



The Promise and the Power

Acts 2:1-15

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Acts 2:1-15 reminds us that, with the coming of the Holy Spirit, God's promise was fulfilled, and His power was supplied.

The baptism of the Spirit was promised in Luke 3:16, and again by Jesus in Acts 1:5. Acts 2 describes how the first disciples experienced the baptism and filling of the Holy Spirit. This was a transitional time, started by the ascension of Jesus into heaven and His sending of the Holy Spirit.

Romans 6:3 and 8:9 make it clear that all believers (subsequent to the first disciples) receive the Holy Spirit at the moment they are born again.

Ephesians 5:17-18 describes another aspect of the filling of the Holy Spirit, namely, the need for believers to yield to the Spirit on an ongoing basis.

Believers in Jesus Christ partake in the baptism and filling of the Holy Spirit at conversion, and then are to be continually yielding to the Holy Spirit's control.

In Acts 2, tongues was a miraculous ability, sovereignly given by God, to speak a known language (that the speaker was previously unable to speak) for the purpose of communicating God's truth to people.

God fulfilled His promise by sending His Spirit.

The Holy Spirit supplied supernatural power to enable the disciples to be witnesses of Jesus Christ in a hostile world.

Questions to Consider

1. What does the word baptism mean? What is the difference between water baptism and the baptism of the Holy Spirit?
2. What does Ephesians 5:17-18 teach us about the believer's daily experience of the filling of the Holy Spirit? Are there particular thought or behavior patterns in which you struggle to submit to the Spirit's leading?
3. What seems to be the purpose of Luke's geographic description in Luke 2:9-11?
4. What can we say with certainty about the use of tongues in Acts 2?
5. What examples of God's power do we see at work through Peter and the apostles in Acts 2:1-15? Have you received the same Holy Spirit as they did?
6. Pray throughout this week for God to work in you through His Spirit to give you boldness and opportunities to speak His truth.