



## Summary

This powerful exploration of Acts chapter 2 reveals the transformative moment when the Holy Spirit descended upon believers at Pentecost, fundamentally changing everything about how God relates to His people. We discover that Jesus promised something extraordinary before His ascension: the baptism with the Holy Spirit that would empower ordinary believers to become witnesses to the ends of the earth. The dramatic events of Pentecost—the sound of a rushing mighty wind, tongues of fire, and supernatural ability to speak in languages unknown to the speakers—weren't just spectacular displays but purposeful manifestations designed to draw the world to Christ. What's particularly striking is how the Holy Spirit reversed the judgment of Babel, where God confused human languages due to pride, by now uniting people through diverse tongues that all praised the wonderful works of God. This wasn't about drawing attention to the believers themselves but about exalting Jesus, fulfilling His promise that when He is lifted up, He will draw all people to Himself. The message challenges us to recognize that we're living in the last days—a period that began at Pentecost and continues until Christ's return. Every believer empowered by the Holy Spirit has the privilege and responsibility of hastening that day by reaching others with the gospel, worshiping authentically, and allowing rivers of living water to flow from our hearts to a world desperately needing to know Jesus.





## Points

Title: The Outpouring of the Holy Spirit: Understanding Pentecost and the Last Days

Sermon Summary: This sermon explores the pivotal event of Pentecost as recorded in Acts chapter 2, examining the fulfillment of Jesus' promise to send the Holy Spirit. The pastor emphasizes how the baptism with the Holy Spirit empowered the early believers to become witnesses for Christ, reversing the division of languages at the Tower of Babel and drawing the world to Jesus through His humility rather than dividing it through human pride. The message connects Joel's prophecy about the last days with both the church age (beginning at Pentecost and ending at the rapture) and the tribulation period, challenging believers to understand which "last day" they are waiting for and to actively hasten Christ's return through evangelism and worship.

Key Points:

- Jesus promised the Holy Spirit as the Helper who would convict the world of sin, righteousness, and judgment, and guide believers into all truth
- The 120 believers waited in the upper room for ten days after Jesus' ascension until the day of Pentecost
- The Holy Spirit came with the sound of a rushing mighty wind and the appearance of divided tongues of fire
- Believers spoke in tongues (foreign languages) declaring the wonderful works of God, enabling Jews from every nation to hear the gospel in their native language
- Pentecost represents the birthday of the church, fulfilling the Jewish feast system established in Leviticus 23
- The event reversed the Tower of Babel's division, uniting people through the gospel rather than dividing them through pride
- Peter provided scriptural basis for the spiritual experience by quoting Joel's prophecy about the last days
- Every manifestation of the Holy Spirit must have a scriptural basis and always points to Jesus, never to man
- The "last days" began at Pentecost and have two applications: for the church (ending at the rapture) and for unbelievers (ending at Christ's second coming)
- Believers are called to hasten the day of Christ's return through evangelism, prayer, and authentic worship
- The gift of tongues is a prayer language directed from man to God, not from God to man

Scripture References:

- Acts 2:1-21 (primary focus)
- John 7:37-39 (rivers of living water)
- John 16:7-14 (Jesus' promise of the Holy Spirit)
- John 17:20-23 (Jesus' prayer for unity)
- Leviticus 23:4-16 (the Jewish feasts)
- Joel 2:28-32 (prophecy of the Spirit's outpouring)



- 1 Thessalonians 4:16-17 (the rapture)
- Revelation 19:11-21 (Christ's second coming)
- 2 Peter 3:1-13 (the last days and God's patience)
- Genesis 11:7 (Tower of Babel)
- John 3:16 (God's love for the world)
- Matthew 24:36 (no one knows the day or hour)
- Daniel 12:11 (timeline of the tribulation)

Stories:

- The account of Jesus ascending to heaven from the Mount of Olives while disciples watched (Acts 1:9)
- The 120 believers waiting in the upper room, including the apostles, their wives, Mary, and Jesus' brothers
- The Tower of Babel narrative where God confused human language due to pride (Genesis 11)
- Peter's immediate response to mockers who claimed the believers were drunk, providing scriptural defense
- The pastor's personal testimony about taking four years of French and using it only once at a ballet studio called "Etudes de Ballet"
- The pastor's experience at Calvary Chapel Fort Lauderdale where he first witnessed authentic worship that drew him to Christ
- Reference to the Jewish feast of Pentecost being the most heavily attended feast because of favorable weather conditions for travel
- The illustration of Jerusalem's population swelling from 100,000 to possibly over a million during Pentecost





