

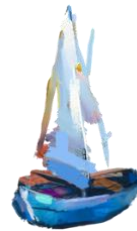


Candlewood Church

Acts of the Early Church: The Gift of Empowerment to Go.

March 9, 2025

Glenn Garvin



BIG IDEA – How can we wait and seek God to discover what he has for us? How can we prepare and be obedient, like the disciples, to receive God's power for our mission?

Scripture Focus – “But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you. And you will be my witnesses, telling people about me everywhere—in Jerusalem, throughout Judea, in Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” Acts 1:8

Jesus instructed His closest followers to remain in the city, despite the presence of Roman soldiers and religious leaders determined to suppress the truth of His resurrection. **He told them to wait**—and they did. **Jesus had promised the Holy Spirit**, who would come and fill them with power from heaven. **And the Holy Spirit arrived!** When they received this gift, it literally blew them away. But what was this power for?

Last week we talked about the Founder's Way. Jesus told his disciples, “you know that rulers lord (**katakuriueuo: to exercise dominion over, to subdue**) or exercise dominion over,” even flaunting their authority. Remember that Jesus said, “**But among you it will be different.**” **Greatness, in His Kingdom, His Church would show up in love and service.**

We also learned that Luke opens his second book with Jesus giving these final words of instruction in Acts 1:7-8:

“He replied, “The Father alone has the authority to set those dates and times, and they are not for you to know. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you. And you will be my witnesses, telling people about me everywhere—in Jerusalem, throughout Judea, in Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”

If you have been around Christians (those who believe and follow Jesus) for very long, you find out a lot of us are obsessed with the future. In fact, [Publisher's Weekly](#) says, “In times of tribulation, prophecy books multiply.” (Tribulation just means a time of great trouble or suffering.)

But lately, it's not just Christians searching for answers – it's just normal people that know something is coming.

[Google Trends](#) reveal that searches on the phrase, “end times” have spiked at times, like May 1, 2011 when [Osama bin Laden was killed](#). Or September 3, 2015, when the Syrian Civil War and [Syrian refugee crisis](#) started. The largest spike over the last couple of decades was the [COVID-19 Pandemic](#).

The disciples and the early church were no different. There was tension among the Jewish religious leaders and the Roman Government's “[Pax Romana](#),” Latin for Roman Peace. Peace for Rome meant there would soon be massive persecution.



[Roman Persecution](#)

According to Josephus, 1.1 million non-combatants died in Jerusalem and 100,000 in Galilee. Modern analysis suggests that a quarter of Judaea's population died.

Jesus, telling them to stay in Jerusalem and wait was dangerous.

And wait they did... for 10 days. 120 of them gathered and they prayed. Acts 1:13-14

Isn't it interesting that some of the most miraculous moments can come in the most intense, tension-filled times?

Acts 2 opens with the fulfillment of Jesus' promise.

There are several Old Testament verses that speak of this moment and there are a dozen verses that directly address this event when the Holy Spirit would come! See Dig Deeper notes for these.

And, WOW, the event was filled with supernatural power and wonder!

Luke recorded the spectacular moments letting us in on what the believers heard, saw and then experienced!

“On the day of Pentecost all the believers were meeting together in one place. Suddenly, there was a sound from heaven like the roaring of a mighty windstorm, and it filled the house where they were sitting. Then, what looked like flames or tongues of fire appeared and settled on each of them. And everyone present was filled with the Holy Spirit and began speaking in other languages, as the Holy Spirit gave them this ability.” Acts 2:1-4



What was the power for?

It happened just as Jesus said it would. And God would make the first move.

“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you. And you will be my witnesses, telling people about me everywhere—in Jerusalem, throughout Judea, in Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”

Pentecost, for the Jewish people, was the "Feast of First Fruits" and was generally observed by giving to God the best of the first things harvested.

The Pentecost Feast eventually became a pilgrimage, meaning that Jews would have come from all over the world. We know that Acts 2:9-11 lists 15 cities or cultural/linguistic people groups!

God did all the hard work by bringing it all together!

