

# THE ADVENT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

## THE HOLY SPIRIT PROMISED IN THE NEW COVENANT

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- The New Covenant contained a promise that Holy Spirit would live in believers one day

**Jeremiah 31:31-34** ~ *Behold, days are coming,” declares the LORD, “when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah, not like the covenant which I made with their fathers in the day I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt, My covenant which they broke, although I was a husband to them,” declares the LORD. “But this is the covenant which I will make with the house of Israel after those days,” declares the LORD, “I will put My law within them and on their heart I will write it; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people. They will not teach again, each man his neighbor and each man his brother, saying, ‘Know the LORD,’ for they will all know Me, from the least of them to the greatest of them,” declares the LORD, “for I will forgive their iniquity, and their sin I will remember no more.”*

**Ezekiel 36:25-27**~ *Then I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you will be clean; I will cleanse you from all your filthiness and from all your idols. Moreover, I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; and I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes, and you will be careful to observe My ordinances*

- This was something OT saints anticipated – the indwelling presence of the Holy Spirit

## THE HOLY SPIRIT PROMISED BY CHRIST

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- During His Upper Room Discourse, Jesus promised to send the Holy Spirit...a promise He gave to the disciples, who were confused and troubled at the prospect of Christ’s death and departure
- The substance of His pledge goes far beyond instructions just for the 12 disciples...it has great implications for all New Covenant believers

**John 14:16-19** ~ *I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may be with you forever; that is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it does not see Him or know Him, but you know Him because He abides with you and will be in you. I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you. After a little while the world will no longer see Me, but you will see Me; because I live, you will live also.*

**John 14:26-27** ~ *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 said to you. Peace I leave with you; My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Do not let your heart be troubled, nor let it be fearful*

- Notice what Jesus promises in these verses:

### A Supernatural Helper

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- In John 14:16, Jesus promised to send “another Helper”....“helper” = *parakletos*= “one called alongside to help”...it refers to someone who comes alongside someone to exhort, comfort, encourage
- This could also be translated “advocate” which implies the idea of either an attorney or friend of the court...thus the Spirit could testify on our behalf or assist us with our case
- That word “another” is a very important word....There are 2 Greek words for “another”:
  - *heteros* – another of a different kind (i.e. another tie could be different design, colors, size – but still a tie...it’s another of a different kind)
  - *allos* – another of the same kind (i.e. another tie that is exactly like this one – same color, design, size...it’s another of the same kind)

- Jesus does not use the word *heteros*...Jesus uses the word *allos*– another of the same kind, another like Himself
- He is saying: “I am going to send another one who is just like me...I will send you a helper who is of the exact, identical kind as Myself”
- Yes, he was leaving them, but they don’t need to be sorrowful and troubled because they would have the same kind of help after He left
- The Spirit would do for them all that Christ had done for them while He was with them....in this sense, He is another of the same kind as Jesus

### **A Supernatural Indwelling**

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- In John 14:17, Jesus promises the disciples: “but you know Him because He abides with you and will be in you”
- What a fantastic promise....Jesus promises to send the Spirit of truth who will actually live inside of believers and be with them forever
- Notice the prepositions: He abides with you and will be in you
- Up to this point the work of the Spirit was primarily external...but something even better than that is about to happen → He will be in you...a reference to the Spirit taking up permanent residence to provide help
- It is hard for us who live post-Pentecost to really appreciate this
- Jesus is promising these disciples that they will receive a supernatural helper who isn’t just going to be around them but actually living in them
- This is an incredible reality and something that was never known in the OT
- They don’t realize it yet, but this is even better than having Jesus with them on earth

### **A Supernatural Life**

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- In John 14:19, Jesus promises, “because I live, you will live also”
- Our lives are different when we have the Spirit...we become spiritually alive...we are sensitive to Christ’s working in the world...we begin to see things from God’s viewpoint
- This supernatural life is most evident in the new birth

