

# Lesson 7

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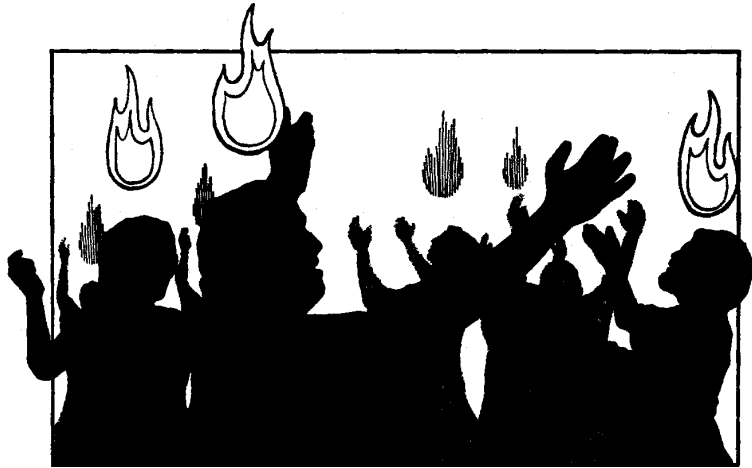
## The Spirit Who Empowers

Teaching in a Bible college has always been exiting for me as I watch the Holy Spirit work in the lives of the students. The transforming work He performs in the lives of students never ceases to amaze me!

Many students come to Bible school with what seems to be little talent for public ministry; however, they generally come with a conviction that God has called them. Then as they study, pray, and give themselves to the Holy Spirit, a miracle gradually takes place. As the Holy Spirit comes to control them more fully, anoint their yielded native talents, and enlighten their minds through systematic study, all kinds of abilities begin to emerge. As a bud gradually opens up to the morning dew and the rising sun to become a beautiful, fully-developed flower, these students develop in the Spirit from day to day. By the time graduation arrives, they are ready for the ministry to which God has called them. They leave the school and go out to become successful pastors, evangelists, or missionaries.

This enablement of the Spirit has been in evidence from the time God called His first witnesses. While some, such as the apostle Paul, were highly educated, many of the greatest among them came from very humble beginnings. Whatever the background, training, or native abilities of the human vessels, the factor which helped them turn the world upside down was not human eloquence or superior wisdom but the demonstration of the Spirit's power (1 Corinthians 2:1-5).

In this lesson you will learn that when the Holy Spirit comes into your life in baptismal fullness, He will help you to be an effective worker in the kingdom of God. The same power that was available to Old Testament men of God and New Testament disciples is available for you today!



## **lesson outline**

Old Testament Characters  
New Testament Disciples  
Twentieth-Century Believers

## **lesson objectives**

When you finish this lesson you should be able to:

- Give examples from the Old Testament of the Holy Spirit's anointing in the lives of men chosen by God.
- Describe the change in New Testament disciples after the outpouring of the Holy Spirit on the Day of Pentecost and results of the change.
- Relate the modern-day outpouring of the Spirit to the purpose of world evangelization and hastening the coming of the Lord.

## learning activities

1. Study the lesson as instructed in the learning activities for Lesson 1. Read all Scripture texts indicated and answer all of the study questions.
2. Take the self-test and check your answers.
3. Review Lessons 4–7 and then answer the questions in Unit Student Report 2.

## key words

accomplishments	endowment	pentecostal
charismatic	fulfillment	presumptuous
concentration	impulsive	receptive
confirms	indwelling	recipient
contradictions	infilling	spontaneous
empowering	Pentateuch	

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## lesson development

### OLD TESTAMENT CHARACTERS

#### In the Pentateuch

**Objective 1.** *State the purpose for which God sent the Holy Spirit upon chosen men during the time described in the Pentateuch.*

*Pentateuch* is the name given to the first five books of the Old Testament: Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy. They are often called “the books of Moses” since it is commonly accepted that Moses is the human author of these five books.

The accent on the Holy Spirit in these five books, and in all of the Old Testament, is definitely more on what He *does* than what He *is*. The Old Testament says almost nothing about the personality of the Holy Spirit, but it is filled with miraculous works of the Spirit, beginning with creative acts in Genesis 1.

