

The Promise of Pentecost, Part 1 - The Promise of the Father

© 2004 [Tony Garland](http://www.SpiritAndTruth.org)
www.SpiritAndTruth.org

Importance of Understanding Pentecost

- **Events of Pentecost**
 1. The basis for ongoing church practice or...
 2. an historic transition?
- **Spirit-Baptism**
 1. A second work after salvation or...
 2. a new ministry of the Spirit associated with salvation?
- **Significance of the Coming of the Spirit**
 1. Believers merely empowered or...
 2. the formation of a new and unique spiritual organism -- the church?

Charismatic Background

- **Saved in the Charismatic Movement**
Saved on Easter morning during the worship service in a Pentecostal church.
- **Spoke in "Tongues"**
Was taught that speaking in tongues was the evidence of the second work of Spirit-baptism.
"The evidence of the Holy Spirit Baptism is speaking with tongues."
- **Tarrying for the Spirit**
Ministered to other believers who sought Spirit-baptism through tarrying and the laying on of hands.
- **The New Israel**
Was taught that believers are the "New Israel" -- that national Israel had been rejected by God.

Nagging Doubts

- **Tongues as Ecstatic Speech**
Scripture seemed to indicate that tongues were *bona fide* languages ([1Cor. 13:1](#) notwithstanding).
- **Frustrated Christians**
Believers who were unable to speak in tongues remained frustrated, often questioning what was

wrong with them.

- **Tarrying/Manipulation**

Where and how long should one tarry for the Spirit? While tarrying, was it Biblical to "coach" and otherwise manipulate people to "help them" speak in tongues? Where was evidence of such practice in Scripture?

- **The Church is not Israel**

If the church was "Israel, " then why did Scripture consistently use different terms for the "church " versus "Jacob " and "Israel? " Because believers today are part of a **new creation** -- joined to the "Body of Christ" through Spirit-baptism ([1Cor. 12:13](#)).

Promise and Fulfillment

The Promise of The Father

1. According to the Old Testament.
2. According to John the Baptist.
3. According to Jesus.

The Day of Pentecost

1. Expectations
2. Significance of Tongues
3. Birthday of the Church

Promise and Fulfillment

The Promise of The Father

1. **According to the Old Testament.**
2. According to John the Baptist.
3. According to Jesus.

The Promise: According to the Old Testament

- **The Prayer of Moses**

When God empowers 70 elders with His Spirit, Moses wishes God would put His Spirit on *all* His people. ([Num. 11:16-17, 24-29](#)).

- **Spirit Poured as Water on Dry Ground**

God promises to pour His Spirit upon *Israel*. The Gentiles see and respond ([Isa. 44:1-5](#)).

- **God's Spirit Poured upon All Flesh**
Regardless of sex, age, station in life, or *ethnicity* ([Joel 2:28-29](#) cited by Peter in [Acts 2:17-18](#)). "All flesh" is **כָּל בָּשָׂר** [*kal basar*]. This phrase occurs 32 times outside of Joel and in 23 instances it refers to Gentiles alone (e.g., [Deu. 5:26](#); [Isa. 49:26](#); [66:16](#); [Zec. 2:13](#)). Peter may imply the inclusion of Gentiles ([Acts 2:39](#)), although He has not fully come to terms with this yet ([Acts 10:45](#)). Joel's passage is not *fulfilled* at Pentecost -- Peter refers to it to explain the initial *outpouring* of the Spirit at Pentecost ([Acts 2:33](#)).
- **Revival and Restoration of Israel at Second Coming**
To recognize Messiah, after restoration to their land, to enable obedience during the Millennial Kingdom ([Isa. 32:15](#); [59:20-21](#) cf. [Rom. 11:25-27](#); [Eze. 11:17-19](#); [36:24-28](#) cf. [Jer. 31:33](#); [Eze. 29:23-29](#); [Zec. 12:10](#)). Even Joel's passage is ultimately fulfilled in this future context.

Promise and Fulfillment

The Promise of The Father

1. According to the Old Testament.
2. According to John the Baptist.
3. According to Jesus.

The Promise: According to John the Baptist

Two Baptisms

John baptized with water, but predicts a Coming One Who will baptize with the Spirit and fire ([Mtt. 3:7-12](#); [Mark 1:6-8](#); [Luke 3:7-17](#); [John 1:32-33](#)). The context of both Matthew and Luke indicates that all people will fall into one of two categories:

- All believers (the wheat) will undergo baptism by the Spirit .
- All unbelievers (the chaff) will undergo baptism by fire .

Spirit-baptism attends Christ's ascent, following His *First Coming*, ushering in the age of the Church at Pentecost ([Acts 11:15-16](#)). Fire-baptism attends Christ's descent, at His *Second Coming*, ushering in the Millennial Kingdom ([Mtt. 25:41](#)).

Promise and Fulfillment

The Promise of The Father

1. According to the Old Testament.
2. According to John the Baptist.
3. According to Jesus.

The Promise: According to Jesus

- **Ask for the Spirit**
Jesus taught that the Father would give the Spirit to those who ask Him ([Luke 11:11-13](#)). The context: *prior to Pentecost*.
- **The Spirit Had Not Yet Been Given**
At the Feast of Tabernacles, Jesus speaks of the Spirit which John explains had *not yet been given* ([John 7:38-29](#)). Although the Spirit had been on earth since the beginning ([Gen. 1:2](#)), a *new ministry* was to occur.
- **The Helper**
Jesus promised to send the Spirit who already dwelt *with* the disciples, but would subsequently dwell *in* them ([John 14:16-18](#)).
- **Proceeds From the Father**
The Holy Spirit's arrival was *future* and would be sent by both the Father and the Son ([John 14:26](#); [15:26](#)).
- **Dependence upon Crucifixion and Glorification Of Jesus**
The Spirit *could not* be given until Jesus was glorified and had ascended ([John 7:39](#); [John 16:7](#)).

The Promise: Fulfilled at Pentecost

- **WHERE: Jerusalem**
The disciples were to wait *in Jerusalem* for the Holy Spirit to come upon them ([Luke 24:49](#); [Acts 1:8](#)).
- **WHEN: Pentecost**
Peter explicitly interprets the events of Pentecost as the fulfillment of the Promise of the Father ([Acts 2:33](#)).

Historical Context

- **Are we Tarry for the Spirit Today?**

The story is told of a man who came to Dr. Harry Ironside one night and said, 'I have just come from a great tarrying meeting. Hundreds have been tarrying for many days in San Jose, California, waiting for the Holy Ghost.' Ironside asked by what authority they were doing this. 'Why Jesus said, tarry ye in the City of Jerusalem, until ye be endued with power from on high.' To this Ironside replied with quick wit and straight theology, 'Well, my friend, are you not confounding the *location* and *time*? You are over 10,000 miles too far away, and over 1,900 years too late.'

Promise and Fulfillment

The Promise of The Father

1. According to the Old Testament.
2. According to John the Baptist.
3. According to Jesus.

The Day of Pentecost

1. Expectations
2. Significance of Tongues
3. Birthday of the Church