

Pentecost: The Promise, Person, and Power of the Holy Spirit

Bode Awogbade | 24 May 2026

Text: Acts 1:1-5

Opening

When Luke begins the book of Acts, he reminds Theophilus that his Gospel recorded *“all that Jesus began to do and to teach until the day He was taken up to heaven”* (Acts 1:1–2). That word *began* is significant. It means Jesus’ ministry did not end with His ascension. It continues—through His people, empowered by the Holy Spirit.

After His resurrection, Jesus appeared to His disciples for forty days, giving *“many convincing proofs that He was alive”* (Acts 1:3). He taught them about the kingdom of God, and on one of those occasions, while eating with them, He gave a clear command:

“Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised... For John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.”
— Acts 1:4–5

Pentecost is the fulfilment of that promise.

The Reality of Jesus’ Resurrection

The resurrection was not a rumour whispered in a corner. Paul tells us that Jesus appeared to more than 500 people at one time (1 Corinthians 15:6). Many of those eyewitnesses were still alive decades later. God has not left the world without evidence.

The Purpose of Acts

Luke—a Gentile, a physician, and a careful researcher—wrote both Luke and Acts. Some believe Acts was partly compiled as a defence for Paul during his trials. More importantly, however, Acts shows us what happens when the Holy Spirit comes upon ordinary people.

Some call it *“The Acts of the Holy Spirit”*, because from chapter 2 onward, every page reveals the Spirit’s power at work through the church.

The Promise of the Father

Jesus told His disciples to wait. They could not manufacture spiritual power. They could not create a supernatural experience. They had to receive it.

The Holy Spirit is the Father's promise—given to:

- Jews and Gentiles
- Men and women
- Young and old
- Every believer in every generation

Peter discovered this when the Holy Spirit fell on Cornelius' household in Acts 10. He declared:

"I now realise how true it is that God does not show favouritism."
— **Acts 10:34**

The Spirit is for everyone who believes.

Who the Holy Spirit Is

The Holy Spirit is not a force or an idea. He is a **person**—the third person of the Trinity. He does not have a physical body, but He dwells in ours. Paul says that our bodies are "*temples of the Holy Spirit*" (1 Corinthians 6:19).

God does not want us merely to talk about Him. He wants us to know Him.

- The Father loves us.
- The Son saves us.
- The Spirit lives in us, guides us, teaches us, and empowers us.

Many Christians know *about* the Spirit, but do not truly *know* Him. Pentecost calls us back to relationship.

The Spirit's Work in the World

Jesus said the Spirit would:

- Convict the world of sin
- Reveal righteousness
- Warn of judgment
(John 16:8–11)

Before you were saved, the Holy Spirit was already working on your heart. He showed you your need for Christ. He still does this today—often through our prayers, conversations, and witness.

No Christian can say, “I have nothing to do.”

If you cannot go, you can pray.

If you cannot preach to crowds, you can speak to one person.

Every act of obedience counts.

The Spirit’s Work in the Believer

Jesus also said:

“When He, the Spirit of truth, comes, He will guide you into all truth.”

— **John 16:13**

The Spirit:

- Illuminates Scripture
- Reveals God’s heart
- Speaks what He hears from heaven
- Glorifies Jesus
- Shows us what God has freely given us (1 Corinthians 2:12)
- Leads us into our God-ordained purpose (Ephesians 2:10)

You cannot fully understand Scripture without the Spirit. You cannot walk in your calling without the Spirit. You cannot live the Christian life without the Spirit.

The Spirit in Acts

In Acts 2, the Spirit came with wind and fire. The disciples spoke in languages they had never learned. People from many nations heard the wonders of God in their own tongues. Peter—who once denied Jesus—stood up with boldness and preached a message that brought 3,000 people to salvation.

The same Spirit is still at work today. He may not manifest in the same dramatic ways in every life, but He empowers every believer uniquely:

- Some through preaching
- Some through compassion
- Some through wisdom

- Some through music
- Some through supernatural gifts

Your supernatural may not look like someone else's, but it is still supernatural.

Growing in Fellowship with the Spirit

Paul ends 2 Corinthians with this blessing:

"The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all."

— **2 Corinthians 13:14**

Fellowship means communion, partnership, and regular interaction. The more you commune with the Spirit, the more you experience:

- The love of the Father
- The grace of Jesus
- The power of God
- The truth of Scripture
- The transformation of your character

This is not instant. It is a journey—step by step, day by day.

A Call to Rediscover the Holy Spirit

Pentecost is not just a date on the calendar. It is an invitation.

Go back to the book of Acts.

Study the ministry of the Holy Spirit.

Ask Him to reveal Himself to you.

Ask Him to work in you and through you.

The world is crying out for help.

People are hurting, confused, and searching.

And God has placed His Spirit inside you so that you can be His voice, hands and feet.

Daniel 11:32 says:

"The people who know their God shall be strong and do exploits."

Let us be those people.

Closing Prayer

Father God, thank You for sending us the Holy Spirit as Your promised gift. Help us to draw into deeper fellowship with Him and make us faithful witnesses for Jesus. Help us to know Your Spirit more, trust and follow Him fully, and live each day for God's glory. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Key Takeaways

1. The Holy Spirit is not just to be studied—He is to be known.
2. God empowers ordinary people through His Spirit for extraordinary purpose.

Reflection Questions

1. In what areas of my life am I relying on my own strength instead of waiting on and depending on the Holy Spirit?
2. How can I grow this week in fellowship with the Holy Spirit so that His work is more evident in my character, witness, and service?

Memory Verse

"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses..."

— Acts 1:8