The Holy Spirit came with power and made sure there were hundreds of curious seekers around to hear the message of the gospel.

15 cities are mentioned: Parthians, Medes, Elamites, Mesopotamians, Judeans, Cappadocians, Pontians, Asians, Phrygians, Pamphylans, Egyptians, Libyans, Romans, Cretans, and Arabians.

These locations covered a massive reach across the empire:

- The Middle East (Parthia, Media, Elam, Mesopotamia)
- Asia Minor (modern-day Turkey) (Cappadocia, Pontus, Asia, Phrygia, Pamphylia)
- North Africa (Egypt, Libya)
- Europe (Rome)
- Arabian regions



Representatives from each city or region showed up in the courtyard outside the upper room!

God made sure this amazing event called “Pentecost Sunday” would be the first fruits of this new startup called THE CHURCH.

The Pentecost in Acts 2 was unique because it marked:

-  **The fulfillment of prophecy**
-  **The inauguration of the Church**
-  **The empowerment of believers to spread the gospel**
-  **The beginning of a new era of God dwelling in His people.**

Like a massive impromptu party, filled with loud, live music, attracts party-seekers and music-lovers. People were listening outside the upper room as they gathered in the courtyard below.

Similarly, the Holy Spirit coming in power produced a mighty wind, a “ruach elohim” – a GOD WIND, the crowd may have heard as well. But it was also hearing words in their homeland heart-language that piqued their curiosity and had them asking questions!**

At that time there were devout Jews from every nation living in Jerusalem. When they heard the loud noise, everyone came running, and **they were bewildered to hear their own languages being spoken by the believers. They were completely amazed.** “How can this be?” they exclaimed. “These people are all from Galilee, and yet we hear them speaking in our own native languages! Acts 2:5-8

Wouldn't you love to know what upper room folks said that day?

Maybe each one were sharing their own story, their “testimony!”

Maybe each one was sharing some detail, some need, some ache of someone in the crowd.

Maybe they were just praising God in a completely different language.

That is what caught my attention as an unbeliever attending a church youth winter camp. Dozens of teenagers just like me were singing these brand new 1970's style worship songs. Songs like **Seek Ye First** or **Father, I adore you.**

This pivotal event brought the power of the Holy Spirit to do what Jesus commanded them to do – except the Holy Spirit gave them an amazing head start!

“And you will be my witnesses, telling people about me everywhere—”

Just a note, the word for witness in Acts 1:8 is "martus,"Witness, or martyr. It's where we get the word, martyr, which a person who is killed because of their religious or other beliefs.

It's a good thing that we can be a witness today without being a martyr – or is it?

The power of the Holy Spirit then and now is to give us supernatural abilities to be Jesus' witnesses.

- We'll find that the Holy Spirit does all the prep work for us.
- We'll find that when we need it the most, the power of the Holy Spirit will lead and guide us into all truth.
- We'll find that the Holy Spirit will lead and guide us into situations and people's lives to make the good news of Jesus clear and apparent to others.



What else is the power of the Holy Spirit for?

The Bible teaches us extensively about the power of the Holy Spirit - helping us live out the gospel, obeying the Spirit's leading.

The Holy Spirit...

- Creates new life ([Titus 3:5](#), [John 3:1–8](#)).
- Leads the believer into all truth ([John 16:13](#)).
- Confirms to the believer that he belongs to the Lord ([Romans 8:15–17](#)).
- Gives spiritual gifts (God-given abilities for service) to the believer to edify the church and serve the Lord effectively for His glory ([1 Corinthians 12:11](#)).
- Helps the believer understand and apply the Scripture to his daily life ([1 Corinthians 2:12](#)).
- Enriches the believer's prayer life and intercedes for him in prayer ([Romans 8:26–27](#)).
- Empowers the yielded believer to live for Christ to do His will ([Galatians 5:16](#)), ([Romans 8:14](#)).
- Gives evidence of new life by producing the fruit of the Spirit in the believer's life ([Galatians 5:22–23](#)).
- Grieves when the believer sins ([Ephesians 4:30](#)).
- Convicts the believer to confess his sin to the Lord ([1 John 1:9](#)).



