

EMPOWERED FOR GOD (B)

....THE PENTECOSTAL POSITION

The Pentecostal position on the baptism in the Holy Spirit, and on the gifts of the Spirit, depends upon establishing four things –

- There is available to every Christian an experience known as '*Holy Spirit Baptism*'. (*Or the infilling of the Spirit*)
- The process of being born again and the baptism in the Spirit are separate and distinct happenings, although they may sometimes occur simultaneously.
- Speaking in tongues (*glossolalia*) is the usual initial evidence that a person has been baptized in the Spirit.
- The miraculous gifts of the Spirit which existed in the early church are still available and should be occurring in the worship of the modern church.

....THE PROMISE OF THE FATHER

The Bible speaks about a distinct spiritual experience that it calls '*baptism in the Holy Spirit*'. **Matthew 3:11** (nkjv)

(See **Mark 1:8**; **Luke 3:16**; **John 1:26**; **Acts 1:5**; **11:16**)

Even before the New Testament the servants of God had been familiar with the power of the Holy Spirit. **Micah 3:8a** (niv)

The prophets predicted that one day there would be a new and more wonderful outpouring of the Holy Spirit. **Joel 2:28-32** (niv)

Jesus finally came and the fulfilment of the predicted outpouring was identified with Him. **John 1:33-34** (niv) (*See John 14:15-17*)

Then there was the day of Pentecost! **Acts 2:1-4** (niv)
(*See Acts 2:14-18*; *Acts 2:32-33*)

....TWO REMARKABLE DIFFERENCES.

The distinguishing mark of the people of God in the days of the Old Covenant was possession of the '*law*' and of the '*oracles of God*'. **Romans 3:2** (nlt)

But the distinguishing mark of the people of God in the New Testament was to be the possession of the Holy Spirit. **Acts 2:17-18** (niv)
(See also Joel 2:28-32; Matthew 3:11; Luke 3:16)

This new identity is the primary difference between the old and new eras.
2 Corinthians 3:6-11 (niv) (See 2 Corinthians 3:17-18)

Formerly only a chosen few servants enjoyed the presence of the Spirit note the prayer of Moses in **Numbers 11:26-30** (niv)

But now in this era we live, the promise of the Spirit is open to everyone. None of the people of God are excluded. Hence, the prophecy of Joel is fulfilled in **(Joel 2:28-29)** (See also Luke 11:9-13; Acts 2:38-39)

There is a clear distinction between the old era and the new, marked by the difference of the Holy Spirit baptism. **John 7:37-39** (niv) and **John 16:7** (niv)

Jesus Himself ministered in the power of the Spirit. **Matthew 12:28** (niv)

The disciples also preached and healed in the power of the Spirit. **Luke 9:1-2** (niv)

So the statement must mean that there is a *new and special sense in which the Holy Spirit has been given* since Christ ascended back into heaven.

This new gift of the Spirit is the distinct property of the Christian era.

This possession of this gift creates a clear difference between the 'world' and the 'church'. **John 14:17** (niv)

The promised outpouring of the Spirit began on the day of Pentecost and it probably involved an initial group of about 120 men and women.

The events of that day occurred in direct fulfilment of 'the promise of the Father' (**Acts 1:4-5**).

The prophets foresaw this outpouring, which was to take place in the 'last days' (that is, during this Christian era that we are in today).

....CONCLUSION

Abundant references in the Book of Acts and in the Epistles make it plain that being baptized in the Holy Spirit was the normal experience of people in the early church, and should be the normal experience of Christians today!

