

*He makes His ministers a flame of fire. Am I ignitable?...make me thy fuel,
flame of God.*

Jim Elliot

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First Love Ministries, Inc. of Perry, Georgia

Prayer Study #287

Writings taken from ***HOW TO HAVE A PERSONAL PENTECOST***

by Ernest B. Gentile in January 2013 *Charisma Magazine*

The baptism in the Holy Spirit is nothing to fear. It's God's gift for all Christians. The word "Pentecost" has special meaning for more than 500 million Christian believers worldwide. They not only joyfully tell the store of Acts 2 (called "the most-read chapter in the Bible"); they also experience the Holy Spirit just as the early disciples did.

Fifty days after Jesus' crucifixion, on the annual Jewish festival of Pentecost in Jerusalem, God launched the church of Jesus Christ with a mighty outpouring of His Holy Spirit. This marvelous personal encounter is known as "the baptism with the Holy Spirit," and it is accompanied by the miracle of "speaking in tongues." It wasn't for the disciples alone; you too can have this experience—your very own Pentecost.

[On this 1st Century Church Pentecost] The Spirit arrived—accompanied by a howling wind, a blazing fire, and miraculous tongues. Imagine a wind of hurricane proportions, heard but not felt. "Suddenly" means that God was moving and nothing could stop Him. The ruah, the "breath" of God promised by Jesus, had arrived. With it came a sheet of fire that descended over the disciples. Quickly the fiery mass divided into small flames that danced through the air, coming to rest on the head of each one of the 120 followers of Jesus. This was not literal fire, but "as if" or "like" fire, meaning it was absolutely real but also uniquely divine. The third miracle was an explosion of sound. The unscholarly Galileans began speaking in more than a dozen known languages—although they had not learned them—as if they were expert linguists. This was the first manifestation of "speaking in tongues," the phenomenon that Jesus said would occur among His followers. The disciples were not preaching in tongues but rather offering prophetic worship. The people said, "We hear them speaking in our own tongues the wonderful works of God" (Acts 2:11). These worship acclamations not only glorified God but also softened hearts for Peter's subsequent message (like a plow breaking up hard ground).

The wonderful experience of Spirit baptism is for those who already have accepted Jesus Christ as their personal Savior and Lord. Conversion is, without a doubt, accomplished by the power and presence of the Holy Spirit; but the baptism with the Holy Spirit is a distinct infilling or empowering for service that is subsequent to conversion.

The word “baptism” refers to immersion and is best illustrated by what happens when a person is water baptized by dunking. “Spirit baptism” means that a person is engulfed by, immersed in and filled with the Holy Spirit—like an empty glass plunged into a tub of water.

Spirit baptism is a meaningful encounter with Christ that bonds the believer to the same Spirit, experience and church that was birthed at Pentecost—and helps him relate more deeply with Christ Himself. It accomplishes seven things in his life: it makes Jesus more real, increases his spiritual sensitivity, illuminates the Scriptures, provides the capability of praying “in the Spirit,” brings sanctification, and allows for dynamic testimony and spiritual gift manifestation.

Not By Might
Almeda Herrick
1957

Is there a mountain in your way? Do doubts and fears abound?
Press on. Oh, hear the Spirit say, “This mountain shall come down!”

Is there a river in your path, a river deep and wide?
Step in. The waters will roll back. You’ll reach the other side.

Is there a fiery furnace trial, far more than you can bear?
Behold, the blessed Son of God is walking with you there.

Then trust alone the mighty God. He speaks the winds obey.
Take courage, then, oh fainting heart. For you He’ll make a way.

CHORUS

Not by might; not by pow’r; By My Spirit saith the Lord of Host.
Not by might; not by pow’r, by My Spirit saith the Lord.
This mountain shall be removed. This mountain shall be removed.
This mountain shall be removed, by My Spirit, saith the Lord.