the resurrection.

Leading up to Pentecost, our focus shifts towards understanding the nature of the Holy Spirit and its impact on us as individuals and on the early church in the New Testament.

We shall explore Jesus' teachings on the Holy Spirit, the Spirit's arrival in Acts, the manifestations of the Spirit in the form of fruits and gifts, and the practical implications of His presence in our lives.

This week devotion delves into the promises associated with the Holy Spirit. These moments include instances where Jesus or others mention the Holy Spirit. Starting from the directive given by Jesus to His disciples to wait in Jerusalem and tracing back to His baptism, we highlight the continuous presence of the Holy Spirit from the beginning to the end of Jesus' earthly ministry. This underscores the promise of the Spirit to the disciples and to us as part of the church.

It's essential to highlight that the concept of the Holy Spirit would have been unfamiliar and challenging for the disciples to comprehend. Jesus presented the Holy Spirit in both a personified and spiritual manner, a notion that would have been particularly perplexing before the tearing of the temple curtain. The revolutionary nature of these promises becomes evident when viewed in the context of the disciples' faith and their relationship with God.

We may recognise the fulfilment of these provisions in our lives today and the transformative power the Holy Spirit brings. It is truly remarkable to experience and embody the truths that Jesus proclaimed.

David Howe
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Signs of the Spirit



Mark 16:14-20

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¹⁵ And he said to them, “Go into all the world and proclaim the gospel to the whole creation. ¹⁶ Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned. ¹⁷ And these signs will accompany those who believe: in my name they will cast out demons; they will speak in new tongues; ¹⁸ they will pick up serpents with their hands; and if they drink any deadly poison, it will not hurt them; they will lay their hands on the sick, and they will recover.” ¹⁹ So then the Lord Jesus, after he had spoken to them, was taken up into heaven and sat down at the right hand of God. ²⁰ And they went out and preached everywhere, while the Lord worked with them and confirmed the message by accompanying signs.

Jesus speaks to the disciples after the resurrection, and we can see it as a repeat from the beginning of the week. But in this we see the practical promise of the power of Holy Spirit. This promise of Holy Spirit is the signs that accompany the Baptism and personal relationship with Holy Spirit. Jesus encourages that the most deadly things in this world for them and for us will not have power, when it comes to having the POWER, within our lives. This depicts and outlines the very relationship and walk God has called us into and is a for taste of what will happen and begin at Pentecost.



- a. Can you imagine the thoughts of the disciples hearing these signs yet to come?
- b. How often do we really see the power of Holy Spirit coming through our lives?



Prayer – Holy Spirit may we live lives that are filled with signs of You.