St. Stephen AME Zion Church

5-WEEK VIRTUAL

HOLY SPIRIT & PENTECOST



BIBLE STUDY SERIES

EVERY WEDNESDAY | 7PM

zoom LIVE

ID: 538 095 5668
Passcode: 1001



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The Promise, The Power, The Presence

A Bible Study on the Holy Spirit & Pentecost

Don’t just admire Pentecost – live in it



Week	Bible Lesson	Scriptures
1	The Promise	John 14:16-17, Acts 1:4-5
2	The Waiting Season	Acts 1:12-14, Isaiah 40:31
3 (4/22)	Pentecost Power	Acts 2:1–4, Joel 2:28–29
4 (4/29)	Purpose of Pentecost	Acts 2:5–12, Acts 2:37–41
5 (5/6)	Life in the Spirit Daily Walk	Acts 2:42–47, Galatians 5:22–23 Romans 8:1–14, Galatians 5:16

Acts 2:42–47

42 And they continued stedfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers.

43 And fear came upon every soul: and many wonders and signs were done by the apostles.

44 And all that believed were together, and had all things common;

45 And sold their possessions and goods, and parted them to all men, as every man had need.

46 And they, continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, did eat their meat with gladness and singleness of heart,

47 Praising God, and having favour with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved.

📖 Acts 2:42–47 — Background (Pentecost Context)



🔥 **1. Immediate Context: Life After Pentecost**

Acts 2:42–47 describes what happened **right after the Holy Spirit came** in Acts 2:1–4 and **after Peter's sermon** (Acts 2:14–41), where about **3,000 people were saved**.

👉 This passage answers a key question for your series:

"What does a Spirit-filled life actually look like in community?"

This is not theory—this is **evidence of transformation**.

🕊️ 2. The Holy Spirit Forms a New Community

Before Pentecost:
•The disciples were **waiting, unsure, and hidden** (Acts 1)
After Pentecost:
•They became a **bold, unified, Spirit-led community**
👉 The Holy Spirit didn't just fill individuals—
He **formed a people** (the birth of the Church).

📚 3. The Four Pillars of the Early Church (v.42)

"They devoted themselves…"
This devotion was **intentional and consistent**, not casual.

1. Apostles' Teaching
Rooted in **Jesus' words and doctrine**
Spiritual growth came through **learning and understanding**
👉 **The more you understand Scripture, the more you can apply it.**

2. Fellowship (Koinonia)
Deep spiritual partnership—not just socializing
Sharing life, burdens, and faith
👉 This is Spirit-produced unity, not forced connection.

3. Breaking of Bread
Likely includes both:
Communion (remembrance of Christ)
Shared meals (relationship building)
👉 The Spirit fosters both **worship and relationship**.

4. Prayers
Corporate, consistent prayer life
Dependence on God—not self
👉 A Spirit-filled church is a **praying church**.

😲 4. The Evidence of God’s Power (v.43)

😲 **4. The Evidence of God’s Power (v.43)**

“Fear came upon every soul…”

•“Fear” = reverence, awe of God

Phobos fear, dread, terror

that which strikes terror

reverence for one's husban

•Signs and wonders confirmed:

- God’s presence
- Apostolic authority

👉 The Holy Spirit produces **a sense of God’s reality**, not just emotion.

🤝 5. Radical Generosity & Unity (v.44–45)

- “All things in common”
- Selling possessions to meet needs

⚠️ Important teaching note:

- This was **voluntary generosity**, not forced communism
- Driven by **love and the Spirit**, not obligation

👉 The Holy Spirit shifts hearts from:

“Mine” → “Ours”

🏠 6. Daily Life Together (v.46)

- Met **daily**
- Gathered in:
  - **Temple (public worship)**
  - **Homes (intimate fellowship)**

👉 Balance:

- **Corporate worship + personal connection**
  - ➢ Church gathering
  - ➢ Large platform (social media: Facebook Live)
  - ➢ Smaller, deeper engagement (groups, discussions)

😊 7. The Atmosphere of Joy & Authenticity

"Gladness and simplicity of heart"

- Joy was **genuine, not performative**
- Hearts were **pure and unified**

👉 The Holy Spirit produces:

- Joy
- Authenticity
- Spiritual sincerity

🙌 8. Growth Comes From God (v.47)

“The Lord added to the church daily…”

•Growth was:

- **Organic**
- **God-driven**

👉 Key principle:

Healthy churches grow naturally when the Spirit is at work.