How do I get this power Jesus promised?

Peter's instructions for how to receive the gift of the Holy Spirit are the same ones he gave to the crowd listening to his sermon! After he finished

"Peter's words pierced their hearts, and they said to him and to the other apostles, "Brothers, what should we do?" Acts 2:37

"Peter replied, "Each of you must repent of your sins and turn to God, and be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. Then you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. This promise is to you, to your children, and to those far away—all who have been called by the Lord our God." Acts 2:38-39

- Have you repented of your sins and turned to God?
- Have you been baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins? (this would be John's water baptism spoke of by Jesus).
- Then all that is left to do is **ask**.

BE LIKE THE BEREANS

And the people of Berea were more open-minded than those in Thessalonica, and they listened eagerly to Paul's message. They searched the Scriptures day after day to see if Paul and Silas were teaching the truth. As a result, many Jews believed, as did many of the prominent Greek women and men. Acts 17:11-12

Searching the scriptures for yourself is the best way to connect with God and begin to understand how to hear the Holy Spirit's promptings and what it means to be baptized in the Holy Spirit.

A few great articles that are helpful:

The Assemblies of God statement about the [Baptism in the Holy Spirit](#)
And [Evidence of the Baptism in the Holy Spirit](#) (speaking in tongues).

Also, although I don't completely agree with everything this Pastor writes, I do believe it may help you seek for yourself and make a knowledgeable decision. [How to receive the gift of the Holy Spirit](#) by John Piper.

Some of you are ready today and would like us to pray over you and with you as you ask God to fill you or baptize you in the Holy Spirit.

Some of you are hearing this for the first time **or** you are sensing that God wants you to move towards this, eventually deciding to be baptized in the Holy Spirit.

Either way, this is your life. I am just here to teach on this from God's Word and give you an opportunity to respond.

SCRIPTURES

Acts 1:7-8:

He replied, "The Father alone has the authority to set those dates and times, and they are not for you to know. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you. And you will be my witnesses, telling people about me everywhere—in Jerusalem, throughout Judea, in Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.

Acts 2:1-4

On the day of Pentecost all the believers were meeting together in one place. Suddenly, there was a sound from heaven like the roaring of a mighty windstorm, and it filled the house where they were sitting. Then, what looked like flames or tongues of fire appeared and settled on each of them. And everyone present was filled with the Holy Spirit and began speaking in other languages, as the Holy Spirit gave them this ability.

Acts 2:9-11

Here we are—Parthians, Medes, Elamites, people from Mesopotamia, Judea, Cappadocia, Pontus, the province of Asia, Phrygia, Pamphylia, Egypt, and the areas of Libya around Cyrene, visitors from Rome (both Jews and converts to Judaism), Cretans, and Arabs. And we all hear these people speaking in our own languages about the wonderful things God has done!

Acts 2:5-8

At that time there were devout Jews from every nation living in Jerusalem. When they heard the loud noise, everyone came running, and they were bewildered to hear their own languages being spoken by the believers. They were completely amazed. "How can this be?" they exclaimed. "These people are all from Galilee, and yet we hear them speaking in our own native languages!

Acts 2:37

Peter's words pierced their hearts, and they said to him and to the other apostles, "Brothers, what should we do?"

Acts 2:38-39

Peter replied, "Each of you must repent of your sins and turn to God, and be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. Then you will

receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. This promise is to you, to your children, and to those far away—all who have been called by the Lord our God.

Acts 17:11-12

And the people of Berea were more open-minded than those in Thessalonica, and they listened eagerly to Paul's message. They searched the Scriptures day after day to see if Paul and Silas were teaching the truth. As a result, many Jews believed, as did many of the prominent Greek women and men.

