

BAPTISM OF THE SPIRIT

PENTECOST SUNDAY 2026

Introduction: Last week, we saw that keeping the Law and rules could not change the human heart.

- The Holy Spirit had to be involved.
- Who / What is the Holy Spirit?

Genesis 1:2 *Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters.*

- Spirit of God was at Creation

Genesis 2:7 *The Lord God formed the man from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living being.*

- “breath of life” and “spirit” are closely linked in Scripture.

1. The Promise of the Old Testament

- People in OT times became increasingly aware of their inability to keep God’s Law.
- God began to speak through His prophets, not just about the Messiah, but also about His Spirit.

Isaiah 44:3 *For I will pour water on the thirsty land and streams on the dry ground; I will pour out my Spirit on your offspring, and my blessing on your descendants.*

- Spirit was like water poured out on a thirsty land.

Ezekiel 36:26-27 *I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh. And I will put my Spirit in you and move you to follow my decrees and be careful to keep my laws.*

- New heart
- Spirit move you to follow my decrees.

Zechariah 12:10 *I will pour out on the house of David and the inhabitants of Jerusalem a spirit of grace and supplication. They will look on me, the one they have pierced, and they will mourn for him as one mourns for an only child, and grieve bitterly for him as one who grieves for a firstborn son.*

- Revival in Israel and will recognise Jesus who was killed on their watch.

2. The Promise of the New Testament

Matthew 3:11-12 *I baptise you with water for repentance. But after me will come one who is more powerful than I, whose sandals I am not fit to carry. He will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and* *with* *fire.*

His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor, gathering wheat into the barn and burning up the chaff with unquenchable fire.

- Spirit baptism – speaks of:
 - Life
 - Of power
 - Purifying presence
- Marks you:
 - To be gathered
 - Preserved (kept safe)

Acts 1:5,8 *...For John baptises with water, but in a few days you will be baptised with the Holy Spirit...you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.*

- Power for witnessing.

3. The Promise Fulfilled

Acts 2:1-4 *When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven, and filled the whole house where they were sitting. They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them.*

- Wind and tongues of fire are not common.

Acts 2:4 *All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them.*

- Key words: filled; speaking in tongues

Acts 2:11b *...we hear them declaring the wonders of God in our own tongues!*

- Filled – them speaks

Acts 4:8 *Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them: “Rulers and elders of the people!...”*

Acts 4:31 *After they prayed, the place where they were meeting was shaken. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the word of God boldly.*

- Filled -spoke boldly

Acts 8:17 *Then Peter and John placed their hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.*

- Received by laying on of hands.
- When people receive it, it is obvious.

Acts 9:17b *“...he sent me so that you may see again and be filled with the Holy Spirit.”*

Acts 10:44, 46 *While Peter was still speaking these words, the Holy Spirit came on all who heard the message...For they heard them speaking in tongues and praising God.*

- Came upon; speaking in tongues; praising God.

Acts 19: 2,6 *...and he asked them, “Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?” They answered, “no, we have not even heard that there is a Holy Spirit.” ...When Paul placed his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came on them, and they spoke in tongues and prophesied.*

- Came on them.
- Spoke in other tongues
- Prophesied (spoke God’s message)

4. The Promise Received

(a) Desire / Hunger after God

- Being born again starts with repentance.
 - Repentance is a change of mind toward God followed by a change of direction.

Romans 10:9-10 *If you confess with your mouth “Jesus is Lord,” and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved.*

- Confess Jesus is Lord:
 - He is your redeemer
 - He is your Saviour
 - He is your #1.
- Believe with your heart - justification
- Confess – by our confession we are saved.
- You are made spiritually alive (born again) and therefore saved.

(b) Desire More of the Spirit

- Prepare and pray
- Thirsty people get filled
- Focus on the giver, not the gift.

Titus 3:5 *He saved us, not because of the righteous things we had done, but because of His mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit...*