

Acts 1:4–5 (NKJV)

⁴ And being assembled together with *them*, He commanded them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the Promise of the Father, “which,” *He said*, “you have heard from Me; ⁵ for John truly baptized with water, but you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.”

- Jesus did not *suggest* that the apostles wait for the Promise
- Nor did He *recommend* that they heed His instruction
- Rather, He *commanded* them not to depart from Jerusalem until the Promise had come

Jesus placed such high importance of this instruction because the empowerment of the Holy Spirit is essential to all kingdom work

- The Bible states that the apostles had received *infallible proof* of the Resurrection
- They didn't need to be persuaded any more to this truth
- They were ready to “get going” and share the “Good News”

But Jesus told them, don't start your ministry, don't start preaching, don't start planting churches until you have been clothed with the Spirit's power

- Jesus gave this command to approximately 500 people
– **1 Corinthians 15:6**
- Yet, we find in **Acts 1:15** that number had dwindled to 120
- What happened to the other 380? – Nine days later

Acts 2:1–4 (NKJV)

When the Day of Pentecost had fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. ² And suddenly there came a sound from heaven, as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. ³ Then there appeared to them divided tongues, as of fire, and *one* sat upon each of them. ⁴ And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.

- Many people believe the disciples had to wait because they hadn't received the Holy Spirit yet
- Some may say it is different for us, we receive Him at salvation
- Yet, I would argue that the Disciples had already received the Holy Spirit

John 20:21–22 (NKJV)

²¹ So Jesus said to them again, “Peace to you! As the Father has sent Me, I also send you.” ²² And when He had said this, He breathed on *them*, and said to them, “Receive the Holy Spirit.

- This was after the Resurrection but before the Ascension
- Yet they were not clothed until they had been filled with the Spirit on the day of Pentecost
- In the Old Testament fire often symbolized the presence of God
- You also see a mighty wind as His revealed presence
- These men and woman were engulfed or baptized in God's presence

Those in the upper room were filled to excess – satiated with the Holy Spirit

- All of them experienced a greater degree of God’s manifest presence in their lives
- In addition to the fire and wind they also began to speak in other tongues

Acts 2:5–8 (NKJV)

⁵ And there were dwelling in Jerusalem Jews, devout men, from every nation under heaven. ⁶ And when this sound occurred, the multitude came together, and were confused, because everyone heard them speak in his own language. ⁷ Then they were all amazed and marveled, saying to one another, “Look, are not all these who speak Galileans? ⁸ And how *is it that* we hear, each in our own language in which we were born?

- Notice, it says, “*when this sound occurred, the multitude came together.*”
- These utterances drew many to those who were speaking in tongues

Many Jews had gathered in Jerusalem for a religious celebration and were from various regions and countries with many mother tongues

- They were astonished because many of them were untrained, yet speaking in different languages
- This expression of God’s Spirit was a sign to those who were not believers yet – **1 Corinthians 14:22**

Acts 2:11–12 (NKJV)

¹¹ Cretans and Arabs—we hear them speaking in our own tongues the wonderful works of God.” ¹² So they were all amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, “Whatever could this mean?”

- This outpouring created an opportunity for Peter to preach one of the greatest sermons recorded in the Bible

Acts 2:32–33 (NKJV)

³² This Jesus God has raised up, of which we are all witnesses. ³³ Therefore being exalted to the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, He poured out this which you now see and hear.

- Notice they all saw and heard the evidence of the Holy Spirit’s power
- Peter’s message cut them to the heart and asked Peter and the apostles, “*Men and brethren, what should we do?*”

Peter told them to repent and be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit

- He also said it was for them, their children and as many as the Lord our God will call
- This Promise is available to every believer – past, present, and future

In the book of Acts there are four additional accounts of people being filled with the Holy Spirit after the day of Pentecost

- In all but one, the infilling of the Spirit and salvation are separate occurrences
- Those who heard and witnessed these infillings, saw, and heard evidence of the Holy Spirit's power

Philip and the Samaritans

Acts 8:12–13 (NKJV)

¹² But when they believed Philip as he preached the things concerning the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, both men and women were baptized. ¹³ Then Simon himself also believed; and when he was baptized he continued with Philip, and was amazed, seeing the miracles and signs which were done.