### **A Supernatural Teacher**

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- In John 14:26, Jesus promises that the Spirit will teach believers
- What a great promise to these confused, troubled disciples...Jesus would send them a resident teacher who would live in them and teach them all things and help them to remember what He had taught them
- Specifically, this probably refers to the fact that the Spirit would help the disciples remember and understand the things Jesus taught so they could write it down with accuracy
- This would enable them to write the Gospels and the rest of the NT without error
- Generally, it probably refers to the work of the Spirit in the lives of all believers to give them understanding of the truth of God’s Word and the ability to apply it to their lives

### **A Supernatural Peace**

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- In John 14:27, Jesus promises the disciples that the Spirit would grant them the peace of His presence
- This is not referring to objective peace, but rather subjective peace...peace that keeps believers from being victimized by their circumstances and provides an inner tranquility of the soul
- This is that subjective feeling in the heart of the believer of comfort and rest and security

- It's that very real sense that Christ is with you helping and encouraging your heart
- It's that sense of God's loving presence in all circumstances that comes from knowing God's goodness and contemplating his gracious promises
- Jesus was preparing the disciples for the outpouring of the Spirit...this is seen clearly right before His ascension:

**Luke 24:49** ~ *And behold, I am sending forth the promise of My Father upon you; but you are to stay in the city until you are clothed with power from on high*

**John 20:22** ~ *And when He had said this, He breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit."*

**Acts 1:4-5, 8** ~ *Gathering them together, He commanded them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait for what the Father had promised, "Which," He said, "you heard of from Me; for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now" ...but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth."*

## THE HOLY SPIRIT'S ARRIVAL

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- As promised in the OT and from Christ, the Holy Spirit came at the Feast of Pentecost
- This marks of the most significant events in biblical history
- Not only were extraordinary supernatural displays evident, but it was a major turning point in God's program
- This is when Christ's church was born and the disciples were given the resources necessary for building the church
- It was the outpouring of the Spirit at Pentecost that initiated the church
- Pentecost marks not only the beginning of the church as the spiritual reality of the body of Christ, but also the visible church

**Acts 2:1-4** ~ *When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. And suddenly there came from heaven a noise like a violent rushing wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. And there appeared to them tongues as of fire distributing themselves, and they rested on each one of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit was giving them utterance*

- Jesus ascended to the presence of the Father from where He poured out the Spirit on the day of Pentecost in fulfillment of the New Covenant and His promises in John 14-16
- Pentecost means "fiftieth" and refers to the Feast of Weeks (a week of weeks = 49 days) which was celebrated 50 days after Passover
- It involved the offering of the firstfruits of the grain harvest and was third in a sequence of feasts, after Passover and Unleavened Bread
- The coming of the Spirit to live within the apostles on Pentecost is significant in that He is the firstfruits of our final, future inheritance

### The Place of the Holy Spirit's Arrival

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**Acts 2:1** ~ *they were together in one place*

- This probably refers to the "upper room where they were staying" (Acts 1:13), most likely a house in Jerusalem with an upper level
- This one must have been part of a large house since it held 120 people (see vs. 15)

- It was also probably the same location where the Last Supper had been celebrated and where Jesus had appeared to them after His resurrection
- The house was probably in the vicinity of the temple (see Acts 2:6 where the people in the temple heard the arrival of the Spirit)

## **The Proof of the Holy Spirit's Arrival**

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*Acts 2:2-4 ~ And suddenly there came from heaven a noise like a violent rushing wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. And there appeared to them tongues as of fire distributing themselves, and they rested on each one of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit was giving them utterance*

