

Date : 17 May 2026  
Theme : The Holy Spirit in building the Kingdom of God  
Topic : The coming of the Holy Spirit to inaugurate the birth of the Church  
Passage : Acts 2:1–47  
Key Verse : Acts 2:41 – Then those who gladly received his word were baptized; and that day about three thousand souls were added to them.

In Acts 1, the disciples were equipped for what God was about to do, as they waited in obedience, unity, and prayer for the promise of the Holy Spirit, recognising that they could not fulfil God’s mission in their own strength.

Acts 2 was the fulfilment of that promise, where the Holy Spirit came, empowered and transformed them to fulfil the Great Commission. What we see in Acts 2 was a powerful event, coupled with the disciples' obedience as His witnesses. The Holy Spirit comes as we work with Him to build the kingdom of God.

How has the coming of the Holy Spirit, a foundational moment, shape the life and culture of the Church?

## **1. What is the influence of the coming of the Holy Spirit on the Church culture (Acts 2:1-13)**

- a) The Holy Spirit is the active, driving force of the Church
- The Timing – Pentecost (followed God’s timetable)
    - In the Old Testament, Pentecost was known as the Feast of Weeks (Leviticus 23:15–22), celebrated 50 days after the Feast of the First Fruit. For about 1500 years, Israel observed this feast as a thanksgiving for the harvest and God’s faithfulness.
    - Pentecost simply means 50 days after Jesus’ resurrection.
    - The giving of the Holy Spirit to the church, as scheduled by God, had arrived.
  - The Setting – v1: they were all together in one place
    - “They” referred to the 120 believers (Acts 1:15) who were gathered in unity, waiting on God together. They waited in persistent prayer for 10 days, patiently, just as the Lord had instructed.
    - The birthing of every great move of God is always preceded with prayers. The Holy Spirit always works in tandem with obedient human co-labourers.
- b) The Holy Spirit resting on each individual, sparks a culture of priesthood of all believers
- The Sign – v2-3: ...a sound like the blowing of a violent wind...tongues of fire...
    - Wind – The Power and Breath of God: The sound, like a rushing wind, represents the powerful movement of the Holy Spirit, which can be felt. In Genesis 2:7, the Spirit of God breathed into man, shaped from the earth, imparting life, making him a living being.
    - Fire – God’s Presence and Purifying Work: Another sign of the Holy Spirit is the tongues of fire resting on each believer. Fire often symbolises God’s holy presence and purification throughout Scripture.

- c) The Holy Spirit establishes the Church as a cross-cultural movement.
- Speaking in Tongues - The first manifestation of the Holy Spirit
    - The most significant sign that the disciples received the baptism of the Holy Spirit was that “they spoke in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them” (v4).
    - They were declaring the wonderful works of God (v11).
    - They spoke in known languages, which were understood by people who had come from different parts of the world (v6). These were languages unknown to the 120 believers in the upper room.
    - The Spirit enabled them to speak the message in a language they had not previously learned. In this situation, the tongues were known languages. This instilled a culture in the Church to actively reach out to all demographics and break down rigid societal hierarchies.
  - Understanding the Gift of Tongues
    - In the New Testament, “tongues” also means “languages.”
    - Tongues may refer to languages unknown to the speaker but enabled by the Holy Spirit.
    - Later in Scripture, tongues also included heavenly or angelic languages (1 Corinthians 13:1).
- d) The Holy Spirit defines the heartbeat of the Church as evangelistic & missional  
 Peter, being filled with the Holy Spirit, stood up and gave the first gospel message, an opportunity in response to those who said they were drunk. The same Peter, who once denied Jesus out of fear, now spoke boldly and publicly, raising his voice before the crowd. The Holy Spirit’s power manifested in boldness in Peter’s preaching.

## 2. How does the Holy Spirit transform the lifestyle of believers? (Acts 2:14-39)

- a) By living out the prophetic culture of the Holy Spirit poured out on all flesh.
- The outpouring of the Spirit marked the birth certificate of His Church.  
 The Holy Spirit was God’s promised gift as prophesied through the prophet Joel.  
 Peter emphasised that the promise was for “all flesh”(v17 NKJV), including “menservants, maidservants”(v18 NKJV) and “for you and your children and for all who are afar off”(v38-39).
  - This means that the small group of disheartened disciples would be transformed into a Spirit-empowered community.
  - This shows that salvation and the gift of the Holy Spirit are now available to both Jews and Gentiles, to all who respond to God’s call. This means that we Gentiles are now eligible to receive the Holy Spirit.
- b) By boldly proclaiming the Gospel
- The gospel must be preached because this is the power of God for salvation.
  - Peter boldly proclaimed the gospel:
    - Jesus was crucified (v23)
    - Jesus was resurrected (v24–32)
    - Jesus is exalted at the right hand of God (v33–36)
    - Jesus is both Lord and Christ (v36)

- The Kingdom of God grows when people respond to this gospel. Peter's role was to preach. The Holy Spirit's role was to provide supernatural power to enlighten and enable his hearers to believe the gospel.
- c) By convicting hearts, repentance, and baptism
- When Peter preached, the hearers were impacted. First, they were 'cut in their hearts'. Then they responded by asking, v37: What shall we do?
  - Likewise, today, the Holy Spirit enables us believers to preach boldly. We can trust the Holy Spirit, working alongside with us, will convict our hearers about sin and move them to repent and believe.
- d) By devoting themselves to the apostles' teaching, fellowship, breaking of bread, and prayers
- i) Devotion to God's word and fellowship (v42)
- The early believers continued steadfastly (single-minded, faithful, and persevering) in the apostles' teaching.
  - They remained committed to learning the apostles' doctrine — the truth of God's Word — without departing from it. They were learners.
- ii) Generosity, attending to the needs of others (v44-46)
- Believers were together and had all things in common. They cared for one another and were willing to share what they had with those in need. Instead of living selfishly, they learned to live with generosity and concern for others.
  - Continuing daily with one accord. They were united in heart and purpose, growing together as one community, instead of living the Christian life alone.
  - Selling possessions and placing them at the apostles' feet.
  - Distributing to all according to need. They were submitted to their leaders.
- iii) Growth of the church (v47)
- The Lord added daily those who are being saved.
  - Throughout the book of Acts, growth in numbers was continually emphasised as the gospel spread and more lives were transformed.

## Application

- 1) What practical step can I take this week to experience the Holy Spirit's help when I take the step to share the gospel?
- 2) In light of our building fund, how can I be part of BC's generous and sharing culture (Acts 1:45)?