NOTES

Acts of the Early Church: The Startup

March 9: "The gift of Empowerment to Go"

Text: Acts 2:1-13 Theme: Pentecost and the Outpouring of the Holy Spirit

- Key Idea: The Holy Spirit came with power to ignite the church for global mission.
- Focus: The coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost, the unity of believers, and the speaking in tongues as a sign of God's international mission.
- Engagement Point: Reflect on the significance of Pentecost—God empowering believers to take the gospel to the world. How can we, today, be part of that worldwide mission?



Modern equivalents of the ancient cities and regions in Acts 2

- **Nisa** → Near **Ashgabat, Turkmenistan**
- **Ctesiphon** → Near **Baghdad, Iraq** (Al-Mada'in)
- **Rhagae** → Modern **Tehran, Iran**
- **Bagistana** → Modern **Bisotun, Iran**
- **Susa** → Modern **Shush, Iran**
- **Anshan** → Near **Marvdasht, Iran**
- **Mesopotamia** → Covers parts of **Iraq, Syria, and southeastern Turkey**
- **Judea** → Modern **Israel and the West Bank**
- **Cappadocia** → Central **Turkey**
- **Pontus** → Northern **Turkey (Black Sea region)**
- **Phrygia** → West-central **Turkey**
- **Pamphylia** → Southern **Turkey (Antalya region)**
- **Egypt** → Modern **Egypt**
- **Libya** → Modern **Libya**



15 Cities mentioned in Acts 2



How Prophecies Connect to Pentecost (Acts 2)

On the Day of Pentecost, these promises were fulfilled as the Holy Spirit was poured out on all believers, not just select individuals as in the Old Testament. The event marked the beginning of a new era where the Spirit would dwell in all who believe in Christ.

There are several key Old Testament prophecies that point to the New Testament Day of Pentecost and the outpouring of the Holy Spirit. Here are some of the most significant ones:

1. Joel 2:28-29

This is the most direct prophecy, which Peter explicitly referenced in Acts 2:16-21 to explain what was happening at Pentecost:

"And it shall come to pass afterward, that I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh; your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, and your young men shall see visions. Even on the male and female servants in those days I will pour out my Spirit." (ESV)

2. Isaiah 44:3

Isaiah prophesied about God's Spirit being poured out like water on a thirsty land:

"For I will pour water on the thirsty land, and streams on the dry ground; I will pour my Spirit upon your offspring, and my blessing on your descendants."

3. Ezekiel 36:26-27

Ezekiel spoke about God giving His people a new heart and putting His Spirit within them:

"And I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you. And I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. And I will put my Spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes and be careful to obey my rules."

4. Ezekiel 39:29

This verse also speaks of the outpouring of the Spirit:

"And I will not hide my face anymore from them, when I pour out my Spirit upon the house of Israel, declares the Lord God."

5. Zechariah 12:10

This prophecy connects the Spirit's outpouring with repentance and recognition of the Messiah:

"And I will pour out on the house of David and the inhabitants of Jerusalem a spirit of grace and pleas for mercy, so that, when they look on me, on him whom they have pierced, they shall mourn for him, as one mourns for an only child, and weep bitterly over him, as one weeps over a firstborn."

6. Numbers 11:29

Moses expressed a desire that all of God's people would have His Spirit, foreshadowing Pentecost:
"Would that all the Lord's people were prophets, that the Lord would put his Spirit on them!"



New Testament scriptures promising the outpouring of the Holy Spirit

1. Matthew 3:11 (Spoken by John the Baptist, affirmed by Jesus' ministry)

"I baptize you with water for repentance, but he who is coming after me is mightier than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. **He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.**"

2. Luke 11:13

"If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, **how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!**"

3. John 3:5-6

"Jesus answered, 'Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and **that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.**'"

4. John 7:37-39

"On the last day of the feast, the great day, Jesus stood up and cried out, 'If anyone thirsts, let him come to me and drink. Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, **"Out of his heart will flow rivers of living water."** Now this he said about the Spirit, whom those who believed in him were to receive, for as yet the Spirit had not been given, because Jesus was not yet glorified."

5. John 14:16-17 (The Promise of the Comforter)

"And I will ask the Father, and **he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever, even the Spirit of truth**, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. **You know him, for he dwells with you and will be in you.**"

6. John 14:26

"**But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name**, he will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you."

