

The Spirit of Power | The Spirit and Pentecost Lesson 4

Christianity began when a ragtag group following Jesus went from running in fear at His crucifixion to boldly proclaiming Him as the Messiah less than two months later. What made the difference? The difference was that the Holy Spirit came. The difference was Pentecost.

Jesus Promises to Send the Spirit Jesus ______ the Coming Spirit Jesus anticipated that His followers would wonder why He didn't stay after coming back from the dead. So He answered that question in advance: It was better for Him to leave so that He could send the Spirit (John 16:7). In John 14-16 Jesus declares repeatedly states that He will send the Spirit (John 14:16-17, 26; 15:26; 16:7).

Jesus on the Coming Spirit

After His resurrection Jesus told the disciples that they should go to Jerusalem and to wait until He sent the Spirit (Acts 1:4-5). He wanted their attention to be on waiting for the Spirit so that they can be witnesses (Acts 1:7-8). The implication is clear: the disciples would not be ready to be the witnesses they needed to be until they had some help, serious help! A careful study of the book of Acts will highlight the work of the Spirit again and again in the life of the young church. The story of Acts is not the story of a group of incredible people doing the impossible, it's the story of God taking a bunch of otherwise ordinary and unexpected people and doing the extraordinary through them.



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The Coming of the Spirit at Pentecost

Once Jesus was resurrected and ascended the disciples were told to wait for the Spirit, and when the Spirit did came there was no missing it. God made sure that something as dramatic as the coming of God to dwell in man came with all the attention it deserved.

A Great _______ Fills the Room In the Old Testament the word for Spirit can mean spirit, breath, or wind. The New Testament these words are related as well, and so the mighty rushing wind filling the house represents the mighty rushing Spirit filling the disciples. Divided Tongues of ______ Sit on the Disciples As with the wind, what came on the disciples was not fire, but

As with the wind, what came on the disciples was not fire, but something that looked very much like fire. In the Old Testament fire is often a picture of the presence of God, but this fire also looked like tongues that had been divided. This picture teaches that there is one Spirit who is divided up and manifests Himself on each of the individual disciples.

The Disciples Speak in _____

The immediate result of the Spirit's coming upon the disciples was that they all began speaking in tongues. Many who want to argue for the ongoing use of tongues will eagerly point to this passage, but these were clearly known languages (2:5-12). In fact, it was crucial to God's mission that these be known languages, since the point was to show that something supernatural was happening.

The Disciples ______ to Christ

Speaking in tongues was not the main result of being Spirit-filled. Jesus did not say, "The Spirit will come on you and you will speak in tongues," but rather "the Spirit will come upon you and you will be my witnesses." At the end of the coming of the Spirit and the speaking in tongues comes the most important part – the verbal proclamation of the gospel of Jesus.

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