

Key Passage: Acts 2:1–17 – The coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost

1. Understanding Pentecost

- Pentecost meaning “*fiftieth*” — occurred 50 days after Passover. It is also the Jewish festival of **Shavuot** [a celebration of the Torah (law) given at Sinai]
- Pentecost delivers a key shift from external law (animal sacrifice / obedience) to internal transformation (Jesus’ sacrifice / grace)

Question: Were you aware of the link between the giving of the Torah and the re-setting of the approach to the law through the Holy Spirit? What other thoughts or insights come to mind for you?

Consider the way that God signalled his intentions in **Joel 2:28–29** and **Ezekiel 36:26–27**.

2. Jesus’ indication of the Spirit’ purpose (John 14:16-17 and 16:13)

Question: While the Spirit’s arrival at Pentecost is dramatic, what do you make of the things that Jesus said about why the Spirit would be sent? How does this sit alongside the dramatic manifestations that sometimes accompany the work of the Spirit?

3. The Work of the Holy Spirit

A. Guidance as the primary role - leading into truth, revealing (revelation), convicting (or convincing), directing

Question: When have you sensed the Spirit leading you? Explain / expand.

B. Spiritual Gifts - 1 Corinthians 12 – given to *each* believer

Question: What insights and/or challenges arise from discovering that giftings *are given* to each believer

Question: Why do think the Spirit gives gifts to believers? What is the purpose?

C. Spiritual Fruit - Galatians 5:22–23

The clearest, most natural evidence of the Spirit is not dramatic signs—but transformed character

Reflect: Which fruit is evident and/or growing in me? Which needs attention?

4. Living by the Spirit (Re-read Romans 8:1-4 and Galatians 5:16-17)

Consider the implications with regards to the law (understood as guidelines toward right living before God).

Questions:

Why are those of the Spirit no longer condemned?

How is the believer now to consider the guidelines of the law, rather than simply dismissing them?

How might the Spirit empower us to walk in life towards the law of God?

Key learning in this study: The requirement of the law is *fulfilled* through walking in life under the guidance of the Holy Spirit. That is the transformation and adjustment that God wrought on the day of Pentecost. The law was not abolished – it was reframed.

Personal Reflection

1. Have I personally received the Holy Spirit?
 2. Am I relying on rules (self-willed obedience), or on responding to the Spirit's leading?
 3. What gifts might God have given me to serve others? Am I applying them?
 4. Do others see the fruit of the Spirit in my life? Are there some flaws I could work on?
 5. Where might God be inviting me to be more open to His Spirit today?
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Prayer

Holy Spirit, fill me afresh. Guide me into truth, shape my character, and empower me to live for Christ. Help me walk in step with You each day. Amen.