7. John 15:26

"**But when the Helper comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth, who proceeds from the Father, he will bear witness about me.**"

8. John 16:7

"Nevertheless, I tell you the truth: it is to your advantage that I go away, for if I do not go away, **the Helper will not come to you. But if I go, I will send him to you.**"

9. John 16:13-14

"**When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth, for he will not speak on his own authority, but whatever he hears he will speak, and he will declare to you the things that are to come. He will glorify me, for he will take what is mine and declare it to you.**"

10. Luke 24:49

"And behold, I am sending the promise of my Father upon you. But stay in the city until you are clothed with power from on high."

11. Acts 1:4-5

"And while staying with them he ordered them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the promise of the Father, which, he said, 'you heard from me; for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.'"

12. Acts 1:8

"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 **Pentecost Festival in Acts 2** was unique

Here's what set it apart:

1. Fulfillment of Prophecy

- This Pentecost was the fulfillment of **Joel 2:28-29**, where God promised to pour out His Spirit on all people.
- Jesus Himself had promised the coming of the Holy Spirit (**Luke 24:49; Acts 1:4-5, 8**), and this was the moment when that promise was fulfilled.

2. A Shift from Old Covenant to New Covenant

- Pentecost (also known as the **Feast of Weeks**) was a Jewish festival celebrating the giving of the **Law at Mount Sinai** (Exodus 19-20).
- Now, instead of the Law written on stone, the Holy Spirit was writing God's law on the hearts of believers (**Jeremiah 31:33; 2 Corinthians 3:3**).

3. The Sound of a Rushing Mighty Wind

- The Holy Spirit's arrival was marked by a **sound like a violent wind (Acts 2:2)**, symbolizing God's power and presence.
- The Hebrew word for Spirit, "**Ruach**", and the Greek word, "**Pneuma**", both mean "wind" or "breath," emphasizing the Spirit's life-giving role.

4. Tongues of Fire on Each Believer

- **Acts 2:3** describes **tongues of fire** resting on each believer, symbolizing divine presence and empowerment.
- In the Old Testament, fire often represented God's presence (e.g., the burning bush in **Exodus 3:2** or the pillar of fire in **Exodus 13:21**).
- Unlike Sinai, where fire was distant, now **God's presence rested individually on believers**.

5. Speaking in Other Languages (Tongues)

- The disciples miraculously spoke in **many different languages (Acts 2:4-11)**, enabling people from all over the world to understand the message of God's mighty works.
- This reversed the **Tower of Babel** curse (**Genesis 11:1-9**), where languages were confused. Now, God was uniting people through His Spirit.

6. Peter's Bold Sermon and the Birth of the Church

- Peter, who previously denied Jesus, boldly preached to the crowd (**Acts 2:14-41**), explaining that **Jesus was the promised Messiah** and that the Spirit's outpouring fulfilled prophecy.
- About **3,000 people** were saved and baptized that day (**Acts 2:41**), marking the birth of the **New Testament Church**.

7. The Spirit's Power for Global Evangelism

- Before Pentecost, the disciples were **fearful and hiding**, but after the Spirit's outpouring, they became **bold witnesses** of Christ.
- This event launched the mission Jesus gave in **Acts 1:8**, where the gospel would spread from **Jerusalem to Judea, Samaria, and the ends of the earth**.

8. A Permanent Indwelling of the Holy Spirit

- Unlike in the Old Testament, where the Spirit came upon certain individuals temporarily (e.g., Samson, David, prophets), now **the Holy Spirit permanently indwelt all believers**.
- This marked the beginning of the **New Covenant** relationship with God (**Ezekiel 36:26-27; John 14:16-17**).



[Ten things about Pentecost \(Acts 2\)](#) By John T Squires

One. Pentecost was originally a Jewish festival. It was one of the “great three festivals” that took place each year in ancient Israel: *Pesach* (meaning Passover), the feast of the Unleavened Bread; *Shavuot* (Weeks or Pentecost), the feast of the first harvest of the grain (wheat); and *Sukkot* (Tabernacles, Tents or Booths), the festival of ingathering which marked the end of the harvest season. These three occasions are identified as recurring annual festivals at Exodus 23:14-17 and again at Deuteronomy 16:16-17.