- As Philip is preaching the Gospel the whole city is experiencing revival
- The lame were healed, unclean spirits driven out, and many received the good news of God's salvation
- We see here that the Samaritans received salvation and were baptized as a sign of their faith in Christ

Yet, we see the leaders in the early church knew there was something more these new believers needed to receive

Acts 8:14–16 (NKJV)

¹⁴ Now when the apostles who were at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them, ¹⁵ who, when they had come down, prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit. ¹⁶ For as yet He had fallen upon none of them. They had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.

Upon hearing that Samaria had received the gospel, the apostles send Peter and John

- Why did the apostles send two of their most respected leaders to pray with them?
- They had already been saved and baptized
- They were there to specifically pray with them to receive the Holy spirit – See verse 15
- They traveled 35 miles
- Remember this wasn't a quick trip down the road, it would have taken at least one or two days

Yes, it is true we receive the Holy Spirit at salvation

1 Corinthians 12:3 (NKJV)

³ Therefore I make known to you that no one speaking by the Spirit of God calls Jesus accursed, and no one can say that Jesus is Lord except by the Holy Spirit.

Confessing Jesus as Lord and being filled are two different things

The Bible is clear that all who are in Christ are sealed by the Holy Spirit – **1 Peter 1:2; Ephesians 1:13**

- There is no doubt that receiving the indwelling presence of the Holy Spirit is part of the salvation experience
- When God sees you, He sees the Spirit of His Son
- You are now repositioned in Christ
- You have become part of His heritage and kingdom
- However, you are not filled with the Spirit's power until you ask

Luke 11:13 (NKJV)

¹³ If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will *your* heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him!”

- Its obvious Jesus is speaking to believers
– “*your heavenly Father*”
- Remember the Spirit of truth is not something the world can receive – **John 14:17**
- Anyone not submitted to Jesus' lordship cannot receive the Holy Spirit
- This asking for the Spirit cannot be referring to salvation

It must pertain to something separate that can only be received by those who are already saved

Acts 8:17–19 (NKJV)

¹⁷ Then they laid hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit. ¹⁸ And when Simon saw that through the laying on of the apostles' hands the Holy Spirit was given, he offered them money, ¹⁹ saying, "Give me this power also, that anyone on whom I lay hands may receive the Holy Spirit."

- Peter and John lay their hands upon the believers and they receive the Holy Spirit
- Note, Simon "*saw*" that the Spirit had been given
- The infilling of the Spirit is clearly evident to our physical senses
- Simon was so amazed by this power that he offered to pay money to impart this power

Throughout the book of Acts, the infilling of the Spirit was typically followed by an outward manifestation that could be seen and heard

- Most commonly in the form of tongues and prophecy
- The apostles would often say the Holy Spirit would "*come upon*" believers
- This account is one of the few where we don't see these gifts in action

However, we can deduce that such a demonstration must have occurred, otherwise Simon, a former sorcerer, would not have seen the evidence of the Spirit's power in the believers

Saul of Tarsus

Acts 9:3–6 (NKJV)

³ As he journeyed he came near Damascus, and suddenly a light shone around him from heaven. ⁴ Then he fell to the ground, and heard a voice saying to him, “Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting Me?” ⁵ And he said, “Who are You, Lord?” Then the Lord said, “I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. It is hard for you to kick against the goads.” ⁶ So he, trembling and astonished, said, “Lord, what do You want me to do?” Then the Lord *said* to him, “Arise and go into the city, and you will be told what you must do.”

- Notice, Saul calls Jesus Lord
- Remember nobody calls Jesus Lord except by the Spirit

I suggest that Saul became a believer as soon as he recognized Jesus’ lordship

- Saul spends the next three days fasting, awaiting further instruction
- The Lord asks a disciple named, Ananias to go to Saul
- He is concerned because of the reputation Saul had of persecuting Christians

Acts 9:15 (NKJV)

¹⁵ But the Lord said to him, “Go, for he is a chosen vessel of Mine to bear My name before Gentiles, kings, and the children of Israel.