The emphasis in the Old Testament is on the Holy Spirit's *coming upon men* for a specific service to be performed. The indwelling presence of the Holy Spirit, however, is a New Testament phenomenon. This is confirmed in the words of John: "Up to that time the Spirit had not been given, since Jesus had not yet been glorified" (John 7:39), and the words of Jesus when He was speaking of the coming Holy Spirit: "But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you" (John 14:17).

By way of comparison, we can say that, on the basis of biblical evidence, Old Testament personalities enjoyed the occasional presence of the Holy Spirit on their lives to enable them to accomplish specific tasks to which God assigned them; whereas, New Testament believers enjoy the indwelling presence of the Holy Spirit on a permanent basis. First, the Spirit comes to the believer as the agent of regeneration. Then, as we shall see (Matthew 3:11; Mark 1:8; John 1:33; Acts 1:5), believers are baptized into the Holy Spirit and receive Him in baptismal fullness.

The Holy Spirit began to deal with men immediately after the Fall. He found men like Noah, Abraham, Isaac, and even Jacob who were receptive to His dealings. Even though little is said specifically about the Holy Spirit in references to these men, we know they were led by Him as they were obedient to God. God's Spirit works in the lives of men without drawing attention to Himself. His *work* is often seen in the Old Testament even when He is not mentioned by name.

There are also, in the Old Testament, specific references to the work of the Holy Spirit in the lives of men. Who are some of the others used mightily by the Holy Spirit in the Pentateuch?

1. *Joseph* is the first mentioned as a man "in whom is the Spirit of God" (Genesis 41:38). Pharaoh recognized this quality in Joseph because of his supernatural ability to interpret dreams. The Spirit of God in or upon Joseph enabled him to resist temptation and become the overseer of an entire nation.

2. *Moses* was chosen by God to lead the Israelites out of Egypt. Isaiah tells that Moses was God's shepherd of Israel, and

that God “set his Holy Spirit among them” (Isaiah 63:11). Isaiah further reports that “they were given rest by the Spirit of the Lord” (Isaiah 63:14).

When it was time to build a tabernacle for the Lord, God spoke to Moses and told him He had chosen a foreman for the job, saying “I have filled him with the Spirit of God, with skill, ability, and knowledge in all kinds of crafts” (Exodus 31:2-3). The foreman was given divine ability in all the skills necessary to build the Lord’s house.

When Moses became overwhelmed by the burdens of his people and complained to God, the Lord gave the Holy Spirit to seventy elders to assist Moses in meeting the needs of the people.

**1** Read Numbers 11:10-17 and 24-25 and answer these questions:

**a** What verse indicates that the Holy Spirit was upon Moses?

.....

**b** What method did God use to give the Holy Spirit to the seventy elders?

.....

**c** As the Spirit rested on these seventy elders, what did they all do? .....

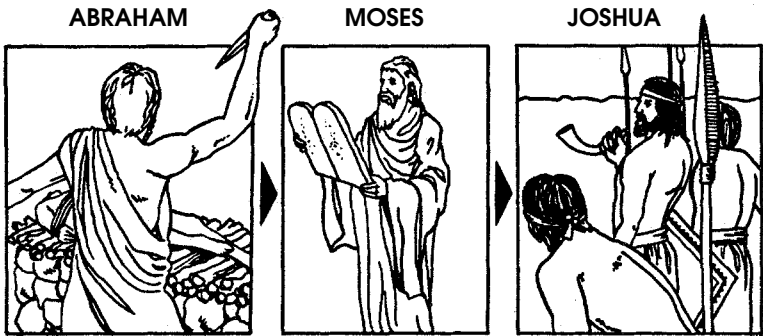
3. *Joshua* was chosen by the Lord to be the successor of Moses. The Lord said to Moses: “Take Joshua . . . a man in whom is the spirit [or Spirit] and lay your hand on him” (Numbers 27:18). It was in the power of the Spirit that Joshua was able to lead his people to take possession of the Promised Land. At the beginning of his period of leadership this was written of him: “Now Joshua son of Nun was filled with the spirit [or Spirit] of wisdom because Moses had laid his hands on him” (Deuteronomy 34:9). So from Egypt to Canaan, Israel was led by leaders empowered by the Holy Spirit.