Two. Pentecost means “fiftieth”. In Judaism, it is the 50th day since the feast of Passover (see Leviticus 23:15-16). In Christianity, it becomes the 50th day since Easter Sunday. The significance of 50 is that it is the day that comes after seven weeks (that is, 7 X 7 days = 49 days). So, it is a perfect “week of weeks”.

Three. Pentecost symbolizes two key things in Judaism. The prescriptions for *Shavuot*, the festival of Pentecost, are set out in the Hebrew Bible. Exodus 34:22 states that it marks the all-important wheat harvest in Israel; Leviticus 23:15-22 sets out the requirements for celebrating this festival. Its importance as an *agricultural festival* is thus clear. Alongside that, as Jewish tradition developed, Pentecost became the anniversary of *the giving of the Law*; the day when God gave the Torah (the Law) to the whole nation of Israel, assembled at Mount Sinai (Exodus 19:1–20:21).

Four. The people gathered in Jerusalem for Pentecost when the spirit came were all Jews. Acts 2:5 makes this clear; those present were *devout Jews from every nation under heaven living in Jerusalem*. They were not Gentiles. Luke and Acts

persistently make it crystal clear that the Gospel was intended for the whole world—Jews and Gentiles alike (Luke 2:30-32, 3:6, 24:47; Acts 1:8, 2:17, 9:15, 10:34-43, 11:18, 13:47, 14:27, 15:7, 22:21, 26:17-23, 28:28). Nevertheless, this event is one that gathers only Jews.

Five. Acts 2 does symbolize that the Gospel is for all the world. The people noted in Acts 2 were Jews who had come *from every nation*, spread right across the ancient Mediterranean world. In this sense, they represented the Gentiles, as, even though they were Jews, they were living in the Dispersion, amongst Gentiles, and they came from those nations that were predominantly Gentile. These faithful Jews had gathered in Jerusalem because it was the place where the Temple was based; it was the center of Jewish faith.

But more than this, Jerusalem was also considered to be the center of the world, according to ancient Jewish traditions. Jewish maps from long ago through into the early medieval period regularly locate Jerusalem at the center, and show the nations spreading out from it in all directions.

So, in Acts 2, Jews come from the east (Parthians, Medes, Elamites, residents of Mesopotamia), north (Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia), west (Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, and Cretans) and south (Arabs). This map gives an indication of how this works:



Indeed, it could well be that, for the author of Acts, *this scene provides a fulfilment of the eschatological prophecy about “the gathering of the nations” on Mount Zion* (Isa 2:2-4, 11:12, 42:1-6, 62:1-2, 66:18-24).

Six. The Spirit acted at Pentecost; but this was not the first time that Jewish people had experienced the Spirit. Pentecost was far from being the first time that the Spirit came. Hebrew Scripture refers to the actions of the spirit at many places throughout the story of Israel: in the times of Joseph (Gen 41:38), Moses (Exod 35:30-31, Num 24:2, Neh 9:20), Joshua (Num 27:18, Deut 34:9), the Judges (Judg 3:10, 6:34, 9:23, 11:29, 13:25, 14:6, 19, 15:14), Saul (1 Sam 10:6, 11:6, 19:23-24),

David (1 Sam 16:13, 2 Sam 23:2), Isaiah (Isa 11:2), Ezekiel (Ezekiel 2:2, 3:12, 14, 24, etc) and later prophets (Micah 3:8, Haggai 2:5, Isa 42:1, 44:3, 59:21, 61:1). In fact, later texts indicate that the spirit inhabits human beings simply through the fact that they exist as the creations of God (Job 27:3, 32:18, 33:4, Zech 12:1), and all of creation came into being through the spirit of God (Psalm 104:30). Indeed, the post-exilic priestly document that incorporated the foundational creation myth of the peoples explicitly noted that it was by the spirit of God that the creation came into being (Genesis 1:1-3). *The Holy Spirit was already integral to the faith of the ancient Israelites.*

