

Introduction: Jesus' disciples did not understand Him when He told them at His last Passover with them that He was going to The Father; but, He did tell them that He would send The Spirit of Truth to them. He knew His words were filling their hearts with sorrow, but told them their sorrow will be turned to joy (John 16). *** Jesus' words were initially fulfilled at His resurrection, and finally fulfilled on the fiftieth day after His resurrection at the Feast of Pentecost ('fiftieth day', Acts 2:1-4). On that day, one-hundred-twenty disciples (Acts 1:12-15) were dramatically filled with The Holy Spirit, then they were speaking the wonders of God in languages they did not know (Acts 2:5-12). *** Two decades after this miracle, the apostle Paul wrote to churches in the city of Corinth about the ministry of The Holy Spirit; and, how The Spirit gave different gifts to different members of The Church of Jesus Christ to build them up to do the ministry of Jesus and the works of God. This was so that many people of diverse backgrounds could be baptized by The Holy Spirit into The One Church of Jesus. *** All this fulfilled a prophecy Jesus' cousin John the baptizer gave about Him before he baptized Jesus. He said that The One coming after him, and mightier than him, would baptize people in The Holy Spirit. *** So, now let's look deeper into our three passages this morning, so we may better understand the work of The Holy Spirit in us, so we may do the will of God, working with Him to make disciples of Jesus.

I. Jesus fills His disciples with the promised Holy Spirit who gives those who turn from idols to The Messiah differing gifts for their mutual benefit. (*Acts 2:1-4; 1 Corinthians 12:1-7*)

A. The Holy Spirit fills Jesus' disciples and they speak in languages they do not know. (*Acts 2:1-4*)

1. And when had come the day of Pentecost, they were being all together in the same (place). (*Verse 1*)

Together on Pentecost: One-hundred-twenty of Jesus' disciples had been praying together at His instruction since He ascended to The Father ten days earlier (Acts 1:1-12; Luke 24:45-53)

2. And it was suddenly: from heaven, noise as of driving wind, violent; and it filled the whole house in which they were being, sitting. (*Verse 2*)

Strong wind being driven: A strong word is used for suddenly because it must have sounded to them as if a tornado had come inside!

3. And, were made to appear to them, being divided tongues like as fire; and it sat on each one of them. (*Verse 3*)

Tongues as fire appeared: In addition to the sound, the vision of what God was doing must have blown the minds of the one-hundred-twenty gathered disciples!

4. And they had been filled, all with The Spirit Holy, and they began to speak with other tongues (languages), just as The Spirit was giving to them to declare. (*Verse 4*)

All filled with Holy Spirit: The Holy Spirit filled each and every one of them, just as Jesus had declared to them before He ascended back to The Father (Luke 24:49).

Jesus gave The Holy Spirit after ascending to His Throne

Spirit-given declarations: The Holy Spirit gave to each of them messages to declare in languages different than they knew. Each one was given a gift as The Holy Spirit desired and directed.

The Holy Spirit distributes gifts ... as He desires

B. Paul enlightens those who turned from idols to The Messiah that The Holy Spirit gives different gifts to each one for their mutual benefit. (*1 Corinthians 12:1-7*)

1. But about spiritual (gifts), brothers, not I am willing you all to be ignorant. (*Verse 1*)

Not ignorant of spiritual gifts: What follows makes it clear that Paul did not want the members of the churches in Corinth to be ignorant concerning spiritual gifts.

2. You all had known that when nations (non-Israelites) you all were being, unto idols without voice you all were being brought, being led. (*Verse 2*)

Voiceless idols leading: The result for these non-Israelites, living on the isthmus between northern and southern Greece, a navy city, was they only knew idols, and these idols were leading them away from the True God. Demons were behind these idols (Psalm 106:37-38).

3. Wherefore, I am giving to you all that no man in The Spirit of God speaking, is saying, 'Curséd Jesus!'; and, no man is being able to say, 'Lord Jesus', except in The Spirit Holy. (*Verse 3*)

Jesus and The Spirit: Here we have two sides of how The Holy Spirit influences people in what they say about Jesus. It is impossible for someone filled with God's Spirit to curse Jesus; and, no one can call Jesus Lord, unless that person is fully in The Holy Spirit.

4. But, varieties of gifts are being, but the same Spirit; and, varieties of ministries are being, but the same Lord; and, varieties of activities, but the same God – The One working the all in all. (*Verses 4-6*)

Spirit distributes gifts: The Holy Spirit distributes a variety of different gifts to people in The Church.

The Holy Spirit distributes gifts in Jesus' Church as He desires

Lord distributes ministries: The Lord (Jesus) distributes a variety of different ministries to people in The Church.

God distributes activities: God (The Father) distributes a variety of different works (activities) to people in The Church.

Bottom line: Each member of The Trinity, working together, distributes among the individual members of The Church of Jesus Christ, different gifts, ministries and activities exactly as God determines is best.

5. But to each is being given the bringing of The Spirit to the bringing together benefit. (*Verse 7*)

Mutual benefit: The Spirit builds The Church of Jesus through each member being given as The Holy Spirit brings to each one for their mutual benefit.

Therefore let us determine to use the gifts we receive from The Holy Spirit to build up each other.

