

Wind, Fire and Praise

Experiencing the power and presence of the Spirit
Pentecost Sunday 2026

Acts 2:1–13 (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. ⁵ And there were dwelling in Jerusalem Jews, devout men, from every nation under heaven. ⁶ And when this sound occurred, the multitude came together, and were confused, because everyone heard them speak in his own language. ⁷ Then they were all amazed and marveled, saying to one another, “Look, are not all these who speak Galileans?” ⁸ And how is it that we hear, each in our own language in which we were born? ⁹ Parthians and Medes and Elamites, those dwelling in Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, ¹⁰ Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya adjoining Cyrene, visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, ¹¹ Cretans and Arabs—we hear them speaking in our own tongues the wonderful works of God.” ¹² So they were all amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, “Whatever could this mean?”

¹³ Others mocking said, “They are full of new wine.”

Introduction: Most people panic when their phone battery drops to 1%. A phone may have incredible features, but without power it cannot do what it was designed to do.

In the same way, many believers try to live the Christian life spiritually disconnected from the power of the Holy Spirit.

We were never meant to operate spiritually drained.

Pentecost reveals that when the Holy Spirit fills ordinary people, fear is replaced with fire, and timid believers become bold witnesses for Jesus.

Pentecost was more than just the moment the Holy Spirit was poured out in Acts 2. It was a God-appointed feast that pointed to the day He would empower His people and launch His Church into the world.

The word Pentecost means “fiftieth,” celebrated fifty days after Passover. It was known as the Feast of Harvest or Feast of Weeks (Leviticus 23:15–21).

Jews from many nations gathered in Jerusalem to thank God for the harvest. That is why Acts 2 says people from different nations were present that day.

Pentecost was also connected to Mount Sinai, where God gave His Law to Israel. Now in Acts 2, God does something even greater:

- At Sinai, God wrote His Law on stone.
- At Pentecost, God wrote His law on human hearts.
- At Sinai, a nation was formed.

- At Pentecost, the Church was born.

The first Pentecost celebrated a harvest of crops but Acts 2 began a spiritual harvest of souls from every nation.

God chose Pentecost intentionally. He filled His people with the Holy Spirit and empowered them to take the Gospel to the world.

Pentecost reminds us that Christianity was never meant to remain hidden in an upper room. God's plan was always to fill His people with His Spirit and send them into the world with power and boldness.

Before his ascension Jesus told his followers: "But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth." Acts 1:8

When the Holy Spirit comes into our lives, He gives us power, courage, strength, and boldness to do what we could never do on our own.

In this passage that supernatural ability was speaking in unknown languages (tongues).

The people watching Pentecost were amazed: Acts 2:7b-8 (NLT) "How can this be?" they exclaimed. "These people are all from Galilee, ⁸ and yet we hear them speaking in our own native languages!"

A little Side note: Judeans tended to look down on Galileans, viewing them as uneducated and people of questionable ancestry. (John 1:46; 7:52)

The same Spirit that transformed uneducated disciples into powerful and bold witnesses is still changing lives today.

These men and women who once feared for their lives were transformed into fearless believers willing to give their lives for the cause of Christ.

The Holy Spirit still empowers ordinary people to live extraordinary lives.

Pentecost reminds us that God never intended His Church to run on empty.

Acts 2:1-4 reveals three powerful dynamics that marked the birth of the Church:

Wind, Fire and Praise

Before the disciples could become bold witnesses, the Holy Spirit first had to breathe new life and courage into them.

1. The Sound of a Mighty Wind

The Bible says they heard a rushing mighty wind.

In both Hebrew and Greek, the word for “Spirit” is closely connected to the word “wind.” Throughout Scripture, wind symbolizes the movement and life-giving power of the Spirit.

Jesus told Nicodemus: “The wind blows where it wishes... so is everyone who is born of the Spirit.” John 3:8

In Ezekiel 37, God told the prophet to prophesy to the wind so that dry bones could live again.

The wind of the Spirit brought life, renewal, and transformation.

On the Day of Pentecost, the Spirit blew away fear, insecurity, and uncertainty. Those who had once hidden behind closed doors were now publicly declaring the praises of God.

The Holy Spirit did not just give them an emotional experience; He changed their hearts, giving them courage and purpose.

And the same Spirit still moves today.

Some people today feel spiritually dry, emotionally exhausted, or overwhelmed by fear about the future. But the Spirit of God still breathes life into weary hearts.

The same Spirit that moved in the upper room is still moving in lives today.

The Spirit not only brought life like the wind, but He also came with fire to purify and ignite their hearts for God.

2. Tongues of Fire

The Bible says tongues like fire rested upon them.

Throughout Scripture, fire represents the presence, holiness, and purifying work of God.

- Moses encountered God in the burning bush.
- God descended on Mount Sinai with fire.
- Israel was led by a pillar of fire.
- Fire filled the Tabernacle and Solomon’s Temple.

Now, in Acts 2, the fire of God falls upon the Church.

The Church becomes the dwelling place of the Holy Spirit.

1 Corinthians 3:16 Do you not know that you are the temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you?

The fire of the Holy Spirit does more than burn away sin. He refines us, transforms us, and ignites passion for God.

We live in a generation filled with distraction and entertainment but often lacking spiritual fire. Many people know about God but are no longer burning for God.

The Holy Spirit changes that.

He fills us with passion for prayer, hunger for God's Word, love for people, and boldness to live for Christ.

The disciples who once feared public opinion were now boldly proclaiming the resurrected Jesus.

What a transformation.

When people are filled with the Spirit's life and fire, their response naturally becomes praise and bold proclamation.

Acts 2:11 (NLT) And we all hear these people speaking in our own languages about the wonderful things God has done!"

3. They Spoke the Praises of God

The followers of Jesus were filled with the Holy Spirit and began declaring the wonders of God.

When the Spirit fills our lives, we cannot stay silent.

1 Peter 2:9 (NKJV) But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light.

The Spirit did not fill them so they could remain in the upper room and simply enjoy the experience of speaking in tongues.

Although Tongues may be the initial experience of the baptism with the Holy Spirit, witnessing is the ultimate purpose. The experience empowered them with boldness to go out and proclaim the mighty works and wonders of God.

Today many believers struggle to openly live out their faith because of fear, pressure, or intimidation from culture.

But the Holy Spirit gives us boldness.

We see this in Acts 4. After being threatened and commanded not to preach in the name of Jesus, the disciples did not pray for safety or escape, they prayed for boldness and courage to continue sharing their faith, and that is exactly what the Holy Spirit granted them.

Acts 4:31 (NLT) And when they had prayed, the place where they were assembled together was shaken; and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and they spoke the word of God with boldness.

The Holy Spirit empowers us to speak truth, show love, serve others, and live publicly for Jesus Christ.

The same Holy Spirit who moved powerfully on the Day of Pentecost is still working today in the lives of believers who are open to Him.

Ordinary people do extraordinary things when they are filled with the extraordinary power and presence of the Holy Spirit.

Our world does not need a powerless church. It needs believers who are filled with the Spirit, passionate for God, and bold in their witness.

The same Spirit that filled the upper room is still available today.

Some of you may feel tired, discouraged, fearful, or spiritually dry. But the Holy Spirit still renews, empowers, and transforms lives.

May we seek daily fresh infillings of the Holy Spirit so we can live with power, passion, and purpose.

That should be our prayer as well: "Lord, fill us again."