- Two physical phenomena accompanied the coming of the Spirit: 1) the noise of a strong blowing wind; 2) the appearance of fire-like tongues over the believers' heads
- God sovereignly used these audible and visual demonstrations to let them know that something special was happening
- The word for "wind" doesn't refer to a gentle breeze, but a strong blast
- In this case, it doesn't appear that there was actual movement of air (notice the words "a noise like a violent rushing wind"), but that wasn't the point
- The key issue was the sound...it was distinct and hard to miss...and God used the noise to draw a large crowd to witness what He was doing
- Wind is often used in Scripture as a symbol of the Holy Spirit (John 3:8)...in fact, the word for "Spirit" (*pneuma*) is related to the word for "wind" (*pnoe*)
- The word points to the power of the Holy Spirit and the fullness of His coming
- The appearance of fire also marked this as a significant event...the fire portrays the presence of God
- Several times in the OT God displayed Himself in the form of flames (Gen 15:17; Ex 3:2-6; Ex 19:18)
- These were not literal flames of fire (notice the words "as of fire") but supernatural indicators that God had sent His Spirit upon each believer, without exception
- All who were present received the Spirit in that moment...it was a uniform, sovereign work of God on all believers who were present, not something that was sought for individually
- Through this baptism of the Spirit, they were all made into one spiritual body – the body of Christ
- God's use of the "tongues of fire" is analogous to what He did when Jesus was baptized...He sent the Holy Spirit in the form of a dove to prove that Christ was indeed empowered and approved by the Father
- As a result, they were all "filled with the Holy Spirit" - the filling with the Holy Spirit is separate from the baptism of the Spirit
- The Spirit's baptism occurs once for each believer at the moment of salvation (Rom. 6:3; 1 Cor. 12:13; Col. 2:12), but the Spirit's filling may occur not only at salvation but also on a number of occasions after salvation (Acts 4:8, 31; 6:3, 5; 7:55; 9:17; 13:9, 52) – compare Acts 6:5 with 7:55
- Another amazing phenomenon that day was the disciples' speaking in other languages: vs. 4 ~ they began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit was giving them utterance.
- These were undoubtedly spoken living languages...the word used in Acts 2:6, 8 is *dialektō*, which means "language" and not ecstatic utterance
- These were known human languages and the disciples displayed the ability to speak them to testify of God's glory and the Spirit's power
- This gift is not ongoing for believers today and should not be expected to result from any striving to "receive the baptism of the Spirit"

## The Product of the Holy Spirit's Arrival

- The miraculous evidences of the Holy Spirit's arrival quickly drew the attention of the crowds gathered in Jerusalem

**Acts 2:5-13** ~ *Now there were Jews living in Jerusalem, devout men from every nation under heaven. And when this sound occurred, the crowd came together, and were bewildered because each one of them was hearing them speak in his own language. They were amazed and astonished, saying, "Why, are not all these who are speaking Galileans? And how is it that we each hear them in our own language to which we were born? Parthians and Medes and Elamites, and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the districts of Libya around Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, Cretans and Arabs—we hear them in our own tongues speaking of the mighty deeds of God." And they all continued in amazement and great perplexity, saying to one another, "What does this mean?" But others were mocking and saying, "They are full of sweet wine.*

- Notice that it was the noise of this event that first grabbed everyone's attention
- The noise that sounded like high winds was not an average, everyday sound...it was so loud that it drew people away from what they were doing
- This astonishment at the noise was soon followed by amazement and perplexity at hearing and understanding what some foreigners (the disciples from Galilee) were saying
- Jewish men who had made the pilgrimage to Jerusalem to celebrate Pentecost were dumbfounded to hear Jews from Galilee speaking the languages of peoples surrounding the Mediterranean Sea
- The Galileans were considered unsophisticated and uneducated by Jews from Judea so when they are heard speaking so many different languages, the other Jews are bewildered
- Notice they were speaking about "the mighty deeds of God" – all that statements about what God had done prepared the way for Peter's proclamation of the Gospel beginning in vs. 14...the good news of salvation in Jesus Christ was the climax toward which the Holy Spirit was building

## The Portrayal of the Holy Spirit's Arrival

**Acts 2:14-18** ~ *But Peter, taking his stand with the eleven, raised his voice and declared to them: "Men of Judea and all you who live in Jerusalem, let this be known to you and give heed to my words. For these men are not drunk, as you suppose, for it is only the third hour of the day; but this is what was spoken of through the prophet Joel: 'AND IT SHALL BE IN THE LAST DAYS,' God says, 'THAT I WILL POUR FORTH OF MY SPIRIT ON ALLMANKIND; AND YOUR SONS AND YOUR DAUGHTERS SHALL PROPHECY, AND YOUR YOUNG MEN SHALL SEE VISIONS, AND YOUR OLD MEN SHALL DREAM DREAMS; EVEN ON MY BONDSLAVES, BOTH MEN AND WOMEN, I WILL IN THOSE DAYS POUR FORTH OF MY SPIRIT And they shall prophesy*

