

The Day of Pentecost as an Epochal Event. A watershed moment in salvation history.

- It inaugurated a glorious new day in God's dealings with mankind.
- The enabling presence of His Spirit, was now freely poured out on all.
- Now, because of Pentecost, anyone can call on the name of the Lord and be saved (2:21),
- and through a subsequent baptism in the Holy Spirit, these same people can be empowered to become full participants in God's redemptive mission to the nations (1:8).

The Experience of Pentecost as a Local Event

- The Pentecostal outpouring was also an outpouring of the Spirit on a specific local congregation of believers in a specific place to accomplish a specific purpose—the evangelization of Jerusalem.

## A Second Jerusalem Outpouring

A second outpouring of the Holy Spirit occurred in Jerusalem a few weeks after the first.

**Acts 4:31 (NASB)** *And when they had prayed, the place where they had gathered together was shaken, and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak the word of God with boldness.*

## What Happened?

After the Day of Pentecost the newly Spirit-empowered church became a powerful witnessing force in the city of Jerusalem.

**Act 2:47 NIV** *praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord was adding to their number day by day those who were being saved.*

**Act 2:41 NIV** *Those who accepted his message were baptized, and about three thousand were added to their number that day.*

**Acts 4:4 NIV** *But many who heard the message believed; so the number of men who believed grew to about five thousand.*

This evangelistic success (as well as the stir caused by healing of the lame man at the Beautiful Gate) greatly disturbed the Jewish authorities. They, therefore, summoned the apostles, and threatened them, warning them “to speak no longer to any man in [Jesus’] name” (v. 17). Then they released them.

Upon being released, the apostles returned to the company of disciples and reported what had happened to them. Then they all “lifted up their voices to God with one accord” and began to pray. Take some time to analyze their prayer.

The Holy Spirit was again manifesting His presence in their midst, just as He had done a few weeks earlier on the Day of Pentecost. Just as had happened on the Day of Pentecost, “they were all filled with

the Holy Spirit.” And, just as on the Day of Pentecost, those who were filled with the Spirit were empowered for witness, for, says Luke, “they began to speak the word of God with boldness.”

## What Resulted?

The results of this Second Jerusalem Outpouring mirrored those of the first outpouring at Pentecost: great spiritual energy was released resulting in powerful and persuasive witness in word and deed.

**Acts 4:33 NASB** *And with great power the apostles were giving testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and abundant grace was upon them all.*

Going from that place, these freshly-empowered believers “filled Jerusalem with [their] teaching” (5:28).

Three times in this same chapter Luke connects bold witness with the coming of the Spirit.

**Acts 4:13 NIV** *When they saw the **courage** of Peter and John and realized that they were unschooled, ordinary men, they were astonished and they took note that these men had been with Jesus.*

**Acts 4:29 NIV** *Now, Lord, consider their threats and enable your servants to speak your word with **great boldness**.*

**Acts 4:31 NIV** *After they prayed, the place where they were meeting was shaken. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and **spoke the word of God boldly**.*

**Note:** *These outpourings also served a second important purpose. They were also being prepared for the persecution and scattering that was soon to occur. When the persecution did come, they would be ready to spread the word into Judea, Samaria, and beyond.*

## So What?

Why did Luke include this episode in his narrative in the first place? Its inclusion in Acts is significant. Luke, under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, included this incident in his narrative because it so clearly advanced his revealed intent as the author as stated in **Acts 1:8**: “*You will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses . . .*”

Luke wanted his readers to know that one outpouring—or one infilling—of the Spirit is not enough, no matter how powerful or how dramatic it may have been.

No one can deny the greatness and power of the outpouring of the Spirit on the Day of Pentecost, and the impact it had on the lives of those who received the Spirit. However, the effects of even that experience, as powerful and life changing as they were, could not sustain the disciples’ spiritual lives and ministries indefinitely.

To retain their spiritual fervor, and to maintain the dynamic witness mandated by Jesus, they had to experience fresh infillings of the Spirit.

What about us?