## Scripture

### Explicitly Mentioned References

#### Acts

- Acts 2:1-4 (main text)
- Acts 2:5-13
- Acts 2:14-21
- Acts 1:4
- Acts 1:8
- Acts 1:9
- Acts 1:14

#### John's Gospel

- John 7:37-39
- John 16:7-15
- John 17:20-23
- John 20:22
- John 3:8
- John 3:16
- John 12:31-32

#### Leviticus

- Leviticus 23:4-17 (Feasts: Passover, Unleavened Bread, Firstfruits, Pentecost)

#### Luke

- Luke 3 (John the Baptist's statement about baptism with Holy Spirit and fire)

#### 1 Corinthians

- 1 Corinthians 14:2



## **1 Thessalonians**

- 1 Thessalonians 4:16-18

## **2 Thessalonians**

- 2 Thessalonians 2:9-10

## **Ephesians**

- Ephesians 2:1-2

## **Joel**

- Joel 2:28-32

## **Genesis**

- Genesis 10 (Table of Nations)
- Genesis 11:7 (Tower of Babel)

## **Daniel**

- Daniel 12:11

## **Revelation**

- Revelation 19:11-21

## **2 Peter**

- 2 Peter 3:1-13

## **Matthew**



- Matthew 24:36

## Colossians

- Colossians 1 (Jesus holding atoms together - alluded to)

## Additional Themes Discussed

The sermon discusses several major themes with relevant supporting verses:

1. The Holy Spirit as Teacher
  - John 14:26
  - John 16:13
2. The Birthday of the Church
  - Acts 2:1-4
3. The Last Days
  - Joel 2:28-32
  - Acts 2:17
  - 2 Peter 3:3
4. Spiritual Gifts (Tongues)
  - 1 Corinthians 12:4-11
  - 1 Corinthians 14:1-40
5. The Rapture of the Church
  - 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18
  - 1 Corinthians 15:51-52
6. Satan's Power and Deception
  - 2 Thessalonians 2:9-10
  - Ephesians 2:2
  - 2 Corinthians 11:14





## Quotes

For Jesus' prayer to be answered, how could it possibly be answered apart from rivers or torrents of living water, which John tells us is the Holy Spirit flowing from the hearts of born again believers to the world.

I say this a lot because it's important to be said that there's many people in these days that say don't spend any time in the Old Testament, it's all real. No, it's very important that you understand the Old Testament.

Every manifestation of the Holy Spirit will always have a scriptural basis. And this is so important because Satan has wonder-working power.

The Holy Spirit only points man to Jesus. The Holy Spirit never points man to any man, any man. The Holy Spirit never even points man to himself.

The last days has an entirely different meaning for the church than it does for unbelievers. But in either case, the first day of the last days is the birthday of the church on this day of Pentecost.

We are hastening the day every time one more person comes into the kingdom of heaven by being born again, then that means that there's one less person that has to be saved before Jesus can come back and rapture the church.

What opportunity do we have in worship for people who are unbelievers that come into this room? Do they see you exalting Jesus in worship or do they see you looking at your watch and kinda thumbing around?





## Discussion Questions

How does understanding the Old Testament feasts, particularly Pentecost, deepen your appreciation for the timing and significance of the Holy Spirit's outpouring in Acts 2?

In what ways does the baptism of the Holy Spirit differ from being born again, and why did Jesus say it was to our advantage that He go away so the Helper could come?

How does the reversal of Babel at Pentecost demonstrate God's redemptive plan to unite people through humility rather than divide them through pride?

What does it mean that the Holy Spirit always points to Jesus and never to man, and how can we discern whether spiritual manifestations are truly from God?

Peter immediately provided a scriptural basis for the spiritual experience at Pentecost. Why is it critical that every manifestation of the Holy Spirit must have scriptural foundation?

How should the reality that we are living in the last days, which began at Pentecost, affect the urgency and priority of our daily lives and witness?

What does it mean to be baptized with the Holy Spirit and fire, and how does this empowerment enable believers to fulfill Jesus' command to be witnesses to the ends of the earth?

How can believers actively hasten the day of Christ's return through prayer, evangelism, and worship, knowing that Jesus will return when the last person is saved?

In what ways does your personal worship of Jesus, both in public gatherings and private devotion, serve as a witness that draws others to Christ?

Which last day are you personally waiting for, and how does your answer to that question reveal the condition of your heart and relationship with Jesus Christ?