The Holy Spirit distributes gifts in Jesus' Church as He desires

II. The Holy Spirit baptized many different people into The Body of Christ, fulfilling the prophecy of John.

(1 Corinthians 12:8-13; Mark 1:4-8)

- A. Just as the human body has many members and is one, so also diverse people are baptized by The Holy Spirit into The One Body of Christ. (1 Corinthians 12:8-13)
1. For, to whom indeed through The Spirit is being given word of wisdom; but, to another, word of knowledge by means of the same Spirit; to another, faith in the same Spirit; but to another, gifts of healing by the single Spirit; but to another, gifts of working power (miracles); but to another, prophecy; but to another, ability to discern spirits; but to another kinds of tongues (languages); but to another, interpretation of tongues (languages). (Verses 8-10)
Nine gifts: Nine gifts of the Holy Spirit are given in these verses: two (miracles and healing) could be called physical, and the remaining seven have more to do with peoples' hearts and minds (or souls).
 - i. 'Word of wisdom' has to do with how people are to live according to God's wisdom in His Word.
 - ii. 'Word of knowledge' is an insight into God's specific will for individuals.
 - iii. 'Faith' is extraordinary faith for individuals going through extraordinarily hard times.
 - iv. 'Charisms for healing' are given to certain individuals to pray for and anoint others to be healed.
 - v. 'Working of power (miracles)' is the most dramatic, spectacular gift given to people.
 - vi. 'Prophecy' is speaking to people when they are violating God's Torah (or instruction) to people for right living, a gift that all must heed.
 - vii. 'Ability to discern spirits' is the divinely given ability for people to distinguish good spirits from evil spirits (demons).
 - viii. 'Speaking in kinds tongues (languages)' unknown to the speaker.
 - ix. 'Interpretation of kinds tongues (languages)' unknown to the interpreter.
 2. But all these, each is working The One and the same Spirit. (Verse 11)
One Spirit: The One Holy Spirit is distributing all of these gifts as He desires, according to His will.

The Holy Spirit distributes gifts in Jesus' Church as He desires

3. For just as the body (of humans), one is being, and members many is having, but, all the members the body many being, one is being the body; in this way also, (The Body of) Christ. (Verse 12)
One Body, many members: Just as each individual human being has many members (parts) to his or her body, so also The Church of Christ (The Messiah) is made up of individuals with unique gifts, ministry abilities, and abilities to do good works.
4. For also in One Spirit we all into One Body we have been baptized, whether Jews or whether Greeks, whether slaves or whether free; and, all to One Spirit we have been given to drink. (Verse 13)
Spirit baptizes all into One: The Holy Spirit baptizes people of every nationality and economic class into The One Body of Christ to drink from Him as The Living Water (John 4:10-13).

Bottom Line: So we must have a deeper understanding of the powerful ministry of The Holy Spirit in bringing people into the Church of Jesus and building them up together so we may tell others The Good News of Jesus.

- B. John, who baptized people into repentance for forgiveness of sins, prophesied that One mightier than him would baptize in The Holy Spirit. (Mark 1:4-8)
1. It happened, John, the one baptizing in the wilderness, and preaching the baptism of repentance into forgiveness of sins. (Verse 4)
John preaches repentance: Jesus' cousin John (Luke 1:5-37) is baptizing people in the wilderness of Judea (southern Israel) because they were turning from their ways (to God's ways in faith) that their sins would be forgiven.
 2. And was going out to him all (the people of) the Judea region, and Jerusalem, and all were being baptized by him in the Jordan River, confessing their sins. (Verse 5)
Confess sins as baptized: As they were being baptized, the people of Judea were first confessing their sins (to God and people).
 3. And John was being clothed: hair of camel, and leather belt around the loins of him; and, eating locusts and wild honey. (Verse 6)
Radical lifestyle: He dressed in uncomfortable clothes and ate (clean) insects (Leviticus 11:22). He was radically committed to serving The Lord, his God.
 4. And he was preaching, saying, 'He is coming The One mightier than me, after me; of whom, not I am being worthy, having bent down to loosen (undo) the strap of His sandals'. (Verse 7)
Mightier One coming: John is clearly saying One mightier than him is coming (soon) after him. This One is greater than him in every way.
 5. I, indeed, baptized you all in water; but He (emphatically) will baptize you all in The Spirit Holy. (Verse 8)
Will baptize in Holy Spirit: As we have already seen, after His resurrection and ascension, Jesus baptized those who became His disciples by humble, obedient faith, with The Holy Spirit, starting on the day of Pentecost. We must all pray and expect The Holy Spirit to work in us, so we will share the story of Jesus beyond our natural abilities, because *Jesus gave The Holy Spirit after ascending to His Throne.*

Conclusion: The Holy Spirit filled Jesus' disciples on Pentecost to speak of the wonders of God IN Jesus in languages they did NOT know. The Holy Spirit gives to those turning from idols to Christ differing gifts for their mutual benefit.

Through The Holy Spirit many different people are baptized into The One Body of Christ in which each person has a role. All this is the fulfillment of a prophecy John gave before he baptized Jesus for His public ministry.

The Holy Spirit distributes gifts in Jesus' Church as He desires