While it may on occasion seem to be helpful to say that the Spirit was *on* Old Testament personalities and *in* New Testament believers, this device does not solve the difference satisfactorily. Biblical evidence indicates that it is better to say that in the Old

Testament the Spirit’s enablement was selective and occasional whereas in the New Testament it is general and permanent. It is evident that each of the foregoing examples indicates a long-term need for and experience of the Spirit’s enablement.

2 State the purpose for which God sent the Holy Spirit to rest upon each of the men listed below:

- a Joseph .....
- b Moses .....
- c The seventy elders .....
- d Joshua .....
- e Based upon the evidence given in each of the above cases, was the Spirit’s enablement a short-term or a long-term experience?  
.....



LED BY THE HOLY SPIRIT

**In the Historical Books**

**Objective 2.** State a principle that can be learned from the lives of Samson, Saul, and David.

The book of Joshua records the many victories of the Israelites as they moved into Canaan under Joshua’s leadership and took possession of the land. Joshua’s Spirit-anointed leadership can be summed up by what is written in Joshua 24:31:

Israel served the Lord throughout the lifetime of Joshua and of the elders who outlived him and who had experienced everything the Lord had done for Israel.

Judges 2: 10-12 tells what happened next:

After that whole generation had been gathered to their fathers, another generation grew up, who knew neither the Lord nor what he had done for Israel. Then the Israelites did evil in the eyes of the Lord and served the Baals. They forsook the Lord, the God of their fathers, who had brought them out of Egypt.

As a result of this, the judgment of the Lord came upon them, and He allowed the Israelites to be overcome by their enemies whenever they went out to fight. Judges 2:16 tells us, “Then the Lord raised up judges.”

During the times of the judges the power of the Holy Spirit was especially apparent. There were many failures on the part of those who were chosen to deliver God’s people from the cruelty of their enemies, but God used the judges in spite of their weaknesses.

Altogether there were 13 judges who ruled Israel over a period of about 300 years. The stories of *Gideon* and *Samson* tell of humanly impossible accomplishments as the Spirit of the Lord came upon them.

**3** Read Judges 6:11-15. When the Lord appeared to Gideon, what kind of man did Gideon describe himself as being?

.....

Because Gideon was obedient to the instructions of the angel of the Lord, the Spirit of the Lord came upon him (Judges 6:34); God used Gideon to deliver Israel from the innumerable forces of Midian with only 300 selected men.

Samson is a lesson to all who would take the Spirit of God for granted in their life and ministry for God. He was prepared to lead Israel even before his birth (see Judges chapters 13-16). When he was still a young boy, “the Lord blessed him, and the Spirit of the Lord began to stir him” (Judges 13:24-25).

**4** Read Judges 14:6, 19; and 15:14. What is written about Samson in all of these verses?

.....

Samson was set apart unto God from birth, and God chose him to deliver Israel from the Philistines. However, Samson was not obedient to his vow unto the Lord.

**5** Read Judges 16:15-20. What happened when Samson broke his vow and revealed the source of his strength?

.....

.....

When the people of Israel insisted on a man for their king (1 Samuel 8:4-5), God gave them Saul. The prophet Samuel told Saul,

“The Spirit of the Lord will come upon you in power, and you will prophesy with them; and you will be changed into a different person” (1 Samuel 10:6).

This prophecy was fulfilled that very day, and God used Saul mightily in the beginning of his career as king of Israel, but, like Samson, he did not continue to respect and obey God. Thus, the most tragic words that can be written of a person were written of him.

**6** Read 1 Samuel 16:14. What are these tragic words?

.....

At the same time, the Holy Spirit was preparing a young shepherd boy to become the king of Israel. The Scriptures tell how Samuel found him, took the horn of oil and anointed him, “and from that day on the Spirit of the Lord came upon David in power” (1 Samuel 16:13).

David is one of the few Old Testament characters upon whom the Spirit of the Lord rested continuously. His accomplishments would have been impossible without the omnipotent Holy Spirit who rested upon him.



David was very aware of the need for the Holy Spirit's presence in his life. When he had sinned, he repented, and cried out to God, "Do not cast me from your presence or take your Holy Spirit from me" (Psalm 51:11).

7 What principle can be learned from the failure of Samson, Saul, and David, concerning the presence of the Holy Spirit in their lives?

### In the Prophets

**Objective 3.** *Recognize a statement which reflects the attitude of the Old Testament prophets concerning their need for the Holy Spirit in their lives.*

The Holy Spirit used the writing prophets to play a major role in the latter history of Israel. Their writings make up a significant portion of Old Testament Scripture.

