

Theme: In the New Covenant, God has poured out His Spirit on all believers to empower them so that as they grow in their delight in Him, the Gospel and its blessings will be spread throughout the world.

I. Intro - Pentecost Sunday!

- A. Today is Pentecost Sunday - quite a “coincidence”!!
- B. We began this series with the Spirit-filled life, and we return to this today!
- C. Devoted - Mission!

II. The New Covenant Gift of the Spirit

- A. All believers in the New Covenant are given the Spirit
But this is what was uttered through the prophet Joel:
¹⁷“And in the last days it shall be, God declares, that I will pour out my Spirit on **all** flesh, and your **sons** and your **daughters** shall prophesy, and your **young** men shall see visions, and your **old** men shall dream dreams; ¹⁸ even on my male **servants** and female **servants** in those days I will pour out my Spirit, and they shall prophesy. Acts 2:16-18

 - 1. This is Peter’s sermon on Pentecost Sunday.
 - 2. This is the fulfillment of God’s promise through Joel
 - 3. The Spirit will powerfully baptize all God’s people
 - a. The Spirit will be poured out on ALL
 - b. Sons and daughters - male and female
 - c. Young and old - all ages of believers
 - d. Servants - even on slaves (δοῦλος)!
 - 4. All the distinctions of the ancient world, Judaism, and even the Old Covenant would be washed away as the Spirit was poured out on the Church in the New Covenant!

- 5. This is true for all true New Covenant believers
And Peter said to them, “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.** ³⁹ **For the promise is for you and for your children and for all who are far off, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to himself.” Acts 2:38-39**

 - a. All who come to Christ through repentance WILL receive the gift of the Spirit - ALL
 - b. This promise is true for all times and places - for every single person called in the Church by God!
 - c. Peter is saying what Joel said again!

B. The Spirit empowers all believers

- 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 1:8
- 1. The Spirit comes to empower us!
 - 2. Gordon Fee - God’s Empowering Presence!
 - 3. It is the power of the Spirit that enables us to commune with God through the spiritual disciplines
And they devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. Acts 2:42
 - a. The devotion of the early believers was not due to an unusual amount of self-discipline or spiritual maturity; it was the sign of the Spirit’s Empowering Presence!
 - b. Everything we have talked about in this series flows from the Spirit’s work in our lives! He is the One Who draws us to communion with our Father each day! He is the One who works through the Word, the fellowship, the Table, and prayer to deepen our delight in God!

III. Empowered for Mission!

A. The Spirit empowers us to all be part of God's mission

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 1:8

1. The Spirit specifically empowers us to be witnesses
2. The Spirit empowers ALL believers to be part of God's mission in this world!
3. As with all of the Christian life, we are not qualified to do this because of our natural gifts or discipline, but rather through the Empowering Presence of the Spirit in our lives!

4. This includes everything from our local place to the ends of the earth

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 1:8

- a. The mission begins in Jerusalem and then spreads out from there.
 - b. The book of Acts shows this happening
 1. Jerusalem (Acts 1-7)
 2. Judea and Samaria (Acts 8-12)
 3. The end of the earth (Acts 13-28)
 - c. The book of Acts is the record of the early Church, filled with the Spirit, joining in God's mission to reach the nations with the blessing of the Gospel.
5. We are part of this same mission - we live in "Acts 29" until Jesus returns!

B. This is the fulfillment of God's covenant with Abraham to bless the nations

And I will make of you a great nation, and **I will bless you** and make your name great, **so that you will be a blessing.** ³ I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and **in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.**" Genesis 12:2-3

1. God promised to bless Abraham and to bless the nations through him!
2. The fulfillment of this covenant promise is not the Old Covenant but the New Covenant brought by Jesus, the True Seed of Abraham!

Now the promises were made to Abraham and to his offspring. It does not say, "And to offsprings," referring to many, but referring to one, "And to your offspring," who is Christ. Galatians 3:16

 - a. God's promise to Abraham was later given to His offspring. Paul tells us this offspring is Jesus!
 - b. Jesus is the Seed of Abraham Who brings blessings to all nations.
 - c. This blessing of the Gospel is given to all who believe as Abraham did.

Know then that it is those of faith who are the sons of Abraham. ⁸ And the Scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, preached the gospel beforehand to Abraham, saying, "In you shall all the nations be blessed." ⁹ So then, those who are of faith are blessed along with Abraham, the man of faith. Galatians 3:7-9

1. v8 is quoting Genesis 12:2-3 and saying it is the Gospel that is the blessing!
2. The promise to Abraham is given, not to physical descendants, but to "those of faith!"

- d. If you believe in Jesus, the True Seed of Abraham, you are blessed and receive God's promises to Abraham.

For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ. ²⁸ There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is no male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. ²⁹ And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to promise. Galatians 3:27-29

1. If you are in Christ, you are Abraham's seed through Christ!
2. Notice the same idea as in the promise of the Spirit - all the old distinctions have been removed! All that matters is being in Christ!
3. We are heirs of God's covenant with Abraham, given all of the covenant blessings, so that we can be a blessing to others!

3. The power of the Spirit-filled community of believers
And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. ⁴³ And awe came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. ⁴⁴ And all who believed were together and had all things in common. ⁴⁵ And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need. ⁴⁶ And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts, ⁴⁷ praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved. Acts 2:42-47

- a. The Spirit-filled community was growing in their delight in God as they were devoted through the means of grace/spiritual disciplines.

- b. This led to a community that loved and cared for one another, and that was full of the joy of knowing and loving God.
- c. This led to favor with those outside the faith, as many began to respond to the Gospel.
- d. This is a community that has understood the Gospel and is walking in the New Covenant gift of the Spirit!
- e. This is a community that is blessed to be a blessing!

IV. Applying the Word

A. Tips for Growing in Devotion to God Through Mission

1. Remember that all Christians are part of God's mission (Colossians 4:5-6; 1 Peter 3:15)
2. Prayer is an essential part of having doors opened to share the Gospel (Colossians 4:2-6)
3. RELAX - the power is in the Word and the Spirit, not your words! (Romans 1:16; 10:17; John 16:7-8)
4. I do not need to have an answer to every question a scholar might raise; I need to share what God has done for me (John 9:24-25)
5. Remember that the basics of the Gospel are very simple! (1 Corinthians 15:3-5; Acts 16:30-31)
6. Remember the power of being part of a Spirit-filled, devoted community (Acts 2:46-47)
7. Remember that participation in God's mission in the world increases my own joy and delight in God! (Philemon 1:6)
8. (LOVE, CONNECT, SERVE, REACH GRAPHIC)
9. TAKE TIME TO MEDITATE ON THESE THIS WEEK

B. Our Gospel Table

1. This is our Gospel Table - it proclaims the Gospel!
2. The Gospel is central to our delight in God and central to the mission God has given to us!
3. Hear and see the Gospel proclaimed, and come and receive!

Devoted - Mission

Acts 1:8; 2:42-47

May 24, 2026

Communion

Genesis 12:2-3

Teaching keywords: Means of Grace; Evangelism and Missions; Blessing; Christian Life; Baptism and Filling with the Spirit

I will make you into a great nation and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing. ³ I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you. Genesis 12:2-3