

Sermon Series: **The Acts of the Apostles**

The Promised Holy Spirit

Acts 2:1-13

The Spirit is coming!

Paul Revere of the American Revolution is well known for his *Midnight Ride* on April 18, 1775...

Luke was a careful historian who was, at the same time, inspired by God, carried along by the Holy Spirit to write a perfectly historic document that we can trust with our lives. So after careful investigation, with eyewitness accounts, he's about to report to us fantastic news. And here's the headline: **The Holy Spirit Is Coming!** Why is that such a big deal? Because, when the Holy Spirit comes and births the Church, the Spirit of God will take up residence in every _____ of the Church. And that's an awesome reality that never existed before.

Here's a good way to think about God's relationship with His people through the ages: In the OT, as the God of Israel, *God was _____ them.* In the Gospels, when Jesus was on the earthly scene, *God was _____ them.* In the age of the Church, when the Holy Spirit came, *God was _____ them.* And if you are a born-again believer in Jesus Christ, you can say with *them*, the original disciples, *God is in me!* As Paul said to the Corinthian Christians, "Do you not know that you are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in you?" (1 Cor. 3:16).

Do you know what that means? It means this room is not *the sanctuary*—that's OT temple talk. Now, as a believer in Jesus, you are *the sanctuary of God*, the inner sanctum where the Spirit dwells. We *can't overstate* how massive that is. Because the Spirit has come, you are walking, breathing temples of God! Behold, the new has come!

The promise fulfilled! What promise? **The promise** stated in Acts 1:4-5: And while staying with [His apostles, Jesus] ordered them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait **for the promise of the Father**, which, [Jesus] said, "you heard from me; ⁵for John baptized with water, *but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit* not many days from now."

The promise fulfilled:

1. The _____ of the Spirit (1-4).

It's important to understand that along with being filled with Holy Spirit, they were baptized by the Holy Spirit. How do we know that? Because that was **the promise of God** in chapter 1. That's what the disciples of Jesus were waiting for (Also, see Acts 11:15-17).

Not water baptism, but Spirit baptism. Paul wrote in 1 Corinthians 12:13, "For in one Spirit we were all baptized into [submerged, united with, or placed into] one body," the body of Christ, the Church. In another place, Galatians 3:27, the same apostle wrote that, also, we "were baptized into [placed into] Christ." The moment you were saved, you were _____ into Christ and into the body of Christ. Water baptism *can't* place repentant sinners in Christ—only the Holy Spirit can do that. So, when these originals were filled with the Holy Spirit, the baptism by the Spirit took place as well, as **promised** in chapter 1.

Notice how it unfolded: "When **the day of Pentecost** arrived..." Pentecost means "Fiftieth." It referred to the fiftieth day after Passover, and it occurred in early summer after the grain harvest. So Pentecost was the annual _____ festival that all Jewish males were required to attend in Jerusalem. So, when the Holy Spirit came, the city was jammed packed with God-fearing Jews from places near and far away.

What's happening? The Holy Spirit has come, accompanied by three awesome signs. **The first sign:** "a sound *like* a mighty rushing wind." Wind is a symbol of God's _____. **The second sign:** "tongues *as of* fire appeared to them and rested on each one of them." Fire is symbolic of God's _____. Warren Wiersbe: "Combine wind and fire and you have a _____." **The third sign:** "And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit *and began to speak in other tongues* as the Spirit gave them utterance." As we will see, these "other tongues" were other languages, which the apostles didn't speak.

The three signs together signaled a completely unique event, the beginning of a brand-new era of the Spirit of God, who came to empower Jesus' witnesses to preach the Good News of salvation to all who believe in His name, trusting in Him to save them from their sins. *Wind, fire, and tongues* were *not* meant to be normal and perpetual

happenings in the Church. Together, they *typically* were a one-time phenomenal phenomenon, as the coming of the Holy Spirit marked *the birthday of the Church* (cf., Acts 10:44-46). Behold, the era of redemption, of sanctification, and of eventual glorification has come!

2. The _____ of the Spirit (5-11).

Verses 5-7: These are really strange happenings. How was it that these lowly Galileans of inferior speech were speaking in all these languages?! “What in the world is going on?!”

The Greek word translated “language” in verses 6 and 8 is *dialektos* and refers to a known language or dialect. The Holy Spirit enables these Spirit-baptized, Spirit-filled believers of a lower-speaking class to speak fluently in all of the languages of all the people from all over the Mediterranean world.

Verses 8-11: A brand-new era is beginning, and the Holy Spirit’s _____ is all over this scene, using a small band of believers to capture the multitude’s attention. And notice what godly people do when empowered by the Holy Spirit: “We hear them telling in our own [languages] *the mighty works of God.*” When the Spirit fills the Spirit-baptized, they exalt God. They praise God. They glorify God. They proclaim the mighty works of God! And all the people notice.

Question: Is the work of the Holy Spirit consistently recognized in your _____? Be honest. If yes, thank God. If not, what are you going to do about it? Confessing your sin, asking God to forgive you for being self-centered instead of God-centered, and turning away (repenting) from yourself to Him would be a good move for you right now right here.

3. The _____ of the people (12-13).

There are always two groups of people at a God-happening like *this one at Pentecost*, or like *this one at Fresno*. The God-fearing, God-loving, devout people are beside themselves in amazement by the miraculous signs of the Holy Spirit’s power, presence, and work. They are the ones who ask and truly want to know, “What does this mean?” The unbelieving crowd don’t get it, can’t see it, and consequently tend to

explain the phenomenon away, attempting to find an earthly _____ for the other-worldly happening: "It can't be miraculous. There has to be a natural explanation for this thing." And the really cynical among the unbelieving, stupidly mock that which can't be naturally explained: "Ah, they're just drunk!"

What does Acts 2:1-13 mean?

It means God _____ in the Divine Person of the Holy Spirit in the original event then, and He's showing up in the study of the event today. And if you have the eyes to see the truth when it hits you in the face, then you will walk out of this place this morning *changed* by the work of the Holy Spirit. Life will no longer be *all about you* in spite of the alarming circumstances pressing in on you.

When you see what they saw, and hear what they heard, and land on the good side of the question, "What does this mean?" **then your life will become all about God!** It's no longer all about me, **but God.**