The prophet *Micah* said of himself what could be said of all genuine prophets of God: "But as for me, I am filled with power, with the Spirit of the Lord" (Micah 3:8).

*Ezekiel* told how the Spirit lifted him up between the earth and heaven and took him in visions to Jerusalem (Ezekiel 8:3).

The Holy Spirit's presence in *Daniel* was recognized by the heathen king Nebuchadnezzar, who said to Daniel: "I know that the spirit of the holy gods is in you, and no mystery is too difficult for you" (Daniel 4:9).

New Testament writers were quick to recognize the anointing of the Holy Spirit on the prophets. Paul told the Jews at Rome, "The Holy Spirit spoke the truth to your forefathers when he said through *Isaiah* the prophet: . . ." (Acts 28:25).

The writer to the Hebrews quotes (10:15-17) Jeremiah 31:33-34, saying "The Holy Spirit also testifies about this . . ." That is, the words from Jeremiah's writing were recognized as the words of the Holy Spirit.

The apostle Peter confirms the work of the Holy Spirit in the prophets by his words in 2 Peter 1:20-21:

Above all, you must understand that no prophecy of Scripture came about by the prophet's own interpretation. For prophecy never had its origin in the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.

- 8** Which of the following statements best reflects the attitude of the Old Testament prophets concerning their need for the Holy Spirit in their lives? Circle the letter preceding your choice.
- a) David's request: "Do not cast me from your presence or take your Holy Spirit from me" (Psalm 51:11).
  - b) Zechariah's declaration: "'Not by might nor by power, but by my Spirit,' says the Lord Almighty" (Zechariah 4:6).
  - c) Micah's statement: "But as for me, I am filled with power, with the Spirit of the Lord" (Micah 3:8).

## **NEW TESTAMENT DISCIPLES**

**Objective 4.** *Contrast and analyze the witness of the apostle Peter before and at Pentecost.*

### **Before Pentecost**

The main concentration of the Holy Spirit in the New Testament prior to Pentecost was on the Person and work of Jesus. We have already discussed the ministry of Jesus in Lesson 5, in the section *The Living Word*, so we will not repeat it in this lesson.

A few New Testament people received a special enablement of the Holy Spirit prior to Pentecost for a specific purpose. They are:

1. John the Baptist (Luke 1:15)
2. Parents of John the Baptist (Luke 1:41, 67)
3. Mary, mother of Jesus (Matthew 1:18, 20)
4. Simeon (Luke 2:25)

The Holy Spirit did not work directly with the disciples except on special occasions when they were sent out by Jesus to minister. (See Matthew 10:1; Mark 3:13-15; Mark 6:7; Luke

9:1; and Luke 10:19). These Scriptures indicate that as Jesus sent the disciples out to minister, He gave them *authority* to do miracles in His name. Earlier we saw that He received His authority from the Holy Spirit. He gave this same authority to the disciples for the purpose of ministry.

Most of the time, the disciples were with Jesus. He was their divine Teacher. They watched Him, listened to Him, and tried to imitate Him, but often they failed. He was able to be *with* them during that time, but not *in* them. They would not be able to fully share the power that rested on Him until after His death and resurrection. As the apostle John later wrote, “Up to that time the Spirit had not been given, since Jesus had not yet been glorified” (John 7:39).

The history of the disciples before and after Pentecost reminds me of advertisements which contrast how persons are *before* they use the product advertised and how they are *after* using the product. For example:

The weakling becomes a muscle-man.  
 The plain little maiden becomes a beautiful model.  
 The poor tenant farmer becomes a rich landlord.  
 The sweating laborer becomes a powerful manager.

The purpose of these advertisements is to convince people that they can experience the same success if they will use the product.

A study of the apostle Peter *before* and *after* Pentecost is convincing proof of the change in a person’s life which takes place as a result of the infilling of the Holy Spirit. In this section we will consider what Peter was like *before* Pentecost.

