

## **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.

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## Instruction to Wait



### Luke 24:44-49 (ESV)

<sup>44</sup> Then he said to them, “These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you, that everything written about me in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled.” <sup>45</sup> Then he opened their minds to understand the Scriptures, <sup>46</sup> and said to them, “Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, <sup>47</sup> and that repentance for the forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. <sup>48</sup> You are witnesses of these things. <sup>49</sup> 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.”

Here Jesus speaks to the disciples after the resurrection. For further context of Jesus appearing to them read Luke 24:13-49.

While it might seem unusual to begin the week by examining the end of Luke, it is beneficial to bear this passage in mind as we progress through the week.

Jesus expounded the scriptures and their fulfilment in Him. Now we live in the completeness of His words regarding that gospel and going forth with it.

Additionally, it is important to highlight that Jesus entrusts them with a mission to spread His name from Jerusalem to the nations, coupled with the assurance of being empowered. This underscores the necessity of waiting for the empowering force that is essential for carrying out the proclamation effectively.



- What do you think the disciples thought when Jesus revealed the scriptures to them?
- What does it mean to be clothed in power?
- How long would you wait for the power?



Prayer – Father cloth us in your power, may we know your power to proclaim your name.