

ACTS: To the Ends of the Earth

Study 4: The Church Aflame

READ Acts 2:1-13 and **LISTEN** to the [sermon](#) by Pastor Craig.

After ten days of waiting together, the promise of the Father (Acts 1:4) arrived as the Holy Spirit was poured out on each Apostle and faithful follower of Jesus. It was through this miraculous act that the church of Christ was born and His mission to take His gospel to every nation began. The Holy Spirit brought the necessary empowering, purifying, and enabling for them to be Christ's ambassadors. Despite their previous hesitation, the disciples would learn that it was indeed to their advantage that Jesus go away so the Helper might come (John 16:7).

Big idea: Pentecost is God's equipping His church with the power of His Spirit so that He will be glorified among the nations.

Questions:

1. "Pentecost" means "fiftieth" and refers to the Feast of Weeks (Ex. 34:22, 23) or Harvest (Lev. 23:16), which was celebrated 50 days after Passover (Lev. 23:15–22). At Pentecost, an offering of first fruits was made (Lev. 23:20). In what way did the Holy Spirit fulfill the meaning of "First Fruits" for the believer and for the church? See 2 Cor 5:5 and Acts 2:41.
2. What were the three unique manifestations of the Holy Spirit's coming and what do you think each manifestation signifies?
 - i) _____ (v. 2) See Ezekiel 37:1-14; John 3:5-8
 - ii) _____ (v. 3) See Luke 3:16; Mal 3:3; Ex 3:1-6
 - iii) _____ (v. 4) See 1 Cor 12:4, 11

3. From vv. 4-11, what was the gift of tongues and how did the Spirit use it? For further insight into tongues speaking in Scripture listen to [What is the Gift of Tongues](#) by Pastor Craig Baxter.
4. What was the main purpose for the Holy Spirit being given to the disciples in Acts 1:1-8? How does this parallel with the Lord Jesus receiving the Holy Spirit at the commencement of His ministry?
5. What role did the Holy Spirit play in the life of Christ from these verses?

Isaiah 11:1-3

Luke 4:14

Luke 4:18-19 (quoting Isaiah 61:1-2)

Acts 10:38

From these references, how does knowing that Christ primarily lived His life in His humanity, empowered by the Spirit, encourage you as you consider the Spirit's role and activity in your life?
6. What were the people's responses in vv. 12-13? How does knowing that the Holy Spirit regenerates hearts give you confidence in the face of opposition?
7. Who can you be a witness for Christ to today? What will you do about it?

STOP AND PRAY:

Praise: *God for the baptism of the Holy Spirit in your life to empower you to witness*
Pray: *that you might be Christ's faithful and bold witness to your family and friends*