

THE PROMISE

jkroberts_us@yahoo.com
www.pacolethillsbaptist.org

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Acts 1:1-8

1. Here we find Jesus commanding His disciples to stay in Jerusalem and wait for what the Father had promised.
2. He went on to tell them that they would be baptized with the Holy Spirit in a few days.
3. The Lord made it clear that when the Holy Spirit came upon them they would receive power and would be His witnesses.
4. Ten days later, on the day of Pentecost, the Holy Spirit visibly manifested His presence and all of those present were filled with the Spirit.
5. Peter clearly stated that what happened to him and the others present was not exclusively theirs alone. Acts 2:37-39

Now when they heard this, they were pierced to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, "Brethren, what shall we do?" 38 Peter said to them, "Repent, and each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. 39 **"For the promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off, as many as the Lord our God will call to Himself."**

6. I want you to notice that God's promise related to the Holy Spirit was for those who were listening to Peter at that moment, their children, those who were far off, as many as the Lord our God will call to Himself."
7. In other words the promise of the Holy Spirit is for every true believer.
8. The Holy Spirit is present in every genuine believer.
 - a. Rom 8:9
However, you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. But if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Him.
 - b. Rom 8:12-17
So then, brethren, we are under obligation, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh —13 for if you are living according to the flesh, you must die; but if by the Spirit you are putting to death the deeds of the body, you will live. 14 For all who are being led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God. 15 For you have not received a spirit of slavery leading to fear again, but you have received a spirit of adoption as sons by which we cry out, "Abba! Father!" 16 **The Spirit Himself testifies with our spirit that we are children of God,** 17 and if children, heirs also, heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him so that we may also be glorified with Him.
9. After His resurrection and prior to His ascension Jesus appeared to His disciples and sealed them with the Holy Spirit. John 20:21-23
"Peace be with you; as the Father has sent Me, I also send you." 22 And when He had said this, He breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit."
10. They were sealed, but they had not yet received the promise of the Father related to the outpouring and infilling of the Holy Spirit.
11. Now my question is if the promise is ours where is the power?
12. Is it possible to be saved and yet have the promise withheld for some reason?

13. I believe that in the early days of the church salvation and full surrender were two sides of the same coin.
14. Believers not only confessed with their mouths Jesus as Lord, but they fully surrendered themselves and their lives to His lordship.
15. They wanted Jesus to have His way in their lives and the Holy Spirit filled and empowered them to that end.
16. What was true then is not generally true now.
17. Very few believers know anything about total surrender to Jesus Christ and His will for their lives.
18. Do we really want to be filled with and totally controlled by the Holy Spirit regardless of the consequences or cost?
19. Do we want to experience life as Jesus experience it?
20. If we want God's promise related to the full manifestation of the Holy Spirit in our lives to be a reality we might ask ourselves several questions.

I. Am I resisting the Holy Spirit in any way? Acts 7:51

- 51 "You men who are stiff-necked and uncircumcised in heart and ears are always resisting the Holy Spirit; you are doing just as your fathers did."
- A. These words were spoken by Stephen to the Council or Sanhedrin which was made up of Jewish leaders.
 - B. He had just finished reviewing Jewish history by relating various acts of God's goodness in contrast to the Jews ongoing rebellion and idolatry.
 - C. The New Living Translation reads, "You stubborn people! You are heathen at heart and deaf to the truth."
 - D. Now I want you to notice that Stephen was "full of the Spirit and of wisdom" (Acts 6:3 and "full of grace and power." (Acts 6:8)
 - E. Two questions come to mind.
 1. Is there any area in my life where I am stubbornly resisting and refusing to listen to the Holy Spirit?
 2. Would I be willing to deliver a message like this one to anyone?
- NOTE: The message Stephen delivered got him killed.
- F. One reason we are not filled with the Holy Spirit is that we would like God's power provided we can decide where and how it is manifested.

II. Am I grieving the Holy Spirit in any way? Eph 4:25-32

- 25 Therefore, laying aside falsehood, SPEAK TRUTH EACH ONE of you WITH HIS NEIGHBOR, for we are members of one another. 26 BE ANGRY, AND yet DO NOT SIN; do not let the sun go down on your anger, 27 and do not give the devil an opportunity. 28 He who steals must steal no longer; but rather he must labor, performing with his own hands what is good, so that he will have something to share with one who has need. 29 Let no unwholesome word proceed from your mouth, but only such a word as is good for edification according to the need of the moment, so that it will give grace to those who hear. 30 **Do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.** 31 Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice. 32 Be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving each other, just as God in Christ also has forgiven you.
- A. Wrong behavior grieves the Holy Spirit.
 - B. The word grieve means to distress or make sad.

- C. The Holy Spirit is grieved when:
1. We manifest hypocrisy.
 2. We manifest human anger rather than divine indignation.
 3. We fail to live responsibly.
 4. We speak unwholesome words while failing to speak appropriate words of edification.
 5. We are ruled by negative rather than positive emotions.
- D. Another reason we are not filled is our unwillingness to change our behavior.

III. Am I quenching the Holy Spirit in any way? 1 Thessalonians 5:19

“Do not quench the Spirit.”

- A. The word quench means to extinguish or put out.
- B. Has the Lord spoken to you in one way or another recently?
- C. What did He say?
- D. How did you respond and have you continued to respond?
- E. How would you feel if those you loved and desired to have a meaningful relationship with poured cold water on every attempt you made to interact with them?
- G. The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of Christ and He wants to be embraced, listened to, and obeyed.
- H. Acknowledge the Holy Spirit’s presence, respond to His activity in your life to the best of your ability, and ask God to fully manifest His promise of the Spirit in your life.

APPLICATION

1. Down through church history there have been Pentecostal like events that have had a powerful impact on individual Christians and groups of Christians.
NOTE: There have been and continue to be counterfeit events as well.
2. I believe that every genuine Christian needs to accept the fact that God’s promise of the Holy Spirit’s filling and anointing is for them.
3. The issue is do we really want God’s promise to be a full reality in our lives?
4. The Holy Spirit will not fill a person who does not want to be filled.
5. The Holy Spirit will not fill a person who wants to dictate to God when, where and how they will serve the Lord.