

1 Pentecost

2 Introduction

- In the final words of the final chapter of the final Old Testament book, written by its final prophet, we hear this incredible promise: “See, I will send you the prophet Elijah before that great and dreadful day of the LORD comes.” (Malachi 4:5 NIV)
- Then for 450 years all prophecies end.
- The Old Testament closes and there is a famine of hearing the word of the Lord.

3 John the Baptist

- Then John the Baptist shows up and John is hard not to miss.
- He looks like he should be on the reality television series Duck Dynasty and a member of the Robertson family.
- Then once he has everybody’s attention, he says something that is quite astonishing.
- He says that someone is coming and I’m not even worthy to park his pickup truck.

4 Who’s “It?”

- If you watch Entertainment Tonight, you know that when there’s a screening of a new movie the stars come out onto a red carpet, behind burgundy roping.
- The whole apparatus there is designed so that you know who the “it people” are, and who’s not.
- John comes with a counter message. His whole message is this: “I’m not ‘it.’ Don’t ever think I’m ‘it.’ However, the one who is coming after me is ‘it.’”

5 John’s Purpose

- And so John came, baptizing in the desert region and preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. The whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem went out to him. Confessing their sins, they were baptized by him in the Jordan River. (Mark 1:4–5 NIV)
- While John’s purpose was to draw Israel to repentance (where through the confession of their sins they would receive God’s forgiveness), there was yet another purpose behind his ministry.
- I baptize you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit. (Mark 1:8 NIV)
- In other words, John’s ministry was to get people spiritually ready to receive the baptism of the Holy Spirit.

6 The Father’s Promise

- On one occasion, (after the resurrection) while he was eating with them, he (Jesus) gave them this command: “Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised, which you have heard me speak about.” (Acts 1:4)
- For John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.” (Acts 1:4–5 NIV)

- What does a person need to do to receive the baptism?
 - Be a believer in Jesus Christ and in right standing with him. “If you love me, you will obey what I command. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Counselor to be with you forever — the Spirit of truth.” (John 14:15–17 NIV)
 - “If you then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!” (Luke 11:13 NIV)

7 Living Water

- Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, streams of living water will flow from within him.”
- By this he meant the Spirit, whom those who believed in him were later to receive.
- Up to that time the Spirit had not been given, since Jesus had not yet been glorified. (John 7:38–39 NIV)

8 Benefits of the Holy Spirit

- But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all truth. (John 16:13 NIV)
 - This is the covenant I will make . . . , declares the Lord. I will put my laws in their minds and write them on their hearts (Hebrews 8:10 NIV)
 - No longer will a man teach his neighbor, or a man his brother, saying, ‘Know the Lord,’ because they will all know me, from the least of them to the greatest. (Hebrews 8:11 NIV)
- He will bring glory to me by taking from what is mine and making it known to you. (John 16:14 NIV)
 - In other words, the Holy Spirit opens the eyes of our hearts so that we may be enlightened in order that we may know 1) the hope to which he has called us, 2) the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints, and 3) his incomparably great power for us who believe. (See Ephesians 1:18–19 NIV)

9 Day of Pentecost

- Pentecost is one of the seven prominent feasts in the Jewish Calendar.
- It literally means “50” and in the Old Testament it commemorates the giving of the Mosaic Law on Mt. Sinai, which was 50 days after the Exodus.
- Not only is this important date considered the birthday of Israel, but it is also the birthday of the Church.
- In the Old Testament the law was written on stone, but in the New Testament the law is written by the Spirit on flesh and imbedded in our heart and conscience.

10 The Day of Pentecost

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

11 The Reaction

- According to the Book of Acts,
 - People who heard them speaking in tongues were bewildered as they heard the believers speak in their own language.
 - Amazed and perplexed, they asked one another, “What does this mean?” (Acts 2:12 NIV)
 - Some said they were drunk.
 - Peter, however, got up and started preaching.

