

## **The Promise of Another: Introduction**

Fifty days after the crucifixion (Passover) is Pentecost. The word 'pentecost' derives from the Greek for 'fifty'.

Turning our attention to Pentecost and the arrival of the Holy Spirit, we not only reflect on the experiences of the Early Church but also on the relevance of these events in our lives today, made possible by the sacrifice on the cross and the resurrection.

Leading up to Pentecost, our focus shifts towards understanding the nature of the Holy Spirit and its impact on us as individuals and on the early church in the New Testament.

We shall explore Jesus' teachings on the Holy Spirit, the Spirit's arrival in Acts, the manifestations of the Spirit in the form of fruits and gifts, and the practical implications of His presence in our lives.

This week devotion delves into the promises associated with the Holy Spirit. These moments include instances where Jesus or others mention the Holy Spirit. Starting from the directive given by Jesus to His disciples to wait in Jerusalem and tracing back to His baptism, we highlight the continuous presence of the Holy Spirit from the beginning to the end of Jesus' earthly ministry. This underscores the promise of the Spirit to the disciples and to us as part of the church.

It's essential to highlight that the concept of the Holy Spirit would have been unfamiliar and challenging for the disciples to comprehend. Jesus presented the Holy Spirit in both a personified and spiritual manner, a notion that would have been particularly perplexing before the tearing of the temple curtain. The revolutionary nature of these promises becomes evident when viewed in the context of the disciples' faith and their relationship with God.

We may recognise the fulfilment of these provisions in our lives today and the transformative power the Holy Spirit brings. It is truly remarkable to experience and embody the truths that Jesus proclaimed.

David Howe  
28 March 2024

## Boldness to Speak



Mark 13:9-11 (ESV)

<sup>9</sup> “But be on your guard. For they will deliver you over to councils, and you will be beaten in synagogues, and you will stand before governors and kings for my sake, to bear witness before them. <sup>10</sup> And the gospel must first be proclaimed to all nations. <sup>11</sup> And when they bring you to trial and deliver you over, do not be anxious beforehand what you are to say, but say whatever is given you in that hour, for it is not you who speak, but the Holy Spirit.

Jesus warns of what would come after His Death. To get a fuller context read Mark 13:3-13.

Jesus speaks intimately of what will occur to the disciples and all believers. These events unfold in the Acts of the Apostles and continue throughout church history. The central promise here is that Believers will not have to search for words to proclaim in difficult circumstances; instead, it will be the Holy Spirit who provides them with the words to speak. This assurance of the Holy Spirit empowering believers has been demonstrated countless times by those facing persecution.



- a. What do you think that disciples would have thought in hearing these things?
- b. Are there specific times we need Holy Spirit to give boldness or is it every time we proclaim the good news?
- c. How often do you rely on the Holy Spirit to give you words to speak in conversation?



**Prayer** – How do we receive boldness from the Holy Spirit in moments of proclamation?