### **PETER BEFORE PENTECOST**

1. Impulsive (acted without thought)—Matthew 14:28; 17:4; John 21:7
2. Full of contradictions:
  - a. Presumptuous—Matthew 16:22; John 13:8; 18:10
  - Timid and cowardly—Matthew 14:30; 26:69-72

- b. Both self-seeking and self-sacrificing—Matthew 19:27; Mark 1:18
  - c. Sometimes had spiritual insight and other times showed lack of understanding of spiritual truths—John 6:68; Matthew 15:15-16
  - d. Made two confessions of faith in Christ—Matthew 16:16; John 6:69  
Was guilty of a cowardly denial of Christ—Mark 14:67-71  
Followed afar off—Matthew 26:58
3. Associated with evil men—John 18:18
4. Guilty of blasphemy—Mark 14:70-71

SHIFTING SAND

On the resurrection evening Jesus appeared to His disciples and gave them a preview of what was to come. He breathed on them and said, “Receive the Holy Spirit” (John 20:22). Many see in this command a reference to the work of the Spirit in regeneration, for He is the active agent in regeneration. This act confirmed that He had finished the work of restoring man to God. However, He did not at that time baptize them in the Holy Spirit. When Jesus met with them later, He referred to the baptism in the Holy Spirit as still to come (Acts 1:4, 8).

**9** Which of these statements explains how the disciples were able to maintain their faith in Christ prior to Pentecost?

- a) They studied the Scriptures and went to the temple daily to pray.
- b) They had the presence of the Holy Spirit without the power.
- c) They were with Jesus most of the time, learning from Him.

### At Pentecost

Finally the day came that Jesus had promised. The sound of heavenly wind filled the upper room where the disciples and other believers were waiting. They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. As they breathed in the divine presence, they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in languages they had never learned. The Holy Spirit was giving them the words to say (Acts 2:1-4).

It was exactly as John the Baptist and Jesus had promised. They were being baptized in the Holy Spirit and fire (Matthew 3:11; Acts 1:5). Jesus had promised they would speak in new languages, and it was happening as they spoke the words the Holy Spirit gave to them (Mark 16:17).

There were thousands of God-fearing Jews in Jerusalem from all the surrounding nations. They had come for the Feast of Pentecost. When they heard the sounds from the upper room, a great crowd gathered. The crowd was bewildered because each person heard someone speaking his own language.

“Are not all these men who are speaking Galileans?” they asked. “Then how is it that each of us hears them in his own native language?” (Acts 2:7-8).

Some made fun of them and said they had taken too much wine, but Peter stood up and explained what had happened. He preached that Christ was alive and this was the fulfillment of His promise to send the Holy Spirit.

Many were convicted by the Holy Spirit and cried out, “What shall we do?” Peter answered,

“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” (Acts 2:37-38).

Three thousand responded and were baptized. It was a great day for the church—in fact, in one sense, it was the day of its birth! (Acts 2:1-41).

**10** Review Acts 1 and 2 again. Which of the disciples took leadership after the ascension of Christ?

.....

### **After Pentecost**

The power of Pentecost did not cease with the passing of the Day of Pentecost. That day was only the beginning of the age of special activity by the Holy Spirit. Through Christ’s death and resurrection, the way had been opened for the Holy Spirit to come and live in the hearts of the believers.

The Day of Pentecost had brought the baptism in the Holy Spirit, that special enduement of power that Jesus promised would make them His effective witnesses. The success of the disciples after Pentecost is summarized in Hebrews 2:4:

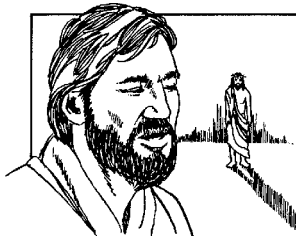
“God also testified to it by signs, wonders and various miracles, and gifts of the Holy Spirit distributed according to his will.”

Peter is a good example of what happened *after Pentecost*. Compare this chart with the one *before Pentecost*.

<b>PETER AFTER PENTECOST</b>	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Became a powerful preacher and leader in the early church—Acts chapters 1-5 and 10-12</li> <li>2. Gave a powerful confession of Christ—John 1:42; Matthew 16:18; Acts 1:8</li> <li>3. Performed miracles—Acts 3:7; 5:15; 9:34, 40</li> <li>4. Was courageous and bold—Acts 4:19-20; 5:28-29, 40, 42</li> <li>5. Was an encouragement and a good example to the suffering, early church—1 Peter</li> <li>6. Gave instruction to the church concerning false teachers and scoffers—2 Peter</li> </ol>	<b>SOLID ROCK</b>

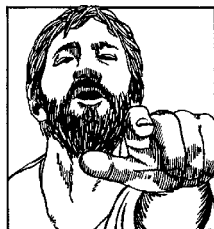
If you compare this chart with our previous chart, you will see that the infilling of the Holy Spirit made the difference in Peter’s ability to witness effectively for his Lord. Instead of cowardly denial he gave a powerful and effective witness to multitudes of Christ’s saving grace.

