



# The Descent of the Holy Spirit On the Apostles at Pentecost

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**B**efore the **Pentecost**, and while the Lord Jesus Christ was yet still on Earth, the Apostles had merely followed His direction and obeyed His commandments. They looked to the Lord Jesus Christ for continual support and knowing He was God, they often left the larger duties into the Lord Jesus Christ's hands. However, on the fiftieth day following the Ascension of our Lord Jesus Christ into Heaven, a display of ultimate power and sovereignty altered the lives of thousands, including the Apostles themselves. After this miracle, the disciples were filled with preponderance, performed greater tasks, fulfilled prophesy, wholly committed their lives in service, and preached the salvation message while baptizing thousands in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ.

On the day of **Pentecost**, the disciples were all gathered together "with one accord in one place" (Acts 2:1). Suddenly, a sound came down as like a mighty wind, and fiery tongues divided onto each of the Apostles, and being filled with the Holy Spirit, as the building shook, they began to speak the Word of God boldly in different languages. Every man was confounded at the realization of understanding his own tongue while the man next to him comprehended a different language. Yet the message, though interpreted to many diverse people, was still the same. This situation displayed the power the disciples were filled with, and their ability to perform greater tasks, and how the Lord can use people to his glory.

The disciples also confided their lives in God during and after the **Pentecost**. They preached and baptized in the effort to win souls to the Lord Jesus Christ. For example, St Peter taught the people and told them of the divinity and perfect holiness of the Lord Jesus Christ and through the power of the Holy Ghost, the people were converted. They gladly received His teachings and were baptized. In that same day alone, about three thousand souls were saved, undoubtedly only by the grace and omnipotence of the Holy Spirit.

Through the **Pentecost**, the disciples also fulfilled prophesy. St John the Baptist prophesied "I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance: but he that cometh after me is mightier than I, whose shoes I am not worthy to bear, He shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost and with fire." (Matthew 3:11). The baptism of the Holy Spirit began at **Pentecost**, and spread to the newer groups who accepted the Holy Gospel. And still, even today, it has become a normative characteristic for all true believers. Those characteristics are revealed through the Fruits of the Spirit: Love, Joy, Peace, Longsuffering, Gentleness, Goodness, Faith, Meekness, and Temperance against such there is no law.

As the new believer is baptized with the Lord Jesus Christ, it is referred to as the spiritual rebirth of the regenerate and that believer is to be filled with those fruits, while displaying them in his every day life. The "fire" of the Holy Ghost was a representation of the cleansing action purging the soul of the blemishes and purifying the mind of unclean thoughts. Previously, in the Old and early New Testament, fire was the representation of God's wrath and judgment on his people, but now, it is shown as a cleansing tool for every believer.



The descent of the Holy Spirit on the Apostles at **Pentecost** had opened the doors of victory and salvation to thousands. It empowered the disciples to teach and to overcome fear, and weakness, to be bold and even willing to die for the faith. It strengthened the unity of the Church and gave an overwhelming assurance of hope after the Lord Jesus' Ascension. Lastly, it encouraged all to spread the Holy Gospel. As we read and are reminded of this miraculous presentation of God's holiness, we should be encouraged and strive for the same cause as the Apostles: to teach and spread the word in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. The fulfillment of the Lord Jesus' promise to never leave us or forsake us is an emblem of hope and an assurance that although He has already ascended into Heaven to be with the Father, He still dwells within His own.