Seven. The mass of noise that occurred at Pentecost was not “speaking in tongues” as can be experienced in modern-day Pentecostal or charismatic churches. The noises made were not the kinds of “speaking in tongues” that Paul refers to in 1 Cor 12–14. Rather, the author of Acts makes it very clear that these are real, actual, specific languages. Acts 2:5-11 specifies that this was *xenoglossia*, that is, known foreign languages, whereas Paul uses the term *glossolalia*, meaning setting the tongue free to make sounds most likely unintelligible to the hearer, but pleasing to the speaker. [Pastor Glenn: This part is not accurate. The Greek word in Acts 2:4 is **glossa**, not *xenoglossia*. But yes, I agree the people observing did hear their actual heart-language. Luke uses the Greek word, **dialektos: Language, dialect** in Acts 2:6.]

It is clear from the account in Acts 2: people in the crowd plainly affirm that they are hearing the Galilean followers of Jesus speaking fluently in their own native languages from the many different places they have come from (2:8), before going on to spell out the precise languages they heard (2:9-11).



Worship songs of the 70s

I Exalt Thee

Written: Pete Sanchez Junior; Year: 1977

Original Key: F

For Thou, O Lord, art high above all the earth
Thou art exalted far above all gods
For Thou, O Lord, art high above all the earth
Thou art exalted far above all gods

I exalt Thee, I exalt Thee
I exalt Thee, O Lord
I exalt Thee, I exalt Thee
I exalt Thee, O Lord

Seek Ye First

Seek ye first the kingdom of God
And His righteousness;

And all these things shall be added unto you.
Hallelu, Hallelujah!

Ask, and it shall be given unto you;
Seek, and you shall find.
Knock, and it shall be opened unto you.
Hallelu, Hallelujah!

Man shall not live by bread alone,
But by every word
That proceeds out from the mouth of God.
Hallelu, Hallelujah!

Father, I Adore You

Father, I adore You
Lay my life before You
How I love You
Jesus, I adore You
Lay my life before You
How I love You
Spirit, I adore You
Lay my life before You
How I love You



Paul's list of Spirit-empowered gifts to us.

The power of the Holy Spirit brings about some life-changing results:

- 1) The indwelling Spirit comes to a soul dead in sin and **creates new life** ([Titus 3:5](#)). This is the new birth Jesus spoke of in [John 3:1-8](#).
- 2) The indwelling Spirit **confirms to the believer that he belongs to the Lord** and is an heir of God and fellow-heir with Christ ([Romans 8:15-17](#)).
- 3) The indwelling Spirit **installs the new believer as a member of Christ's universal church**. [1 Corinthians 12:13](#).
- 4) The indwelling Spirit **gives spiritual gifts** (God-given abilities for service) to the believer to edify the church and serve the Lord effectively for His glory ([1 Corinthians 12:11](#)).
- 5) The indwelling Spirit **helps the believer understand and apply the Scripture to his daily life** ([1 Corinthians 2:12](#)).
- 6) The indwelling Spirit **enriches the believer's prayer life and intercedes for him in prayer** ([Romans 8:26-27](#)).

7) The indwelling Holy Spirit **empowers the yielded believer to live for Christ to do His will** ([Galatians 5:16](#)). The Spirit leads the believer in paths of righteousness ([Romans 8:14](#)).

8) The indwelling Spirit **gives evidence of new life by producing the fruit of the Spirit in the believer's life** ([Galatians 5:22-23](#)).

9) The indwelling Spirit is **grieved when the believer sins** ([Ephesians 4:30](#)), and He **convicts the believer to confess his sin to the Lord** so that fellowship is restored ([1 John 1:9](#)).

10) The indwelling Spirit **seals the believer unto the day of redemption** so that the believer's arrival in the Lord's presence is guaranteed after this life ([Ephesians 1:13-14](#)).