**PETER BEFORE . . .**



**“I KNOW HIM NOT”**

**AND AFTER**



**“JESUS IS LORD”**

The revival which began in Jerusalem when Peter preached his powerful sermon on the Day of Pentecost was taken to Samaria by a Spirit-filled deacon named Philip. People believed the gospel message and were baptized in water. Many miracles took place; however, no one was baptized in the Holy Spirit. So Peter and John were sent down from Jerusalem. They laid hands on the new believers, who received the Holy Spirit (Acts 8:4-17).

The next recorded reception of the Holy Spirit was by the newly converted Saul of Tarsus, who became Paul. When Ananias prayed for him, Saul was filled with the Holy Spirit and became the great apostle to the Gentiles (Acts 9:17).

The first pentecostal contact with the Gentiles, however, was made by the apostle Peter. The Spirit sent Peter, against the apostle's will, to the house of Cornelius. As he preached to a crowd of Gentiles, the Holy Spirit fell on all who heard his message. Peter was astonished because he heard them speak in tongues just as he had done on the Day of Pentecost. Later, when he was defending himself before the Jewish brethren, Peter recalled how John the Baptist had promised that Jesus would baptize them in the Holy Spirit. He identified the experience of the Gentiles with that baptism (Acts 10:1-11:18).

Twenty years later the apostle Paul visited the city of Ephesus and found some disciples there. His first recorded question was, "Did you receive the Holy Spirit when [or after] you believed?" (Acts 19:2). They confessed they had not even heard that there was a Holy Spirit. Paul taught them, baptized them in the name of the Lord Jesus, and laid his hands on them. The Holy Spirit came upon them and they spoke in tongues and prophesied (Acts 19:1-7).

The apostles Peter and Paul, along with James, John, and Jude, were empowered by the Holy Spirit to give us the New Testament Epistles—the Christian's guide to life in the Spirit. Their powerful witness, which they received from the infilling of the Holy Spirit, is still ministering to lives today!

**11** Contrast the experience of Peter before and after Pentecost, based on the two charts we have given. Then match the time periods (right) with the descriptions of Peter (left). Write the number of your choice in each blank space.

- |        |  |                     |
|--------|--|---------------------|
| .... a | Courageous                             | 1) Before Pentecost |
| .... b | An unworthy example                    | 2) After Pentecost  |
| .... c | Unstable as Christ's witness           |                     |
| .... d | Fearful and full of contradictions     |                     |
| .... e | A powerful leader and dynamic preacher |                     |
| .... f | A cowardly blasphemer                  |                     |
| .... g | Impulsive                              |                     |
| .... h | A "model" spiritual leader             |                     |

## TWENTIETH-CENTURY BELIEVERS

**Objective 5.** *Explain the purpose of the modern-day charismatic movement in relation to Bible prophecy.*

There has been an outpouring of the Holy Spirit upon the earth ever since the Day of Pentecost, but in the early centuries of the church it was not widespread. The early Christian leaders such as Tertullian (A.D. 160-220), Origen (A.D. 185-254), and Chrysostom (c. A.D. 400), wrote about outpourings of the Spirit with speaking in tongues as on the Day of Pentecost. On through the Medieval Period, the Protestant revivals, and up to the twentieth century, in seasons of special revival there are reports of Holy Spirit outpourings accompanied by speaking in tongues and supernatural ability to witness.

In Acts chapter 2 Peter quoted the prophecy of Joel that the *last day outpouring of the Holy Spirit would precede the great and glorious day of the Lord* (Acts 2:17-21). Peter said the promise of the gift of the Holy Spirit is for "all whom the Lord our God will call" (Acts 2:39). This includes twentieth century Christians! From all the evidence, we appear to be living in the last days. This means



that the great and glorious day of the Lord is soon to come, and people of our century are still being called to the Lord.