“The Evidence of a Spirit-Filled Church”

Area	Evidence
Spiritual Growth	Devotion to teaching
Relationships	Genuine fellowship
Worship	Breaking bread & prayer
Power	Signs and wonders
Generosity	Meeting needs
Consistency	Daily gathering
Atmosphere	Joy and sincerity
Impact	Continuous growth

Galatians 5:16–21 (LIV)

16 I advise you to obey only the Holy Spirit's instructions. He will
tell you where to go and what to do, and then you won't always
be doing the wrong things your evil nature wants you to. 17 For
we naturally love to do evil things that are just the opposite
from the things that the Holy Spirit tells us to do; and the good
things we want to do when the Spirit has his way with us are just
the opposite of our natural desires. These two forces within us
are constantly fighting each other to win control over us, and
our wishes are never free from their pressures. 18 When you are
guided by the Holy Spirit, you need no longer force yourself to
obey Jewish laws.

19 But when you follow your own wrong inclinations, your lives
will produce these evil results: impure thoughts, eagerness for
lustful pleasure, 20 idolatry, spiritism (that is, encouraging the
activity of demons), hatred and fighting, jealousy and anger,
constant effort to get the best for yourself, complaints and
criticisms, the feeling that everyone else is wrong except those
in your own little group—and there will be wrong
doctrine, 21 envy, murder, drunkenness, wild parties, and all that
sort of thing. Let me tell you again, as I have before, that anyone
living that sort of life will not inherit the Kingdom of God.

Galatians 5:22–23 (LIV)

22 But when the Holy Spirit controls our lives he will produce this kind of fruit in us: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness and self-control; and here there is no conflict with Jewish laws

📖 Galatians 5:22–23 — The Fruit of the Spirit (Pentecost Lens)







🔥 **1. The Big Idea: Evidence of the Holy Spirit**

After Pentecost (Acts 2), the question becomes:

👉 **"How do we know someone is truly Spirit-filled?"**

Paul answers that in Galatians 5:

- Not just by **power (Acts 2)**
- But by **character (Galatians 5)**

💡 **Key Truth for your teaching:**

The Holy Spirit produces both **power AND fruit**.

⚖️ 2. Context: Flesh vs. Spirit (Galatians 5:16–21)

Before listing the fruit, Paul contrasts:

- **Works of the flesh** (sinful nature)
- **Fruit of the Spirit** (God-produced character)

👉 This is critical:

- Works = human effort
- Fruit = divine production

💡 You don't **force fruit**—you **bear fruit** when connected to the Spirit.

🔗 **Simple Breakdown**

Bearing fruit =

Character → Who you are

Conduct → How you live

Contribution → What your life produces

🌿 3. Why It's Called "Fruit" (Singular)

"The **fruit** of the Spirit…" (not fruits)

- It's **one unified result**
- Not separate traits you pick and choose

👉 Meaning:

If the Spirit is truly at work, **all these qualities grow together**.

🍇 4. The 9 Expressions of the Spirit

💖 A. Godward (Inner Life)

1. **Love (Agape)** – unconditional, sacrificial
2. **Joy** – not based on circumstances
3. **Peace** – inner stability and trust in God

👉 These reflect your **relationship with God**

🤝 B. Manward (Relationships)

4. **Longsuffering (Patience)** – enduring people
5. **Kindness** – compassionate action
6. **Goodness** – moral integrity

👉 These reflect how you treat **others**

🧍 C. Inward Discipline (Self-Control)

7. **Faithfulness** – consistency and loyalty
8. **Gentleness (Meekness)** – strength under control
9. **Self-control** – mastery over desires

👉 These reflect your **personal walk and maturity**

🔗 5. Connection to Pentecost (Acts 2)

Acts 2 (Pentecost Power)	Galatians 5 (Spiritual Fruit)
Speaking in tongues	Speaking with love
Bold preaching	Gentle character
Signs & wonders	Consistent integrity
3,000 added	Daily transformed lives

👉 **Pentecost shows the Spirit falling**
👉 **Galatians shows the Spirit forming**

💡 Teaching line:
"The same Spirit that empowers you publicly must transform you privately."

