



Connection Group Questions
May 23, 2021
Series: Pentecost 2021

“Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off— for all whom the Lord our God will call.”
~ Acts 2:38-39

Pentecost is about the birth of the church and the outpouring of the Holy Spirit. There are actually three "mini-pentecosts" that happened in the years following the first Pentecost described in Acts 2. These events happened in Samaria (Acts 8:14-17) , at Cornelius' home (Acts 10:44-48) and in the city of Ephesus (Acts 19:1-6).

Take the time to read each of the stories individually, or if you prefer, as a Group.

- *What happened?*
- *What is the order of events?*
- *What role did the Apostles play?*
- *What role did preaching or teaching play?*
- *How was the Holy Spirit involved?*
- *What signs and wonders were displayed?*
- *When were they displayed?*
- *What were the results after the event?*

After examining each story what is your conclusion- *are these stories prescriptive of how the Holy Spirit works and what the church should espouse, or are they descriptive and not instructive for the church today? Either way, what “rules” or guidelines for worship and ministry can we glean from the texts? How should these stories guide worship services and missionary activity?*

Bonus Study:

Five things unify the church around the work of the Holy Spirit: salvation, dwelling, help, gifts and fruits. Are you experience growth and filling in each of these areas?

First, the power to be saved

1 Corinthians 12: 3 Therefore I want you to know that no one who is speaking by the Spirit of God says, “Jesus be cursed,” and no one can say, “Jesus is Lord,” except by the Holy Spirit.

Second, living temples

1 Corinthians 3:16 “Do you not know that you are God’s temple and that God’s Spirit dwells in you?”

Third, a helper who teaches and reminds

In John 14:26 Jesus told his disciples, “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 have said to you” (John 14:26). The Greek word “Parakletos” in this passage is translated “Helper” in the ESV, “Advocate” in the NIV, and “Counselor” in the KJV. The meaning of this word relates “legal counsel.” The Holy Spirit provides wise counsel to Christ’s followers. Jesus knew he would be going away and that his followers would need the Holy Spirit as a helper and an advocate to remind them of his teachings.

Fourth, gifts for everyone

Every person who is regenerated to faith in Jesus is also baptized by the Spirit and given gifts. Spiritual gifts. These are different than your natural talents. These are gifts given to you by the spirit for you to fulfill your calling and good works. There are several passages in the Bible that speak of these gifts. In alphabetical order we have: Administration, Apostle, Discernment, Evangelism, Exhortation, Faith, Giving, Healing, Helping, Hospitality, Knowledge, Leadership, Mercy, Prophecy, Serving, Speaking in tongues, Teaching/Shepherding, Wisdom (Romans 12 and 1 Corinthians 12)

Fifth, fruit

The work of the Holy Spirit in a Christian’s life is an on-going process of becoming holy through sanctification. Through the conviction and power of the Holy Spirit, believers will not indulge the sinful acts of the flesh (Galatians 5:16-21) but will bear the good fruit of the Spirit (Galatians 5:22-25).