

PRAYER

- Thank God that He has given you this gift of the Holy Spirit. Pray that your spiritual ears will be sharpened to what the Holy Spirit tells you in every situation.
- Thank God for the empowerment for ministry and godly living that He has given you. Pray that you will grow deeper in the fruit of the Spirit and your spiritual gifts.
- Pray for your friends and family that still need to experience meeting God. Pray that they will also believe in Him and become followers of God.

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WARM-UP

- What is one time you took a leap and tried something new? Tell the group about it.
- Was there ever a time you had to wait for something though you weren't sure when it would arrive? Were you patient or impatient?
- Did you ever have to give someone bad news or tell them something they didn't want to hear? How did you summon the courage to do this?

WORD *¹When the day of Pentecost arrived, they were all together in one place. ²And suddenly there came from heaven a sound like a mighty rushing wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. ³And divided tongues as of fire appeared to them and rested on each one of them. ⁴And 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

Jesus' death and resurrection happened around the time of the Passover, a Jewish celebration. Pentecost was the culmination of the Passover. On the day of Pentecost, about fifty days after Jesus ascended to heaven, the Holy Spirit came and filled the disciples. They knew that Jesus had told them to wait for the promise of the Father, which is the Holy Spirit (Acts 1:4). This promise of the Holy Spirit is for all of those who follow God, even until today. Why did God send the Holy Spirit?

1 | The promise of the Spirit is for all who believe.

“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 2:39

Though Jesus Himself had ascended into heaven, He had left this hope: that the Holy Spirit, who is the Spirit of God, would come to His disciples. The Father promised to send the Holy Spirit to those whom He calls to Himself. These are the people who put their faith in Him as Lord and Savior. Those who believe have been marked righteous by God, and they will receive this promise of the Holy Spirit. If we believe in Him, we are marked righteous by God, and we will also receive the infilling of the Holy Spirit. How did you experience the infilling of the Holy Spirit?

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2 | The sending of the Spirit is meant to empower God’s people.

“So when they had come together, they asked him, “Lord, will you at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?” He said to them, “It is not for you to know times or seasons that the Father has fixed by his own authority. 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 1:6-8**

(Read also **GALATIANS 5:22,23.**)

What power do we receive when the Holy Spirit comes upon us? The Holy Spirit empowers God’s people for ministry and godly living. The Bible tells us about the spiritual gifts, which God gives His people for the common good—this is for ministry, being God’s witnesses to the end of the earth. We also bear the fruit of the Spirit in time, as we live by the Spirit and grow more and more like Christ. This is godly living. As people of God, we too receive this Holy Spirit and are empowered for ministry and godly living. What are some ways the Holy Spirit empowered you to both minister to others and to live in a godly way? (1 Corinthians 12:7-11; Galatians 5:22,23)

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APPLICATION

- Have you experienced the infilling of the Holy Spirit? Would you like to receive this promised Holy Spirit? Ask someone to pray with you, or approach God yourself in privacy and ask Him for this promise.
- Of the nine traits that make up the fruit of the Spirit in Galatians 5:22,23, which do you need to grow more in? List at least two and pray for God to increase these in your life.
- God has empowered us for ministry with His Holy Spirit. Think of two people around you—friends or family—whom you can pray for or send a message asking how they are.