- Peter explained what was happening at Pentecost and in doing so quoted from the prophet Joel
- The complete fulfillment of Joel's prophecy awaits the coming of the millennial kingdom
- On the day of Pentecost, God has given both a preview and a sample of the power the Spirit will release in the kingdom
- Believers in the present age have a foretaste of kingdom life but in the millennial kingdom, God will pour out His Spirit on all mankind since all who enter the kingdom will be redeemed
- Thus the full and final fulfillment of this prophecy is future – the nature of the prophesying, visions, and dreams that will take place remains a mystery
- Notice, though, that the focus of Peter's sermon is on Christ

**Acts 2:33** ~ *Therefore having been exalted to the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, He has poured forth this which you both see and hear.*

- God raised Jesus to life and exalted Him to the Father’s right hand... Thus Jesus had the authority to send the promised Holy Spirit
- The primary actor at Pentecost is Jesus... He is the one behind the event... He is the one who is pouring out the Spirit... It is the Lord Jesus who is responsible for the arrival of the Spirit... Christ sends the Spirit to bring energy and power for the mission that is to be accomplished through the church!
- The people who heard Peter’s Pentecost sermon were cut to the heart and pleaded with the apostles to tell them what to do

*Acts 2:37-38 ~ Now when they heard this, they were pierced to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, “Brethren, what shall we do?” Peter said to them, “Repent, and each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.*

- Notice the great promise: The gift of the Holy Spirit is God’s promise to those who turn to the Lord, including Jews and their descendants and those who are far off, that is, Gentiles

### **The Postponement of the Holy Spirit’s Arrival?**

*Acts 8:14-17 ~ Now when the apostles in Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the word of God, they sent them Peter and John, who came down and prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit. For He had not yet fallen upon any of them; they had simply been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. Then they began laying their hands on them, and they were receiving the Holy Spirit*

- Does Acts 8:16 teach that believers receive the Holy Spirit subsequent to salvation? – those who teach that Christians receive the Spirit subsequent to salvation appeal to this passage for support... they argue that this is a clear example of people who were saved, yet did not have the Spirit
- But this assumption ignores the transitional nature of Acts
- Normally the Holy Spirit baptizes, indwells, and seals at the moment of faith, but in this instance the delay served an important purpose
- For centuries, the Samaritans and the Jews had been bitter rivals... if the Samaritans received the Spirit independent of the Jerusalem church, that rift would have been perpetuated... there could have been 2 separate churches – a Jewish church and a Samaritan church
- By delaying the Spirit’s coming until Peter and John arrived, God prevented a schism and preserved the unity of the church, welcoming the Samaritan believers officially into the church

*Acts 19:1-6 ~ It happened that while Apollos was at Corinth, Paul passed through the upper country and came to Ephesus, and found some disciples. He said to them, “Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?” And they said to him, “No, we have not even heard whether there is a Holy Spirit.” And he said, “Into what then were you baptized?” And they said, “Into John’s baptism.” Paul said, “John baptized with the baptism of repentance, telling the people to believe in Him who was coming after him, that is, in Jesus.” When they heard this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. And when Paul had laid his hands upon them, the Holy Spirit came on them, and they began speaking with tongues and prophesying*

- These “disciples of John” were not yet fully Christians
- Paul then told them that John pointed to Jesus Christ as the One in whom they should believe
- They believed the Gospel as presented by Paul and were saved through Christ... as a result, the Holy Spirit came upon them

It should also be noted that the reception of the Holy Spirit in Acts does not follow any set pattern. He came into believers before baptism (Acts 10:44), at the time of or after baptism (8:12–16; 19:6), and by the laying on of apostolic hands (8:17; 19:6). Yet Paul declared (Rom. 8:9) that anyone without the Holy Spirit is not a Christian. Quite obviously the transitional Book of Acts is not to be used as a doctrinal source on how to receive the Holy Spirit ~ Bible Knowledge Commentary, Acts 19:6