## Small Group Guide: The Baptism of the Holy Spirit

Based on Acts 2:1-21

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### **Opening Prayer**

*Begin by asking God to teach and guide your group through His Holy Spirit, just as He did for the early believers at Pentecost.*

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### **Ice Breaker**

*Share a time when you experienced something for the first time that you had only heard about before. How did the reality compare to your expectations?*

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### **Key Scripture Passages**

- *Primary Text: Acts 2:1-21*
  - *Supporting Texts:*
    - **John 7:37-39**
    - **John 16:7-14**
    - **Joel 2:28-32**
    - **1 Thessalonians 4:16-17**
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### **Key Takeaways**

1. **The Promise Fulfilled: The baptism of the Holy Spirit was Jesus' promise to His disciples—power to be witnesses to the world.**
  2. **The Holy Spirit's Purpose: The Spirit does not draw attention to people or even Himself, but always points to Jesus Christ.**
  3. **The Last Days: We are living in the "last days" that began at Pentecost and will continue until the rapture of the church.**
  4. **Scriptural Basis Required: Every genuine manifestation of the Holy Spirit will have a scriptural foundation.**
  5. **Hastening the Day: We participate in hastening Christ's return through evangelism, prayer, and worship.**
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## Discussion Questions

### Understanding the Text

1. *What happened at Pentecost? Review Acts 2:1-4. What were the three supernatural signs that accompanied the Holy Spirit's coming? Why do you think God made this event so unmistakable?*
2. *The Tower of Babel Reversed: Read Genesis 11:1-9. How does the gift of tongues at Pentecost reverse what happened at Babel? What does this tell us about God's heart for the nations?*
3. *Peter's Response: When mockers accused the believers of being drunk (Acts 2:13), Peter immediately provided a scriptural basis from Joel 2:28-32. Why is it important that spiritual experiences align with Scripture?*

### Personal Reflection

4. *Taught vs. Experienced: The sermon noted that "being taught about something is never the same as experiencing it for yourself." Have you experienced the baptism of the Holy Spirit, or have you only heard about it? What might be holding you back from seeking this experience?*
5. *The Holy Spirit as Teacher: According to John 16:13-14, the Holy Spirit guides us into all truth and glorifies Jesus. Can you share a time when the Holy Spirit taught you something from Scripture or revealed Jesus to you in a new way?*
6. *Worship and Witness: The sermon challenged us to examine how we worship. When unbelievers observe you during worship, do they see someone genuinely exalting Jesus? What changes might you need to make?*

### Application and Action

7. *"Rivers of Living Water": Jesus promised in John 7:38 that "out of his heart will flow rivers of living water." How is the Holy Spirit flowing through your life to reach others? Are there any blockages preventing this flow?*
8. *Hastening the Day: The sermon explained that we hasten Christ's return through evangelism and prayer. Who in your life needs to hear the gospel? What practical steps can you take this week to share Jesus with them?*
9. *The Gift of Tongues: This topic can be sensitive in different church backgrounds. Discuss respectfully: What is your understanding of the gift of tongues based on this sermon and 1 Corinthians 14:2? How does it function as a prayer language directed toward God?*

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### Practical Applications

Choose one or more of these action steps:



*For Personal Growth:*

- *Spend time each day this week asking the Holy Spirit to fill you afresh and empower you for witness*
- *Study the Old Testament feasts in Leviticus 23 to see how they point to Jesus and the Holy Spirit*
- *If you've never experienced speaking in tongues, ask God in private prayer to give you this gift*

*For Reaching Others:*

- *Identify one person who needs to hear about Jesus and pray for them daily*
- *Invite someone to church or a church event this month*
- *Practice sharing your testimony in 2-3 minutes with another group member*

*For Worship:*

- *Come to worship services prepared—arrive early, pray beforehand, and engage fully*
- *During worship, focus on exalting Jesus rather than being distracted by your surroundings*
- *Thank God specifically for the Holy Spirit's work in your life*

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## **Memory Verse**

*Acts 1:8 - "But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."*

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## **Closing Reflection**

*The sermon emphasized that we are living in the "last days" and should be actively hastening Christ's return through evangelism and faithful worship. Discuss as a group:*

- *What would change in your daily life if you truly believed Jesus could return at any moment?*
  - *How can this group support one another in being Spirit-empowered witnesses?*
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## **Closing Prayer**

*Pray together:*

- *For a fresh baptism and filling of the Holy Spirit*
- *For boldness to witness like the early church*
- *For specific people in your lives who need salvation*
- *That your worship would draw others to Christ*
- *For Jesus' soon return*



