

January 27, 2019
THE GOD I NEVER KNEW - Part 1
“The Spirit Has Come!”

In the Old Testament we see the Holy Spirit coming onto specific individuals at specific times to perform specific tasks.

Ezekiel 39:29 (NLT): ““And I will never again turn my face from them, for I will pour out my Spirit upon the people of Israel. I, the Sovereign LORD, have spoken!””

Jesus: ““¹⁶And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Counselor to be with you forever – ¹⁷the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you.””
(John 14:16-17 NIV)

Jesus: ““But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.””
(Acts 1:8 NIV)

We have no evidence that they knew *when* the Spirit would come, much less what His coming would be like.

Acts 2:1-4 (NIV): “¹When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. ²Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. ³They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. ⁴All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them.”

Luke says the Holy Spirit “filled” each of them and the *external* manifestations now became internal as the “Spirit enabled” each of them to begin “to speak in other tongues.”

Acts 2:5-6 (NIV): “⁵Now there were staying in Jerusalem God-fearing Jews from every nation under heaven. ⁶When they heard this sound, a crowd came together in bewilderment, because each one heard them speaking in his own language.”

Hearing what the disciples were saying in their own languages was a miracle of the Holy Spirit, but there’s no indication here that this is the spiritual gift of speaking in unknown tongues that the Apostle Paul will later write about.

The fulfillment of the promise God first made to Abraham two thousand years earlier, that all people would receive God’s blessings through him, is now coming true.

The LORD: ²“I will make you [Abram] into a great nation and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing. ³I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you.”
(Genesis 12:2-3 NIV)

Acts 2:7-11 (NIV): ⁷“Utterly amazed, they asked: ‘Are not all these men who are speaking Galileans? ⁸Then how is it that each of us hears them in his own native language? ⁹Parthians, Medes and Elamites; residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, ¹⁰Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya near Cyrene; visitors from Rome ¹¹(both Jews and converts to Judaism); Cretans and Arabs – we hear them declaring the wonders of God in our own tongues!’”

Acts 2:12 (NIV): “Amazed and perplexed, they asked one another, ‘What does this mean?’”

“WHAT DOES THIS MEAN” FOR US TODAY?

1. God can be trusted!

God always does what He says He will do.

The Sovereign LORD: ²⁶“I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh. ²⁷And I will put my Spirit in you and move you to follow my decrees and be careful to keep my laws.”
(Ezekiel 36:26-27 NIV)

Acts 2:17-18 (NIV): ¹⁷“In the last days, God says, I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your young men will see visions, your old men will dream dreams. ¹⁸Even on my servants, both men and women, I will pour out my Spirit...”

Our problems are we forget God’s promises, or we allow Satan to raise doubts in our minds.

Genesis 3:1-5 (NIV): ¹“Now the serpent was more crafty than any of the wild animals the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, ‘Did God really say, “You must not eat from any tree in the garden”?’ ²The woman said to the serpent, ‘We may eat fruit from the trees in the garden, ³but God did say, “You must not eat fruit from the tree that is in the middle of the garden, and you must not touch it, or you will die.”’ ⁴‘You will not surely die,’ the serpent said to the woman. ⁵‘For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.’”

2. The Gospel is for all people.

Through His Spirit God wanted all people to hear and experience the Gospel.

Jesus: “For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.” (John 3:16 NIV)

Jesus: “¹⁸... ‘All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.’” (Matthew 28:18-20 NIV)

Acts 2:36-41 (NIV): “³⁶Therefore let all Israel be assured of this: God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ.’ ³⁷When the people heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and the other apostles, ‘Brothers, what shall we do?’ ³⁸Peter replied, ‘Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. ³⁹The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off – for all whom the Lord our God will call.’ ⁴⁰With many other words he warned them; and he pleaded with them, ‘Save yourselves from this corrupt generation.’ ⁴¹Those who accepted his message were baptized, and about three thousand were added to their number that day.”

William Temple: “The church is the only institution that exists for the sake of its non-members.”

Next Week: The Spirit Works Through People (Acts 3-4:22)

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