

Everyday **FAITH** Family Page

I Spy Salvation's Story

Law/Gospel

Without the Holy Spirit, we would be excluded from God's salvation.

Through His Word and Baptism, God grants repentance and His Holy Spirit to forgive our sins and gather us into His holy, saved people.

Bible Words

You will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be My witnesses.

Acts 1:8

The Big Picture

The curse at the tower of Babel (Genesis 11), where all the people's languages were confused, was reversed for a moment at Pentecost as all the people were able to hear the same message of Christ in many different languages. Even after the events at Pentecost, God's Word was able to spread quickly and bear fruit in many countries because of the prominence of Greek and Latin brought about by the Roman Empire.

The Case of the Wind and Fire: God Sends the Holy Spirit Acts 2:1–21, 37–47

Before Jesus ascended into heaven, He commanded His disciples to go into the world and preach the Good News. The events at Pentecost mark the beginning of their ministry.

Pentecost was a harvest festival that occurred fifty days after Passover. The disciples were in an area of Jerusalem where a large crowd had gathered, when suddenly there was a sound like a rushing wind, and tongues of fire rested on the disciples. The Holy Spirit came upon them, and they began to speak in other languages. People from all over the world gathered and understood them as they proclaimed God's Word in their native languages.

Some mocked this miracle of God, claiming that the disciples were drunk. Peter, one of Jesus' disciples, quickly rebuked them and spoke to the people, explaining how the words of the prophets had been fulfilled through Jesus' earthly life, death, and resurrection.

Repent and Be Baptized

As the people listened to Peter, they realized that they sent Jesus to the cross and deserved condemnation. When they asked Peter what they should do, he said, "Repent and be baptized every one of you . . . and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit" (Acts 2:38). Through the Spirit's work through the disciples, over three thousand people believed, and the Church grew and flourished.

Just as the Holy Spirit came upon the disciples through wind and fire, we receive the gift of the Spirit through Holy Baptism. In this Sacrament, God forgives our sin and lovingly welcomes us as His children. We are united to Christ and all believers through God's Word and Sacraments.

Prayer

Holy Spirit, come among us as You came among the people at Pentecost, to unite with You and one another in faith, fellowship, prayer, and praise. In our Lord's name we ask this. Amen.

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