🌱 6. Growth Process: Fruit Takes Time

Fruit doesn’t appear overnight.

- It must be:
  - Cultivated
  - Nourished
  - Developed

👉 This aligns with your teaching on **waiting on God (Acts 1)**:

- Waiting produces **depth**
- The Spirit produces **growth over time**

✝️ 7. Verse 24–25

"Those who belong to Christ have crucified the flesh…"

•The Spirit's fruit grows when:

- ➢ The flesh is denied
- ➢ The Spirit is followed

👉 This is daily, intentional living:

"Walk in the Spirit"

•Pentecost = **The Spirit arrives**

•Galatians = **The Spirit matures us**

Romans 8:1–14 (LIV)

8 So there is now no condemnation awaiting those who belong to Christ Jesus. **2** For the power of the life-giving Spirit—and this power is mine through Christ Jesus—has freed me from the vicious circle of sin and death. **3** We aren't saved from sin's grasp by knowing the commandments of God because we can't and don't keep them, but God put into effect a different plan to save us. He sent his own Son in a human body like ours—except that ours are sinful—and destroyed sin's control over us by giving himself as a sacrifice for our sins. **4** So now we can obey God's laws if we follow after the Holy Spirit and no longer obey the old evil nature within us.

5 Those who let themselves be controlled by their lower natures live only to please themselves, but those who follow after the Holy Spirit find themselves doing those things that please God. **6** Following after the Holy Spirit leads to life and peace, but following after the old nature leads to death **7** because the old sinful nature within us is against God. It never did obey God's laws and it never will. **8** That's why those who are still under the control of their old sinful selves, bent on following their old evil desires, can never please God.

9 But you are not like that. You are controlled by your new nature if you have the Spirit of God living in you. (And remember that if anyone doesn't have the Spirit of Christ living in him, he is not a Christian at all.) **10** Yet, even though Christ lives within you, your body will die because of sin; but your spirit will live, for Christ has pardoned it.[a] **11** And if the Spirit of God, who raised up Jesus from the dead, lives in you, he will make your dying bodies live again after you die, by means of this same Holy Spirit living within you.

12 So, dear brothers, you have no obligations whatever to your old sinful nature to do what it begs you to do. **13** For if you keep on following it you are lost and will perish, but if through the power of the Holy Spirit you crush it and its evil deeds, you shall live. **14** For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God.

📖 Romans 8:1–14 — Life in the Spirit (Pentecost Lens)



🔥 **1. The Big Idea: From Condemnation to Freedom**

"There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus…" (v.1)

Paul opens with a **powerful declaration**:

•Before Christ → **Condemnation**

•In Christ → **Freedom**

👉 Through the Holy Spirit, believers are:

•**Forgiven**

•**Set free**

•**No longer bound by sin's penalty**

"Pentecost didn't just give power—it confirmed freedom."

⚖️ 2. The Law of the Spirit vs. the Law of Sin (v.2–4)

Paul introduces two “laws” (principles):

Law of Sin & Death	**Law of the Spirit of Life**
Leads to bondage	Leads to freedom
Driven by flesh	Driven by Spirit
Ends in death	Produces life

👉 Jesus fulfilled what the Law could not do:

- The Law could **expose sin**
- But only Christ (through the Spirit) could **defeat sin**

🧠 3. The Battle of the Mind (v.5–8)

"To be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace."
Two mindsets:

- **Fleshly mind**:
  - Focused on self
  - Opposes God
  - Leads to death
- **Spiritual mind**:
  - Focused on God
  - Submits to Him
  - Produces life and peace

👉 **Transformation begins in how we think** (Philippians 4:8 tie-in).

8 And now, brothers, as I close this letter, let me say this one more thing: Fix your thoughts on what is true and good and right. Think about things that are pure and lovely, and dwell on the fine, good things in others. Think about all you can praise God for and be glad about.

