

Leveled for Power

Acts 2:38-39 (NLT) Peter replied, "Each of you must repent of your sins and turn to God, and be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. Then you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. **39 *This promise is to you, and to your children, and even to the Gentiles—all who have been called by the Lord our God.***"

It is God's will for every believer to live in the fullness of the Holy Spirit's power.

Remember

The Priority

Acts 1:4-5 (NLT) Once when he was eating with them, he commanded them, "Do not leave Jerusalem until the Father sends you the gift he promised, as I told you before. **5** John baptized with water, but in just a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit."

The Purpose

Acts 1:8 (NLT) But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you. And you will be my witnesses, telling people about me everywhere—in Jerusalem, throughout Judea, in Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

How it all began ... In Response to the Promise of the Father

Acts 2:1-4 (NLT) On the day of Pentecost all the believers were meeting together in one place. **2** Suddenly, there was a sound from heaven like the roaring of a mighty windstorm, and it filled the house where they were sitting. **3** Then, what looked like flames or tongues of fire appeared and settled on each of them. **4** And everyone present was filled with the Holy Spirit and began speaking in other languages, as the Holy Spirit gave them this ability.

It has been mocked since the beginning

Acts 2:13-18 (NLT) But others in the crowd ridiculed them, saying, "They're just drunk, that's all!" **14** Then Peter stepped forward with the eleven other apostles and shouted to the crowd, "Listen carefully, all of you, fellow Jews and residents of Jerusalem! Make no mistake about this. **15** These people are not drunk, as some of you are assuming. Nine o'clock in the morning is much too early for that. **16** No, what you see was predicted long ago by the prophet Joel:

17 'In the last days,' God says,
 'I will pour out my Spirit upon all people.
Your sons and daughters will prophesy.
 Your young men will see visions,
 and your old men will dream dreams.
18 In those days I will pour out my Spirit
 even on my servants—men and women alike—
 and they will prophesy.

Acts 10:34-43 (NLT) Then Peter replied, "I see very clearly that God shows no favoritism. **35** In every nation he accepts those who fear him and do what is right. **36** This is the message of Good News for the people of Israel—that there is peace with God through Jesus Christ, who is Lord of all. **37** You know what happened throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee, after John began preaching his message of baptism. **38** And you know that God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power. Then Jesus went around doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. **39** "And we apostles are witnesses of all he did throughout Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a cross, **40** but God raised him to life on the third day. Then God allowed him to appear, **41** not to the general public, but to us whom God had chosen in advance to be his witnesses. We were those who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. **42** And he ordered us to preach everywhere and to testify that Jesus is the one appointed by God to be the judge of all—the living and the dead. **43** He is the one all the prophets testified about, saying that everyone who believes in him will have their sins forgiven through his name."

The Gentiles Receive the Holy Spirit

Acts 10:44-48 (NLT) Even as Peter was saying these things, the Holy Spirit fell upon all who were listening to the message. **45** The Jewish believers who came with Peter were amazed that the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out on the Gentiles, too. **46** For they heard them speaking in tongues and praising God.
The Evidence - speaking in tongues

Then Peter asked, **47** "Can anyone object to their being baptized, now that they have received the Holy Spirit just as we did?" **48** So he gave orders for them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Afterward Cornelius asked him to stay with them for several days.

They have received the Holy Spirit just as we did – Leveled

Greater Works – empowered for a purpose

To be his witnesses in power

John 14:12 (NLT) “I tell you the truth, anyone who believes in me will do the same works I have done, and even greater works, because I am going to be with the Father.

The big things God desires to do are not through someone else!

More than words

1 Corinthians 2:4 (NLT) And my message and my preaching were very plain. Rather than using clever and persuasive speeches, I relied only on the power of the Holy Spirit.

1 Corinthians 4:20 (NLT) For the Kingdom of God is not just a lot of talk; it is living by God’s power.

Luke 7:18-23 (NLT) The disciples of John the Baptist told John about everything Jesus was doing. So John called for two of his disciples, **19** and he sent them to the Lord to ask him, “Are you the Messiah we’ve been expecting, or should we keep looking for someone else?” **20** John’s two disciples found Jesus and said to him, “John the Baptist sent us to ask, ‘Are you the Messiah we’ve been expecting, or should we keep looking for someone else?’” **21** At that very time, Jesus cured many people of their diseases, illnesses, and evil spirits, and he restored sight to many who were blind.

Kingdom Evidence

22 Then he told John’s disciples, “Go back to John and tell him what you have seen and heard—the blind see, the lame walk, the lepers are cured, the deaf hear, the dead are raised to life, and the Good News is being preached to the poor. **23** And tell him, ‘God blesses those who do not turn away because of me.’”

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