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## Leader's Notes

- **Be Sensitive:** *The topic of the Holy Spirit and tongues can be divisive. Create a safe space for honest questions and different perspectives while staying grounded in Scripture.*
- **Encourage Testimony:** *If appropriate, allow time for those who have experienced the baptism of the Holy Spirit to share briefly.*
- **Avoid Speculation:** *Keep discussions focused on what Scripture clearly teaches rather than speculation about end times details.*
- **Emphasize Unity:** *The Holy Spirit's purpose is to unite believers around Jesus, not divide them over secondary issues.*





## Daily Devotional

# 5-Day Devotional: Empowered by the Spirit

## Day 1: Waiting for the Promise

**Reading:** Acts 1:1-14

**Devotional:** The 120 believers gathered in the upper room teach us the discipline of faithful waiting. They didn't know exactly what they were waiting for or when it would come, yet they remained together in prayer and expectation. Jesus had promised the baptism with the Holy Spirit, and that was enough. How often do we struggle with waiting on God's promises? The disciples' obedience to simply wait reveals a profound trust. They didn't scatter or pursue their own agendas. Instead, they positioned themselves to receive what God wanted to give. Today, consider what promises of God you're waiting for. Are you positioned in prayer, in community, and in expectant faith? Sometimes the most powerful thing we can do is wait faithfully, knowing God's timing is perfect.

## Day 2: The Sound of Heaven

**Reading:** Acts 2:1-13

**Devotional:** When the Holy Spirit came at Pentecost, it was unmistakable—the sound of a rushing mighty wind, tongues of fire, supernatural languages declaring God's wonderful works. God made sure they couldn't miss it. The Spirit's arrival wasn't subtle because His purpose wasn't small: to empower ordinary believers to reach the entire world. Notice that the first manifestation was praise—speaking the wonderful works of God. The Holy Spirit doesn't draw attention to people; He exalts Jesus. When you're filled with the Spirit, your natural response is worship. The world was drawn not to the disciples' eloquence or credentials, but to their Spirit-empowered testimony of Christ. Are you experiencing the Holy Spirit's power in your life? Is your heart overflowing with praise for Jesus' wonderful works?

## Day 3: Rivers of Living Water

**Reading:** John 7:37-39; John 14:15-21

**Devotional:** Jesus promised that from the hearts of believers would flow rivers—torrents—of living water. This wasn't a trickle or a stream, but an abundant, overflowing supply of the Holy Spirit's life-giving power. The purpose? That the world may know Jesus and believe. The Holy Spirit within you isn't just for your personal comfort or assurance, though He provides both. He's given to make you a conduit of God's love to a dying world. Consider a river: it doesn't exist for itself but to bring life wherever it flows. Are you allowing the Spirit to flow through you to others? Or have you become a reservoir, holding God's blessings for yourself? Ask God today to make you a channel, not a container, letting His Spirit overflow to everyone around you.



## Day 4: The Last Days

**Reading:** Joel 2:28-32; 2 Peter 3:3-13

**Devotional:** We live in "the last days" —the entire period from Pentecost until Christ's return. This isn't a reason for anxiety but for urgency and purpose. Peter reminds us that God's patience means salvation for many. Every day the Lord delays His return is another opportunity for someone to be saved. You have a role in hastening that day through prayer, witness, and faithful living. The scoffers ask, "Where is the promise of His coming?" but they misunderstand God's heart. He's not slow; He's merciful, not willing that any should perish. This truth should fuel your evangelism and intensify your worship. Someone you know may be the last person who needs to hear the gospel before Jesus returns. Live with that holy urgency, knowing your faithfulness matters eternally.

## Day 5: Exalting Jesus

**Reading:** John 12:31-33; Philippians 2:5-11

**Devotional:** "If I am lifted up," Jesus said, "I will draw all peoples to Myself." The Holy Spirit's primary mission is to exalt Christ, not to draw attention to spiritual experiences or human vessels. When the disciples spoke in tongues at Pentecost, they declared "the wonderful works of God"—they magnified Jesus. Your worship, your words, your life should lift Jesus higher. The world is drawn to an exalted Savior, not to our abilities or accomplishments. Peter, once a coward who denied Christ, now boldly proclaimed Him because the Spirit empowered him to make much of Jesus, not himself. Examine your life today: Does it point people to Jesus? In your conversations, your social media, your daily interactions, are you lifting Him up? When Christ is exalted, He does the drawing. Your job is simply to make Him known.