12 Peter’s Preaching

- Quoting from the book of Joel, Peter, tells the crowd that all of this is in fulfillment of what was prophesied for the last days.
 - The Spirit was now being poured out upon all flesh. (See Joel 2:28–29)
 - While not quoted by Peter, the second half of Joel’s prophecy was the judgment of fire that was soon to come upon all of God’s enemies.
 - I will show wonders in the heavens and on the earth, blood and fire and billows of smoke. The sun will be turned to darkness and the moon to blood before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the LORD. (Joel 2:30–31 NIV)
 - Upon hearing this and that they were guilty of killing God’s Son, 3,000 came forward to repent and be baptized.

13 Day of Pentecost

- The Spirit of God was poured out as promised by Jesus.
- A general amazement was created.
- Peter clarifies what was happening and that this was the beginning of the last days events and everyone must now choose whose side they are on.
- Great conviction comes over the crowd and many are (water) baptized in the name of Jesus and added to the church, so that they may become disciples—those who practice and carry out the commandments and teachings of Jesus Christ.

14 Two Baptisms

- There are two baptisms mentioned in the New Testament.

- The first one is a baptism of repentance, which was the centerpiece of John the Baptist's ministry.
- The second baptism is a baptism of the Holy Spirit, which is the centerpiece of Jesus' ministry.
- However, not all New Testament saints had both baptisms.

15 Two Baptisms

- Meanwhile a Jew named Apollos, a native of Alexandria, came to Ephesus.
- He was a learned man, with a thorough knowledge of the Scriptures.
- He had been instructed in the way of the Lord, and he spoke with great fervor and taught about Jesus accurately, though he knew only the baptism of John.
- He began to speak boldly in the synagogue.
- When Priscilla and Aquila heard him, they invited him to their home and explained to him the way of God more adequately. (Acts 18:24–26 NIV)

16 Two Baptisms

- While Paul was traveling near Ephesus one day, he came across some disciples and asked them if they have received the Spirit when they had believed.
- They answered, “No, we have not even heard that there is a Holy Spirit.” So Paul asked, “Then what baptism did you receive?” “John’s baptism,” they replied. (Acts 19:2–3 NIV)
- Paul said, “John’s baptism was a baptism of repentance. He told the people to believe in the one coming after him, that is, in Jesus.” On hearing this, they were baptized into the name of the Lord Jesus. When Paul placed his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came on them, and they spoke in tongues and prophesied. There were about twelve men in all. (Acts 19:4–7 NIV)

17 Baptism of the Holy Spirit

- It is the promise of the Father to give us power to live out the faith and be a witness of His grace and power to save.
- It is also the beginning of the last days as God is first pouring out His Spirit on all flesh, but will later pour out fire and judgment upon all His enemies.

18 How to Receive

- Be fully consecrated to serve the Lord.
 - If there are any outstanding areas in our commitment to the Lord, they should be fully addressed.
 - If there are any outstanding areas in our faith, they should be fully addressed as well.
- Many Pentecostals spend time praying and seeking the Lord before they ever step forward for the Baptism.

- Study the Scriptures in reference to the Baptism of the Holy Spirit and know how the gifts and the fruits operate.
- When you're ready, simply believe and ask the Father, for He is more eager to give than we are to receive.

19 Summary

- The Baptism of the Holy Spirit is a second work of God's grace and is available to all who believe.
- It is God's spirit coming to live inside us so that the presence of Christ can guide us and give us power to live out God's word.
- The Baptism of the Holy Spirit also opens the door for the operation of supernatural power in the form of gifts that not only help strengthen the church but give a witness of God's ability to save.
- Nevertheless let us focus our thoughts not on the gifts, but on being filled with His Spirit because we are fully committed to serving the Lord first.

20 Be Filled . . .

- In his recent book, *Living in the Spirit*, George O. Wood the general superintendent of the U.S. Assemblies of God said . . .
 - "Each of us needs revival and frequent refillings.
 - Our experiences with God in the past are not going to sustain us for the future."
 - "We need to examine our hearts and shore-up our commitment to the Lord and seek the fulness of the Spirit so that we can bring witness of God's power to save."

21 More Lord!