

# God of Wonder: The Holy Spirit

Acts 2

# Introduction - Understanding

- We often stand on the firm, safe bank of UNDERSTANDING while the raging river of EXPERIENCE rushes by. It is in that moment of hesitation we miss the opportunity to gain KNOWLEDGE.
- It is the FEAR of what we don't UNDERSTAND that locks us up
  - It is the ultimate danger of "Growing Up"
- "Life can only be understood backwards; but it must be lived forwards."  
Soren Kierkegaard
- It is the EXPERIENCE that brings UNDERSTANDING: Driving, Playing an Instrument, Teaching a Class, Riding a Bike

# Feast of Weeks - Pentecost

## Acts 2:1-13

When the day of Pentecost (50 days) came, they were all together in one place. 2 Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. 3 They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. 4 All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them. 5 Now there were staying in Jerusalem God-fearing Jews from every nation under heaven. 6 When they heard this sound, a crowd came together in bewilderment, because each one heard them speaking in his own language. 7 Utterly amazed, they asked: “Are not all these men who are speaking Galileans? 8 Then how is it that each of us hears them in his own native language? 9 Parthians, Medes and Elamites; residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, 10 Phrygia 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!” 12 Amazed and perplexed, they asked one another, “What does this mean?” 13 Some, however, made fun of them and said, “They have had too much wine.”

# Two Groups

- Some were AMAZED
- Others claimed they were DRUNK
- The difference? Their willingness to abandon UNDERSTANDING in acknowledgment of the EXPERIENCE

# Bible is Our Baseline

- Scripture is the eternal, ultimate, and complete authority having the final say in all things.
- It is the single source of all doctrine, instruction, correction, and reproof, and is the all-inclusive guidebook on how to practically live a godly life.
- God will never do anything to violate Scripture, BUT he will REGULARLY challenge our view of it!

# The Holy Spirit

- The Holy Spirit is the the EMBODIMENT of God's Wonder
- The Baptism in the Holy Spirit is the EMPOWERING of God in the life of the believer
- Acts 1:8  
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.

# 5 Biblical Examples of Baptism in Holy Spirit

# 1) Disciples in Upper Room

- Acts 2:2-4  
2 Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. 3 They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. 4 All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them.

## 2) Samaritans

- Acts 8:15-17

14 When the apostles in Jerusalem heard that Samaria had accepted the word of God, they sent Peter and John to Samaria. 15 When they arrived, they prayed for the new believers there that they might receive the Holy Spirit, 16 because the Holy Spirit had not yet come on any of them; they had simply been baptized into the name of the Lord Jesus. 17 Then Peter and John placed their hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.

# 3) Apostle Paul

- Acts 9:17,18

17 Then Ananias went to the house and entered it. Placing his hands on Saul, he said, “Brother Saul, the Lord—Jesus, who appeared to you on the road as you were coming here—has sent me so that you may see again and be filled with the Holy Spirit.” 18 Immediately, something like scales fell from Saul’s eyes, and he could see again. He got up and was baptized (in water).

# 4) Cornelius' Family (Gentiles)

- Acts 10:44-48 (Cornelius's House)  
44 While Peter was still speaking these words, the Holy Spirit came on all who heard the message. 45 The circumcised believers who had come with Peter were astonished that the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out even on Gentiles. 46 For they heard them speaking in tongues and praising God. Then Peter said, 47 "Surely no one can stand in the way of their being baptized with water. They have received the Holy Spirit just as we have." 48 So he ordered that they be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ."

# 5) Believers at Ephesus (Greeks)

- Acts 19:1-6 (Believers at Ephesus)

1 While Apollos was at Corinth, Paul took the road through the interior and arrived at Ephesus. There he found some disciples 2 and asked them, “Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?” They answered, “No, we have not even heard that there is a Holy Spirit.” 3 So Paul asked, “Then what baptism did you receive?” “John’s baptism,” they replied. 4 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.” 5 On hearing this, they were baptized into the name of the Lord Jesus. 6 When Paul placed his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came on them, and they spoke in tongues and prophesied.

# 4 Common Themes

1. There is no “formula” (formula’s aren’t WONDERFUL); however,
  - A. Separate event from salvation & water baptism
  - B. Sometimes Laying on of Hands, sometimes not
2. It starts with FAITH ACTIVATED BELIEF
3. It is always an EXPERIENCE
4. The receiver is always CHANGED

# 10 Benefits of Holy Spirit Baptism in our Lives

## 1. Power for Effective Ministry

Acts 1:8

“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses...”

1 Corinthians 12 - Gifts of the Holy Spirit (Next Message)

## 2. Builds Us Up

Jude 20, 21

But you, dear friends, by building yourselves up in your most holy faith and praying in the Holy Spirit,...

### 3. Reveals Mysteries

Luke 2:25,26

Now there was a man in Jerusalem called Simeon, who was righteous and devout. He was waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was on him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not die before he had seen the Lord's Messiah.

### 4. Is our Advocate / Helper / Comforter

John 14:25,26

“All this I have spoken while still with you. But the Advocate (*one who pleads another's cause before a judge*), the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you.

## 5. Provider of Joy

Romans 14:17, 18

For the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking, but of righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit, because anyone who serves Christ in this way is pleasing to God and receives human approval.

## 6. Gives Us Direct Access to God's Love

Romans 5:5

And hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us.

## 7. Provides Divine Hope

Romans 15:13

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

## 8. Revealer of God's Strategies

Acts 13:2

While they were worshiping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, "Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them."

## 9. Giver of Boldness & The Ability to Speak with Authority

Luke 12:11,12

“When you are brought before synagogues, rulers and authorities, do not worry about how you will defend yourselves or what you will say, for the Holy Spirit will teach you at that time what you should say.”

## 10. Intercedes for Us

Romans 8:26-27

In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us through wordless groans. And he who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for God’s people in accordance with the will of God.

# Conclusion

- Jesus said that it was “better” for him to go on to heaven; so, he could send the Holy Spirit
- Receiving the Holy Spirit is receiving God’s Wonder
- It is not something we UNDERSTAND
- It is something we BELIVE
- It is FAITH that ACTIVATES our WILL