

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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Baptism in the Spirit



Mark 1:6-8

⁶ Now John was clothed with camel's hair and wore a leather belt around his waist and ate locusts and wild honey. ⁷ And he preached, saying, "After me comes he who is mightier than I, the strap of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie. ⁸ I have baptized you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

Suggested additional readings: Matthew 3:11-12, Luke 3:15-17, John 1:29-34.

John the Baptist's message reveals his perception of Jesus. He viewed Jesus as holier and greater than himself, approaching Him with reverence stemming from humility and the awareness that he would pave the way for Him.

However, it is crucial to focus on verse 8, where John discusses the two baptisms. The implication is that the baptism of the Holy Spirit is superior to that of water because it is Christ who will administer it. This underscores the idea that Baptism in the Holy Spirit is dependent on Christ.

This promise of Baptism is divinely ordained and cannot be fulfilled without Him, highlighting the distinction between the two baptisms. For those listening, there may have been queries about the feasibility of this concept.



- a. What would those hearing this for the first time have thought?
- b. Can you have either Baptism without Holy Spirit being present?
- c. Do we see Baptism in the Holy Spirit with the same regard as John did?



Prayer – Father enable us to understand the fullness of Baptism in the Holy Spirit.