

# The Day Of Pentecost: A Closer Look

by J. W. Jepson  
Copyright © 2016 by J. W. Jepson

Scripture quotations are from the New King James Version (NKJV) © 1990 by Thomas Nelson, Inc. Used by permission.

Most Christians have a basic knowledge of what happened on the day of Pentecost. The facts are recorded in The Acts Of The Apostles, Chapter Two.

Yet, when people are asked how many were baptized in the Holy Spirit on the day of Pentecost, the common response is "a hundred and twenty."

Let's look more closely.

When the people heard Peter's words, "they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and to the rest of the apostles, 'Men and brethren, what shall we do?'" (verse 37 NKJV).

Peter replied, "Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit" (verse 38).

Verse 41 records: "Then those who gladly received his word were baptized; and that day about three thousand souls were added to them."

That day.

The outpouring of the Holy Spirit that morning was just the beginning of the *day* of Pentecost. About three thousand people needed to be baptized in water, and in the early Church believers were baptized immediately upon their confession of faith.

So the next event on that day was baptizing about three thousand new believers. What a joyous time of celebration that massive occasion must have been!

Now, was water baptism the climax and final event of the day? Did anything else happen?

We remember what Peter said: "...and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit."

So, what were the new believers expecting? They were expecting *exactly what the one hundred and twenty had received* that very morning.

Peter did not lie. He did not speak conjecturally or tentatively. He did not say that they should expect to receive the Holy Spirit someday, perhaps in a few days or weeks. He did not send them away without the gift. The order was definite and direct: repent; be baptized; you shall receive. No delay. It all happened the *day* of Pentecost.

That being so, one more dynamic feature must have added dramatically to the events surrounding the baptismal celebration. It is reasonable and proper to conclude that those new believers were baptized in the Holy Spirit right after being baptized in water. Perhaps some arose from their "watery grave" speaking with other tongues, and others as they were rejoicing in their new life in Christ.

We can only imagine how the scene must have affected the city of Jerusalem.

What a complete day that day of Pentecost became as the reality it had symbolized unfolded in its fullness throughout the day.

So, how many were baptized in the Holy Spirit on the day of Pentecost?—not about a hundred and twenty, but about *three thousand a hundred and twenty*. It was a much bigger and fuller day than what is commonly assumed.

Moreover, that was only the beginning. The Gift given to the Church on that day is still here. "For the promise is to you and to your children, and to all who are afar off; as many as the Lord our God will call" (verse 39).

*Afar off*—in time as well as in distance. The Holy Spirit is an age-long gift in His fullness and entirety. Just as the new believers on the day of Pentecost received exactly what they had witnessed and been promised, even so believers today may receive the same in its fullness—nothing subtracted, nothing expired. Tongues have not ceased and will not cease until "that which is perfect [*to teleion*] has come" (1 Corinthians 13:10).

"Even so, come, Lord Jesus!" (Revelation 22:20).