

Title: **Our Risen and Ascendant King: Promises (Part 2)**  
Text: **Acts 1:1-5**  
Date: **March 5, 2023**

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## Big Idea

Jesus calls on his disciples to wait for the baptism with the Holy Spirit. Certainly the Spirit of God has been active through all generations, but at Pentecost, in view of the life, death, resurrection, and ascension of Christ, it's as if the levee breaks and a flood of living water is unleashed on the world!

### 1. What Does It Mean?

*Question #1: What Does This Spirit Baptism Imply about the Spirit's Activity Before the Day of Pentecost?*

Luke does not think of the Holy Spirit as entering the historical situation at 9:00am on Pentecost morning. Neither, of course, does Jesus think such a thing—nor does he mean to imply it by what he says about waiting for the baptism of the Spirit. So what's the point then? Why make a big deal about the day of Pentecost and the baptism of the Spirit, if the Spirit's already been at work in the world and in the lives of men? Well, and here's the point I think, while there is *continuity* in the Spirit's work before and after Pentecost, there is also stunning *contrast*.

The difference so far as the Spirit of God is concerned, as we transition from the Old Covenant and into the New isn't a difference in kind so much as a difference in degree. You might think of it like a dimmer switch. It's the same switch, the same light, but what began a bit dimmer in the OT is thrown up to full wattage in the NT when Jesus ascends the throne in heaven and turns the dial, as it were.

*Question #2: How Does This Spirit Baptism Relate to Conversion?*

In the book of Acts the initial baptism with the Spirit for these disciples is described in many different ways: it's described as the *pouring out* of the Spirit (Acts 2:17, 18, 33; cf. 10:45); or the *falling* of the Spirit (Acts 11:15; cf. 8:16; 10:44); or the *receiving the gift* of the Spirit (Acts

10:47; 11:17; cf. 2:28; 8:15, 17; 10:45; also 5:32); and even as the experience of being the *filled* with the Spirit (Acts 2:4).

It's this latter phrase that is most significant for the matter under investigation at this point. For it makes unmistakable for us the connection between this initial baptism to the subsequent experiences. You see, the filling of the Spirit doesn't happen just this once for the disciples on the day of Pentecost. No, it happens over and over again (cf. Acts 4:8; 4:31; 7:55; 13:52). This baptism with the Spirit, then, is not so distinguished from conversion as to be secondary and separated from it, nor is it so connected to conversion as to be merely absorbed into and conflated with it. It's the gift, now initially given in regeneration, that keeps on giving with fresh fillings as we go.

*Question #3: What Does This Spirit Baptism Effect in a Person's Life?*

- Effect #1: Power (cf. Acts 1:8; Luke 24:49)
- Effect #2: Praise (cf. Acts 2:11; 10:46; Eph. 5:19-20)
- Effect #3: Pleasure (cf. Acts 13:52; Rom. 5:5)

### 2. How Do We Get It?

*Step #1: Hear the Word*

If you want to put yourself in the way of the Spirit you put yourself in the words of the Bible. Don't expect to be filled with the Spirit of God if you are not attending to the Word of God.

*Step #2: Wait for God*

*Step #3: Pray with Passion*

*Step #4: Get Ready to Go*

He pours out his Spirit on those who desperately want to be on his mission. We're not to be dams of his grace, but conduits of it.



### Reflection Questions

- Before hearing this sermon, what would you have said this "baptism with the Spirit" is? What's changed (if anything) in your view now?
- Which of the three effects listed above do you feel most in need of personally? Why do you think?
- Which of the four steps listed above do you most need to take in your pursuit of God and this baptism (or fresh filling) with the Spirit? Try to take that step this week!

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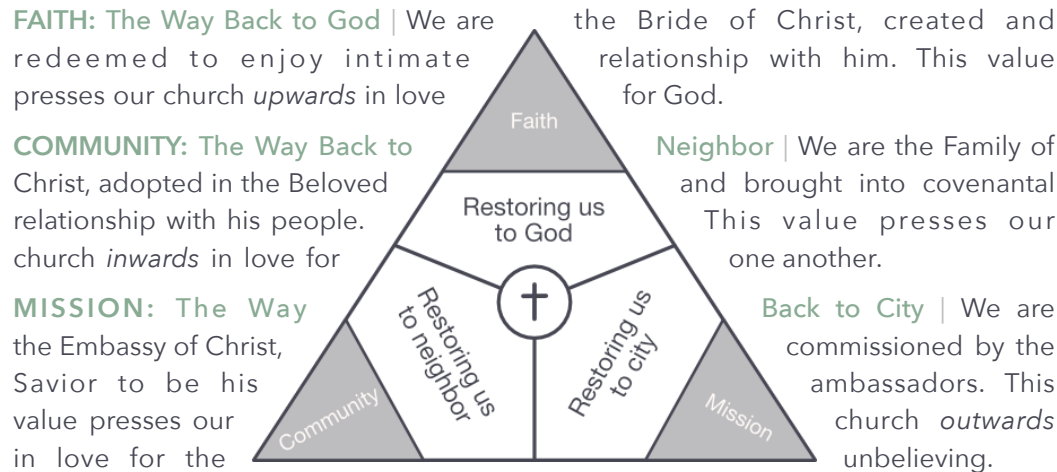


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## Our Mission & Values

*Mercy Hill Church exists to help restore us to God, neighbor, and city through the good news of Jesus Christ.*



## Your Next Steps

When approaching the Christian faith and life, it can be confusing to know where to even begin. Come find us at the Next Steps Table after the service—it would be our joy to help you along in the journey! And if you're a visitor, we have a special gift bag for you. Don't miss it!



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We are so glad you've joined us today!

## Announcement Spotlight

### Missions Emphasis Week - International Food Fair Sign-up!!!

God's heart and gospel is for the nations. As a way of both celebrating and reminding ourselves of this, we thought it would be a fun way to kick off our Missions Emphasis Week by sharing a meal together composed of signature dishes from countries around the world. We are very excited for this, but we need your help! Please see the details below . . .

- **When?** Sunday, March 12th, after the service, beginning at 12:30pm.
- **Where?** The meal will be held in the dining area off of the Sanctuary.
- **What?** We're asking that each of you sign up to bring a dish from a country different than your own. If possible, it should serve approximately 6-10 people. In the sign-up form that follows, you'll find a selection of countries to choose from as well as a suggested dish. This is just to get you started. You can make whatever dish you prefer. If you need help, we are happy to provide further suggestions. And, if desired, you can even just purchase something from a nearby restaurant. If you want your dish to remain warm, please do bring it in a crockpot (or instapot). If you can, please bring your own serving utensils. We will provide the plates, napkins, etc.
- **Anything else?** If you're feeling adventurous, please consider bringing along a brief fact sheet about the country printed from Operation World. You can set this alongside your dish.
- **Great, How Do I Sign Up?!** Glad you asked! Please scan the QR code below to find a link to sign up for your country and dish.

If you have any questions, feel free to reach out to us at [info@mercyhillchurch.org](mailto:info@mercyhillchurch.org).

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