**12** According to Acts 1:8, the purpose for the outpouring of the Holy Spirit on the Day of Pentecost was to give believers what?

.....

**13** According to Acts 2:38-39, how long was this outpouring to continue?

.....

.....

The modern-day pentecostal outpouring began in many parts of the world at about the same time. One example of this outpouring occurred in the United States in a Bible college in Topeka, Kansas. The students in Topeka, hungry for a deeper experience in God, saw the experiences of early Christians in the New Testament church as normative; therefore, they studied the book of Acts. In response to their faith and prevailing prayer, the Holy Spirit descended to satisfy their spiritual hunger. On January 1, 1901, the first student was filled with the Spirit, and soon many others experienced the infilling of the Spirit. As they were baptized in the Holy Spirit, they spoke in other languages as the Spirit enabled them. The revival spread to Galena, Kansas, and by 1903 it had extended to Houston, Texas, and throughout Texas. By early 1906 more than 1000 people were filled.

In 1906 a black preacher from Houston, W. J. Seymour, went to California to preach, and revival broke out in the Azusa Street Mission. The meeting lasted for three years, day and night, without a break, and there was a continuous pentecostal outpouring of the Holy Spirit with speaking in other languages and miracles. From there the revival spread all over the United States and Canada.

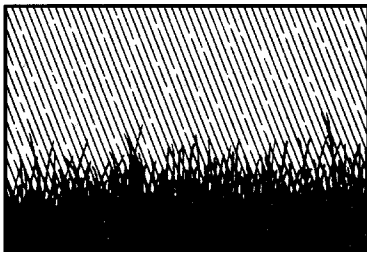
At the same time, similar spontaneous outpourings of the Holy Spirit were reported in Great Britain, Norway, Denmark, Sweden, France; Germany, and India. The first pentecostal missionary landed in China in October, 1907. Within five or six months, 700 Chinese nationals and missionaries were baptized

in the Spirit. By 1909 the pentecostal revival had reached Egypt, Africa, and South America.

Just before the middle of our century, the Holy Spirit began to move in healing power. Evangelists with special gifts of the Holy Spirit conducted great city-wide crusades with thousands in attendance. Miracles of healing took place that had not been in public witness since New Testament times. This move of the Holy Spirit was also a worldwide witness.

In our time we are witnessing a tremendous outpouring of God's Spirit. This move of the Spirit is no longer limited to pentecostal churches as it was at the turn of this century. Instead, we are witnessing the outpouring of God's Spirit on Christians of many different denominations. Since the emphasis is on the baptism in the Holy Spirit and the accompanying *charismata* or gifts, the move has been referred to as *charismatic*. The most significant fact, however, is that the Holy Spirit is bringing the book of Acts experience to people of all denominations, and it is happening all over the world. *This is considered to be a move of the Holy Spirit to prepare the true church of Jesus Christ for His second coming.*

FIRST THE RAIN . . .



**HOLY SPIRIT  
OUTPOURING**

. . . THEN THE HARVEST



**SALVATION  
FOR ALL**

A closer analysis of Peter's sermon at Pentecost points out several significant factors. The outpouring of the Spirit, together with the unveiling of supernatural phenomena in heaven above and on earth below—all these are to be accompanied by a universal challenge to heed God's call and be saved (compare Acts 2:17-21 with Matthew 24:3-14). Moreover, when we compare the facts Jesus presents in Matthew 24:14 with Peter's

address at Pentecost, we are led to believe that there is a positive correlation between the outpouring of the Spirit and the challenge to evangelize the world. Jesus said,

“And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come” (Matthew 24:14).

**14** Based upon our evaluation of Matthew 24:3-14 and the foregoing text, choose the best completion to the following statement: Jesus told the disciples that His second coming would take place when

- a) the gospel had been preached in the whole world as a testimony to all nations.
- b) there were rumors of wars, famines, and earthquakes all over the world.
- c) false teachers come proclaiming “I am Christ.”

**15** Based upon our discussion in this section, what is the purpose of the modern-day outpouring of the Holy Spirit as it relates to Jesus’ second coming? (See also Acts 1:8.)

.....  
 .....

