

EMPOWERED FOR GOD (B)



Waurn Ponds
Community Church

The Pentecostal Position

- ▣ Speaking in tongues 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 Pentecostal Position

- ▣ There is available to every Christian an experience known as *'Holy Spirit Baptism'*.
- ▣ The process of being born again and the baptism in the Spirit are separate and distinct happenings, although they may sometimes occur simultaneously.

The Promise of the Father

- ▣ The Bible speaks about a distinct spiritual experience that it calls *'baptism in the Holy Spirit'*. **Matthew 3:11**
- ▣ Even before the New Testament the servants of God had been familiar with the power of the Holy Spirit. **Micah 3:8a**

The Promise of the Father

- ▣ The prophets predicted that one day there would be a new and more wonderful outpouring of the Holy Spirit. **Joel 2:28-32**
- ▣ Jesus finally came and the fulfilment of the predicted outpouring was identified with Him. **John 1:33-34**

Two Remarkable Differences

- ▣ The distinguishing mark of the people of God in the Old Covenant was possession of the *'law'* and of the *'oracles of God'*.

Romans 3:2

- ▣ 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**

Two Remarkable Differences

- ▣ This new identity is the primary difference between the old and new eras.

2 Corinthians 3:6-11

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

Two Remarkable Differences

- ▣ 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**

Two Remarkable Differences

- ▣ 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 - John 16:7

- ▣ Jesus Himself ministered in the power of the Spirit. **Matthew 12:28**

Two Remarkable Differences

- ▣ The disciples also preached and healed in the power of the Spirit. **Luke 9:1-2**
- ▣ This new gift of the Spirit is the distinct property of the Christian era.

Two Remarkable Differences

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

Two Remarkable Differences

- ▣ 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

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!