🕊️ 4. The Indwelling Holy Spirit (v.9–11)

"If any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his."

Key truths:

- The Holy Spirit **lives inside the believer**
- This is not temporary—it's **indwelling presence**
- The same Spirit that:
  - **Raised Jesus from the dead**
  - Now **gives life to us**

💡 Pentecost connection:

- Acts 2 = Spirit **came upon**
- Romans 8 = Spirit **lives within**

⚔️ 5. Putting the Flesh to Death (v.12–13)

"If ye through the Spirit do mortify the deeds of the body, ye shall live."

- "Mortify" = put to death
- Not by willpower alone—but **through the Spirit**

👉 This is critical balance:

- Not legalism
- Not passivity (letting things happen instead of actively responding or leading.)
- But **Spirit-empowered discipline**

💡 Teaching line:

"You don't fight sin by yourself—you fight it with the Spirit."

👑 6. Led by the Spirit (v.14)

"For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God."
This is identity language:

- Being led by the Spirit = evidence of **sonship**
- Not just saved—but **guided**

👉 The Spirit:

- Directs
- Convicts
- Leads into truth

Stage	Scripture	Focus
🔥 Power	Acts 2	Spirit falls
🌿 Fruit	Galatians 5	Character grows
🕊️ Life	Romans 8	Daily living & freedom

“Acts shows the arrival, Galatians shows the evidence, and Romans shows the lifestyle.”

🕊️ “Living What Pentecost Started”

- Freedom from condemnation
- A new governing power (the Spirit)
- A transformed mind
- An indwelling presence
- Daily victory over sin
- A Spirit-led life

🧠 Reflection Questions

1. Am I living in freedom—or still thinking in condemnation?
2. What is controlling my mindset—flesh or Spirit?
3. Am I being led by the Spirit in my daily decisions?

Galatians 5:16

16 This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh. (KJV)

16 I advise you to obey only the Holy Spirit's instructions. He will tell you where to go and what to do, and then you won't always be doing the wrong things your evil nature wants you to. (LIV)

📖 Galatians 5:16 — "Walk in the Spirit" (Pentecost Lens)



🔥 **1. The Big Command**

"This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh."

This is not a suggestion—it's a **command**.

👉 Paul is telling believers:

- The Christian life is not just about **receiving the Spirit (Pentecost)**
- It's about **walking with the Spirit daily**

💡 Teaching line:

"Pentecost was a moment—but walking in the Spirit is a lifestyle."

🚶 2. What Does “Walk” Mean?

“Walk” = **a continuous, daily pattern of living**

- Not occasional
- Not emotional moments
- But **consistent direction**

👉 It means:

- Step-by-step dependence on the Holy Spirit
- Daily decisions guided by God

💡 This connects to your teaching:

We don’t just feel the Spirit—we follow Him.

⚔️ 3. The Conflict: Spirit vs. Flesh

Galatians 5:16 introduces a spiritual tension:

- **Flesh** = sinful nature, self-driven desires
- **Spirit** = God's will, God's way

👉 The promise:

If you walk in the Spirit, you will **not fulfill** the flesh.

⚠️ Notice:

- It doesn't say the flesh disappears
- It says the flesh is **overpowered by a greater influence**

💡 "Victory is not the absence of temptation—it's the presence of the Spirit."

Walking in the Spirit looks like:

- Choosing prayer over panic
- Choosing truth over feelings
- Choosing obedience over convenience
- Choosing God's way over your way

👉 It's a **moment-by-moment decision**

"Walking in the Spirit is the daily decision to let God lead instead of your flesh."

🧠 Reflection Questions

1. What areas of my life am I not allowing the Spirit to lead?
2. Am I reacting in the flesh or responding in the Spirit?
3. What would it look like for me to walk with God daily—not occasionally?

Closing Prayer

Heavenly Father,
Thank you for the promise of Your Holy Spirit.
Help us to wait on You and not move ahead in our own strength

Fill us afresh, O God,
And let Your Spirit guide, strengthen, and empower us
To live and walk in Your truth.

Position our hearts to receive all the You have promised,
And help us to trust Your timing.

In Jesus' name,
Amen