Are you a recipient of the Holy Spirit outpouring which has swept the earth in these last days? Have you received power to witness where God has placed you? Are you fulfilling your responsibility to give the message to the world? The power of the Holy Spirit which sent the disciples out to reach their world is available to you now. Jesus will come again as soon as the gospel message is preached in the whole world as a testimony to all nations. He has entrusted that message to us. How glorious it is that, with the power of the Holy Spirit in us and upon us, we can work to hasten the coming of our Lord!

**self-test**

TRUE-FALSE. If the statement is TRUE, write **T** in the blank space. If it is FALSE, write **F**.

- .... **1** The emphasis in the Old Testament is on the personality of the Holy Spirit rather than on His actions.
- .... **2** Old Testament believers did not receive the same general outpouring of the Holy Spirit that was experienced by those who lived after Pentecost.
- .... **3** The Holy Spirit came upon men in the Old Testament to enable them to fulfill a specific function for God.
- .... **4** Samson and Saul are examples of Old Testament men who enjoyed the presence of the Holy Spirit without interruption.
- .... **5** The Holy Spirit will depart from a person who is rebellious and disobedient.
- .... **6** The period of the judges was a time of constant victory for the Israelites as they were led of the Spirit.
- .... **7** The Old Testament prophets recognized that they could do nothing without the power of the Holy Spirit.
- .... **8** The main concentration of the Holy Spirit prior to Pentecost was upon the twelve disciples chosen by Jesus.
- .... **9** A study of one of the disciples before and after Pentecost reveals how the Holy Spirit can change a weak man into a powerful witness.
- .... **10** The outpouring of the Holy Spirit has continued in the world since the Day of Pentecost.
- .... **11** Jesus will return as soon as everyone has been filled with the Holy Spirit.
- .... **12** The present-day outpouring of the Holy Spirit has reached into many denominations throughout the world in what appears to be the preparation of the true church of Jesus Christ for His second coming.

Before you continue your study with Lesson 8, be sure to complete your unit student report for Unit Two and return the answer sheet to your ICI instructor.

**answers to study questions**

**8** While all the statements reflect the prophets' dependence on the Holy Spirit, a) and c) seem to refer a bit more to personal life than prophetic ministry. I would choose answer b) because it expresses the dependence of all the prophets on the Holy Spirit.

**1 a** Verse 17.

**b** He took of the Spirit that was on Moses and put the Spirit on them. (Thus, the same wisdom and power that Moses had by the help of the Spirit was given to them.)

**c** They all prophesied on this one occasion.

**9 c)** They were with Jesus most of the time, learning from Him.

**2 a** To interpret dreams; to become an overseer.

**b** To lead His people out of Egypt.

**c** To help Moses meet the needs of the people.

**d** To lead His people into the Promised Land (Canaan).

**e** The Spirit's enablement was a relatively long-term experience in each case.

**10** Peter.

**3** He was from the weakest clan, and he was the least important member of his family.

**11 a** 2) After Pentecost.

**b** 1) Before Pentecost.

**c** 1) Before Pentecost.

**d** 1) Before Pentecost.

**e** 2) After Pentecost.

**f** 1) Before Pentecost.

**g** 1) Before Pentecost. (Generally, he was far less impulsive after Pentecost)

**h** 2) After Pentecost.

**4** "The Spirit of the Lord came upon him in power."

**12** Power to witness about Jesus Christ everywhere on earth.

- 5** The implication is that the Spirit of the Lord who came upon him (13:25; 14:6, 19; and 15:14) and enabled him had left him (v. 20).
- 13** The implication is that the promise would be valid as long as the Lord called people to Himself, that is, until the coming of the great and glorious day of the Lord.
- 6** “Now the Spirit of the Lord had departed from Saul.”
- 14** a) the gospel had been preached in the whole world as a testimony to all nations.
- 7** Your answer should be similar to this: If the Holy Spirit is grieved by a sinful, rebellious, disobedient life, He may depart even from one who is chosen of God. The Holy Spirit’s presence in one’s life calls for responsible living and sensitivity to His presence.
- 15** Your answer. I believe we are living in the last days, and that the twentieth-century outpouring of the Holy Spirit as well as the present charismatic renewal are for the purpose of empowering witnesses so that the gospel will be preached to every tribe and nation. Jesus will come again as soon as the gospel has been preached in the whole world as a testimony to all nations.

**For Your Notes**



# Unit Three

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## **The Holy Spirit: A Practical Friend**

