

Intro to Theology

Assemblies of God; Indiana School of Ministry

Level 1 Class

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Spirit baptism/gifts of the Spirit

What does it mean to be Pentecostal?

What does it mean to be filled with or baptized in the Spirit?

Empowerment

Acts 1:8 (ESV): 8 But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."

The Pentecostal gift is not tongues. It is rather empowering experience that enables its recipient to participate effectively in the mission of God. The manifestation of tongues is an evidence of the Pentecostal dimension of the Spirit's work, but it is not the gift itself. And inordinate focus on "evidence" may result in Christians who, looking back into the distant past, can remember the moment they "got it," but for whom the Pentecostal dimension of power for witness is presently unknown.

Menzies & Menzies, Spirit and Power: Foundations of Pentecostal Experience.

Intimacy/union with God

Jude 20–21 But you, beloved, building yourselves up in your most holy faith and praying in the Holy Spirit, 21 keep yourselves in the love of God, waiting for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ that leads to eternal life.

1 Corinthians 14:2, 4-5, 14-15 2 For one who speaks in a tongue speaks not to men but to God; for no one understands him, but he utters mysteries in the Spirit... 4 The one who speaks in a tongue builds up himself, but the one who prophesies builds up the church. 5 Now I want you all to speak in tongues...

14 For if I pray in a tongue, my spirit prays but my mind is unfruitful. 15 What am I to do? I will pray with my spirit, but I will pray with my mind also; I will sing praise with my spirit, but I will sing with my mind also.

God's hospitality

Acts 2:4 ff

On the day of Pentecost

The hidden God self-revealing through the weakness of human flesh was understood in all of the major languages of the world! The ends of the earth were to be the Messiah's possession. "I will make the nations your inheritance, the ends of the earth your possession" (Ps 2:8). That eschatological victory was foreshadowed in those many tongues that bore witness to Christ on the Day of Pentecost.

Frank Macchia, *Tongues of Fire: A Systematic Theo*

In the mission to the Gentiles:

Acts 10

And still today

Paul thus speaks of Spirit baptism as that which gives rise to an inclusive church that drinks together of the Spirit from Christ's fullness: "For we were all baptized in one Spirit so as to form one body—whether Jews or Gentiles, slave or free—and we were all given the one Spirit to drink" (1 Cor 12:13).

Frank Macchia

Love: all three above are rooted in love.

Though speaking in tongues played a unique role among many Pentecostals globally in signifying the filling with the Spirit, Seymour and others regarded love as the chief characteristic. In answer to the question, "What is the real evidence that a man or woman has received the baptism with the Holy Ghost?" Seymour's The Apostolic Faith answers, "Divine love, which is charity. Charity is the Spirit of Jesus."

Frank Macchia, *TOF*

Baptism in the Spirit and spiritual gifts

Charismata (1 Cor 12) vs *Pneumatika* (1 Cor 14).