Acts 9:17 (NKJV)

¹⁷ And Ananias went his way and entered the house; and laying his hands on him he said, “Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus, who appeared to you on the road as you came, has sent me that you may receive your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit.”

- Again, the infilling of the Holy Spirit occurs after salvation has already been received
- Even though we don't see Paul speaking in tongues we know, from his writings, that he must have

1 Corinthians 14:18 (NKJV)

¹⁸ I thank my God I speak with tongues more than you all

- Paul had to receive the infilling even though he was already saved
- The Holy Spirit was vital in Paul's efforts to declare Jesus before the Gentiles, kings, and children of Israel

Peter and Cornelius

The Bible says that Cornelius was a devout man who feared God, gave to the poor, and prayed to God

- The Gospel has not yet been presented to the Gentiles
- God sends an angel to Cornelius that tells him to send for Peter
- Cornelius does as the angel has requested
- Peter is residing in Joppa
- Peter is praying and falls into a vision

In this vision God shows Peter that he should not call unclean what God has made clean

- God is showing Peter that He is about to take the gospel beyond the Jewish people to the Gentiles
- God gives Peter that same vision three times
- As he ponders the vision Cornelius's men arrive at Peter's door

The Holy Spirit instructs him to go with them even though it would have been against Peter's Jewish customs to go to a house of a Gentile – He goes

Acts 10:28–29 (NKJV)

²⁸ Then he said to them, “You know how unlawful it is for a Jewish man to keep company with or go to one of another nation. But God has shown me that I should not call any man common or unclean. ²⁹ Therefore I came without objection as soon as I was sent for. I ask, then, for what reason have you sent for me?”

- Peter was starting to draw the connection between the vision and the encounter with the devout Gentile
- He begins to preach the Gospel to Cornelius
- Suddenly the Spirit of God manifests
- Peter is shocked because this has never happened before
- The Gentiles start to speak in tongues

Acts 10:45–48 (NKJV)

⁴⁵ And those of the circumcision who believed were astonished, as many as came with Peter, because the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out on the Gentiles also. ⁴⁶ For they heard them speak with tongues and magnify God. Then Peter answered, ⁴⁷ “Can anyone forbid water, that these should not be baptized who have received the Holy Spirit just as we *have*?” ⁴⁸ And he commanded them to be baptized in the name of the Lord. Then they asked him to stay a few days.

- Again, they saw and heard the manifestation of God’s power among them – The infilling of the Holy Spirit
- In every other instance of the outpouring of the God’s Spirit it is after salvation
- Perhaps God did this as a special sign to the Jews that He was sending this gift to the Gentiles as well

The Ephesians

Paul is in the midst of one of his many journeys when he comes to Ephesus

- Upon his arrival he encounters some disciples of John the Baptist
- The very first question he asks if they have received the Holy Spirit

If this is so important that it’s the first thing he asks them shouldn’t it be important to ask the same of every person who’s been born again

Acts 19:2 (NKJV)

² he said to them, “Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?” So they said to him, “We have not so much as heard whether there is a Holy Spirit.”

- Why would any of us want to live without power?

This was so important to the early church because it is essential to our mission in Christ – See [Acts 1:8](#)

To be effective in our Father’s Kingdom we must be both positioned (*salvation*) and empowered from the Holy Spirit (*infilling of the Spirit*)

Paul discovers that they have not even heard the good news of salvation through Jesus

- He begins to preach to them
- They get baptized in the name of Jesus (*salvation*)
- Paul then lays hands on them to receive power (*the infilling of the Spirit*)

Acts 19:5–6 (NKJV)

⁵ When they heard *this*, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. ⁶ And when Paul had laid hands on them, the Holy Spirit came upon them, and they spoke with tongues and prophesied.

- It is only possible to declare the mysteries of God by knowing the Holy Spirit – [1 Corinthians 2](#)