



## Devoted - The Spirit-Filled Life

### Key idea:

Unlike Old Covenant believers who experienced the Spirit's presence only occasionally and externally, every New Covenant disciple has been baptized with the Holy Spirit and is therefore fully equipped and empowered to grow in devoted engagement with the spiritual disciplines that deepen our delight in God.

### Key text:

And while staying with them he ordered them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the promise of the Father, which, he said, “you heard from me; <sup>5</sup> for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.” <sup>6</sup> So when they had come together, they asked him, “Lord, will you at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?” <sup>7</sup> He said to them, “It is not for you to know times or seasons that the Father has fixed by his own authority. <sup>8</sup> But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.” Acts 1:4-8

When the day of Pentecost arrived, they were all together in one place. <sup>2</sup> And suddenly there came from heaven a sound like a mighty rushing wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. <sup>3</sup> And divided tongues as of fire appeared to them and rested on each one of them. <sup>4</sup> And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance. Acts 2:1-4

## **Key points:**

1. Jesus told the apostles that before they could begin their worldwide mission, they needed to wait until they received the promise of the Father - the New Covenant baptism in the Holy Spirit.
2. The gift of the Holy Spirit to indwell all believers is central to the new covenant.
3. The gift of the Holy Spirit was promised in key Old Testament texts related to the New Covenant, such as Ezekiel 36:25-27 and Joel 2:28-32, was noted by John the Baptist, and promised by Jesus with the beginning of the New Covenant after He was glorified.
4. Acts 1 and 2 discuss three key works of the Spirit in the New Covenant
  - The Spirit empowers every believer for a life of mission (Acts 1:8)
  - The Spirit empowers every believer for a life of holiness (Acts 1:5; 2:38-40)
  - The Spirit empowers every believer to grow in devotion to God through the means of grace/spiritual disciplines.

## **Discussion Questions:**

1. How does understanding the difference between the Old Covenant and New Covenant change the way you approach your relationship with God and the spiritual disciplines?
2. In what ways might you be living with an 'Old Covenant mindset' rather than fully embracing the reality that the Holy Spirit dwells within you?
3. The teaching emphasizes that spiritual disciplines are not about earning God's favor but about deepening delight in Him. How does this shift in perspective change your motivation for practices like prayer, Bible reading, and worship?
4. Jesus told the disciples to wait in Jerusalem for the Holy Spirit before beginning their mission. What does this teach us about the relationship between spiritual empowerment and effective ministry?
5. How does the promise in Ezekiel 36 that God will give us a new heart and put His Spirit within us impact your understanding of personal transformation and holiness?
6. Bret mentioned that championship teams are built on basics, comparing this to spiritual disciplines. Which spiritual 'basics' do you find yourself neglecting, and what would it look like to return to them consistently?
7. Peter's teaching on Pentecost emphasized that the promise of the Holy Spirit is for everyone who believes. How should this universal availability of the Spirit shape the way we view every member of the church body?

8. The teaching states there is no way to grow close to Jesus apart from the means of grace like Scripture, prayer, fellowship, and the sacraments. Do you agree with this statement, and how have you seen it proven true or challenged in your own life?
9. How can we distinguish between genuinely being filled with the Holy Spirit versus relying on our own discipline or willpower in our spiritual practices?
10. The Holy Spirit empowers us for both holiness and mission. How do these two purposes work together, and what happens when we emphasize one while neglecting the other?

**For Further Study:**

There are many teachings available on the website that delve further into the topics of the [Baptism and Filling with the Holy Spirit](#).