

ESV **Acts 2:38** And Peter said to them, "Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and **you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.**" ³⁹ 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."

ESV **Acts 8:12** But when they believed Philip as he preached good news about the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, **they were baptized**, both men and women.... ¹⁴ Now when the apostles at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the word of God, they sent to them Peter and John, ¹⁵ who came down and prayed for them **that they might receive the Holy Spirit,** ¹⁶ for he had **not yet fallen** on any of them, but they had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. ¹⁷ Then they laid their hands on them and **they received the Holy Spirit.**

ESV **Acts 10:44** While Peter was still saying these things, **the Holy Spirit fell on all who heard the word.** ⁴⁵ And the believers from among the circumcised who had come with Peter were amazed, because **the gift of the Holy Spirit was poured out even on the Gentiles.** ⁴⁶ For they were hearing them speaking in tongues and extolling God. Then Peter declared, ⁴⁷ "Can anyone withhold **water for baptizing** these people, **who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?**" ⁴⁸ And he commanded them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they asked him to remain for some days.

ESV **Acts 11:15** "As I began to speak, **the Holy Spirit fell on them just as on us at the beginning.**" ¹⁶ And I remembered the word of the Lord, how he said, 'John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.' ¹⁷ If then God gave the same gift to them as he gave to us when we believed in the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I that I could stand in God's way?" ¹⁸ When they heard these things they fell silent. And they glorified God, saying, "Then to the Gentiles also God has granted repentance that leads to life."

Why does this matter?

- Spirit baptism is a spiritual reality that began on the Day of Pentecost that is applied to any and all when they believe in the Jesus Christ.
- It is related to—but different from—John's baptism and Jesus being baptized by John.
- It is an action of Jesus following his ascension and preceding—but related to—his action of baptizing with fire (judgment) upon his return.
- It is at least complimentary to—if not equivalent to—"receiving" the Holy Spirit as a "gift," which was "promised" by the Father, and possibly the Holy Spirit "falling" on and perhaps being "poured out" on those who hear and receive the word.
- It is at times related to—but probably not the same as—being "filled" with the Holy Spirit, or even being "clothed with power from on high."
- It is applied individually by repentance and faith, and, while distinct from water baptism, seems to be also visibly illustrated by water baptism.
- It is also apparently related to being "added" to the Lord (Acts 2:41, 47; 5:14; 11:24), which seems to be similar to—or the same as—being "baptized" into one body (1 Corinthians 12:13).

Sunday, May 31, 2026
Danny Capon, *Pastor*

ACTS—The Confident Witness of Jesus Christ
No. 2 | Waiting for the Spirit, pt. 1

Acts 1:1-5

Review

Acts depicts the *continuing* ministry of Jesus Christ. Though he has ascended, the witness of Jesus continues by the power of the Spirit through the spread of the gospel for the growth of the church. Those who hear and believe the witness of Jesus Christ can and should be confident following his way.

Waiting for the Spirit, pt. 1

1:1-5

ESV **Acts 1:1** In the first book, O Theophilus, I have dealt with all that Jesus began to do and teach, ² until the day when he was taken up, after he had given commands through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. ³ To them he presented himself alive after his suffering by many proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God. ⁴ And while staying with them he ordered them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the promise of the Father, which, he said, "you heard from me; ⁵ for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now."

Jesus commanded his apostles to wait in Jerusalem for the Holy Spirit.

"until the day when he was taken up" (v. 2)

"from the baptism of John until the day when he was taken up from us" (v. 22)

"after he had given commands...to the apostles whom he had chosen" (v. 2)

After Jesus had **risen**, but before he had **ascended**...

- He presented himself alive...appearing to them during forty days (v. 3)

by many proofs

speaking about the kingdom of God

- He ordered them...while staying with them (v. 4)

not to depart from Jerusalem

but to wait for the promise of the Father

What is going on here?

Who did Jesus command?

the apostles (v. 2; cf. "them," vv. 3, 4, "you," v. 5; see also vv. 6-11)

What did Jesus command?

not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the promise of the Father

Why did Jesus command this?

They needed “the promise of the Father” (v. 4),

which would come after Jesus was taken up (cf. John 7:38-39),

which is related to them being “baptized with the Holy Spirit” (v. 5),

before they would become witnesses for him (v. 8).

How significant is this in relation to what has already taken place?

What does the Holy Spirit have to do with this?

the promise of the Father > baptized with the Holy Spirit

What is the promise of the Father? What is baptism with the Spirit?

What is the relationship between them? Between other concepts?

- Jesus had told them about this (“which...you heard from me”), which is what John the Baptist had said a few years prior.
- John the Baptist had compared what he was doing with what Jesus would soon (“not many days from now”) do.

“John baptized with water...”

“...but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.”

John = the *Baptizer*, the one sent to prepare people for the Lord

baptize = “immerse,” “wash,” literally, figuratively

the Holy Spirit = the third person of the Triune God

one coming after = the Christ, the One Mightier (cf. Luke 3:16)

What do we see in the Gospels?

ESV **Luke 3:15** As the people were in expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Christ, ¹⁶ John answered them all, saying, “I baptize you with water, but he who is mightier than I is coming, the strap of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie. He will **baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire.** ¹⁷ His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his barn, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable **fire.**”

- This is *not* going to be done by John.

- This will be done by one mightier than John—the Christ, Jesus.
- This is yet future to John’s earthly ministry (and to Jesus’s earthly ministry, cf. Acts 1:5)
- This will be for all who believe in the witness of Jesus Christ (cf. Acts 11:15-17)

“baptize with the Holy Spirit **and with fire**” (See v. 17; cf. Luke 4:16-21)

ESV **John 7:38** Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, ‘Out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.’” ³⁹ Now this he said about the Spirit, whom those who believed in him were to receive, for as yet the Spirit had not been given, because Jesus was not yet glorified.

ESV **John 14:16** And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper,¹ to be with you forever, ¹⁷ even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, for he dwells with you and will be in you.... ²⁶ But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you.

ESV **John 15:26** “But when the Helper comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth, who proceeds from the Father, he will bear witness about me. ²⁷ And you also will bear witness, because you have been with me from the beginning.

ESV **John 16:7** Nevertheless, I tell you the truth: it is to your advantage that I go away, for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you. But if I go, I will send him to you.... ¹³ When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth, for he will not speak on his own authority, but whatever he hears he will speak, and he will declare to you the things that are to come. ¹⁴ He will glorify me, for he will take what is mine and declare it to you.

ESV **Luke 24:48** You are witnesses of these things. ⁴⁹ And behold, I am sending **the promise of my Father upon you.** But stay in the city until **you are clothed with power from on high.**”

What do we see in the rest of Acts?

ESV **Acts 1:8** “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.”

ESV **Acts 2:4** And **they were all filled with the Holy Spirit** and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance.

ESV **Acts 2:14** But Peter, standing with the eleven, lifted up his voice and addressed them, “Men of Judea... ¹⁵ ...these men are not drunk, as you suppose, since it is only the third hour of the day. ¹⁶ But this is what was uttered through the prophet Joel: ¹⁷ “And in the last days it shall be, God declares, that **I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh**, and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams; ¹⁸ even on my male servants and female servants in those days **I will pour out my Spirit**, and they shall prophesy.

ESV **Acts 2:33** Being therefore exalted at the right hand of God, and **having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit**, he has **poured out this** that you yourselves are seeing and hearing.