



The Coming of the Holy Spirit

When the day of Pentecost came, all the believers were gathered together in one place. Suddenly there was a noise from the sky which sounded like a strong wind blowing, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. Then they saw what looked like tongues of fire which spread out and touched each person there. They were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to talk in other languages, as the Spirit enabled them to speak.

There were Jews living in Jerusalem, religious people who had come from every country in the world. When they heard this noise, a large crowd gathered. They were all excited, because all of them heard the believers talking in their own languages. In amazement and wonder they exclaimed, “These people who are talking like this are Galileans! How is it, then, that all of us hear them speaking in our own native languages? We are from Parthia, Media, and Elam; from Mesopotamia, Judea, and Cappadocia; from Pontus and Asia; from Phrygia and Pamphylia, from Egypt and the regions of Libya near Cyrene. Some of us are from Rome, both Jews and Gentiles converted to Judaism, and some of us are from Crete and Arabia—yet all of us hear them speaking in our own languages about the great things that God has done!”

Peter addresses the crowd

(Notice how Peter tells everyone about Jesus’ Resurrection.)

Then Peter stood up with the other apostles and in a loud voice began to speak to the crowd: “Fellow Jews and all of you who live in Jerusalem, listen to me and let me tell you what this means. This is what the prophet Joel spoke about:

‘Yes, even on my servants, both men and women, I will pour out my Spirit in those days, and they will proclaim my message.’

Listen to these words, fellow Israelites! Jesus of Nazareth was a man whose divine authority was clearly proven to you by all the miracles and wonders which God performed through him. You yourselves know this, for it happened here among you. In accordance with his own plan, God had already decided that Jesus would be handed over to be crucified. But God has raised this very Jesus from death, and we are all witnesses to this fact. All the people of Israel, then, are to know for sure that this Jesus, whom you crucified, is the one that God has made Lord and Messiah!”

When the people heard this, they were deeply troubled and said to Peter and the other apostles, “What shall we do, brothers?” Peter said to them, “Each one of you must turn away from your sins and be baptised in the name of Jesus Christ, so that your sins will be forgiven; and you will receive God’s gift, the Holy Spirit. For God’s promise was made to you and your children, and to all who are far away—all whom the Lord our God calls to himself.”

Many of them believed his message and were baptised, and about three thousand people were added to the group that day. They spent their time in learning from the apostles, taking part in the fellowship, and sharing in the fellowship meals and the prayers.

Based on the Acts of the Apostles

Dear James,

As you know, the terrible death of Jesus left me angry, shaken and afraid. I was frightened that the Jewish leaders and Romans would want to crucify me too, simply for being his friend and believing that he really was the Messiah. However, the most extraordinary thing happened only yesterday and I simply have to share the joyful news.

I was huddled in the upstairs room in Jerusalem with the other disciples when suddenly there was a loud noise from the sky which sounded like a strong wind blowing. Moments later, I looked around the room and there above each of my friends' heads sat a tongue of fire. At first, I thought I was imagining the whole scene, but then I remembered that Jesus said that he would send his Holy Spirit to guide and teach us. I knew then that Jesus was fulfilling his promise, as he always does.

After a few moments of shock and uncertainty, a feeling of peace drifted over me. I had a new energy within me and I knew what I needed to do. I jumped up and, followed by the

other disciples, ran outside and began to preach the Good News of God's love. I know that the Holy Spirit gave me this new found courage and I now know that God is always with me. Unbelievably, even though the people in the crowd spoke many different languages from around the world, they were able to understand my message.

I felt more alive than ever before and I was ready to do God's work. I told the people that they needed to be baptised in Jesus name and they believed my words. By the end of the day, we must have baptised around 3000 people.

Now that I believe the Holy Spirit is with me, I know I have the strength to do whatever God wants me to do. It may not always be easy, but I have to find the courage to do His will. That courage will come from the Holy Spirit, and it will guide me for the rest of my days.

Yours in Christ, Peter



Task

Write a letter from Peter to a friend, describing the coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost.

Include as much detail as possible to accurately mirror scripture.

Make links between the coming of the Holy Spirit and how Peter's behaviour was affected.

How will it affect his life in future?

