



**P e n t e c o s t**

**and Our Life in  
the Spirit**

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## The Feast of Pentecost

Following the Passover, there were to be seven complete sabbaths, or forty-nine days, leading to the fiftieth day when a new grain offering was to be presented to the Lord (Leviticus 23:15–16; Deuteronomy 16:9–10). This fiftieth day is known as the Day of Pentecost or the Festival of Weeks. According to Leviticus, this observance was done by making animal sacrifices and grain offerings.

On the day after the sabbath of the Festival of Unleavened Bread, sheaves of the first fruits of the newly harvested barley crop were brought to the priest and waved before the Lord. (Leviticus 23:10–11). On this same day, Christ came out of the grave as the first fruits of resurrection and the promise of a great harvest to come (John 12:23–24). When the Day of Pentecost arrived, the grain from the sheaves was ground into fine flour and made into loaves. These loaves were then waved, along with the sacrifices, before the Lord (Leviticus 23:5–20).

The Lord commanded that this feast be observed every year by His people (Leviticus 23:4). And the book of Acts records that one hundred twenty disciples of Yeshua (Jesus) were in Jerusalem for this observance. These disciples had gathered in an upper room, where they had been in prayer since Yeshua's ascension into heaven (Acts 1:8–15). While they were observing the Day of Pentecost, something significant happened.

When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. And suddenly there came from heaven a noise like a violent rushing wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. And there appeared to them tongues as of fire distributing themselves, and they rested on each one of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit was giving them utterance. (Acts 2:1–4)



The Lord's promise that the disciples would receive power was fulfilled as the Holy Spirit was poured out on them. From that day forward, Pentecost has been connected with the outpouring of the Holy Spirit. However, in the end-time we will see even greater outpourings than what happened on that day. This was prophesied by Joel.

It will come about after this that I will pour out My Spirit on all mankind; and your sons and daughters will prophesy, your old men will dream dreams, your young men will see visions. Even on the male and female servants I will pour out My Spirit in those days. I will display wonders in the sky and on the earth, blood, fire and columns of smoke. The sun will be turned into darkness and the moon into blood before the great and awesome day of the LORD comes. (Joel 3:28–31)



## The End-Time Outpourings

**T**his prophecy of Joel connects the outpouring of the Holy Spirit to end-time events. There is no mistaking the fact that this great outpouring of the Holy Spirit upon all mankind is one of the events that heralds the coming of the Lord.

We also see in scriptural prophecies that the outpouring of the Spirit in the last days is during the period of restoration for Israel and the Jewish people. Ezekiel 39 contains a prophecy that there will be an outpouring of God's Spirit on the children of Israel when they are brought into the land, and they turn to God in a new way and begin to seek Him.

“Then they will know that I am the LORD their God because I made them go into exile among the nations, and then gathered them again to their own land; and I will leave none of them there any longer. I will not hide My face from them any longer, for I will have poured out My Spirit on the house of Israel,” declares the Lord GOD. (Ezekiel 39:28–29)

Another such prophecy is in Isaiah 44.

Thus says the LORD who made you  
And formed you from the womb, who will help you,  
“Do not fear, O Jacob My servant;  
And you Jeshurun whom I have chosen.  
For I will pour out water on the thirsty land  
And streams on the dry ground;  
I will pour out My Spirit on your offspring  
And My blessing on your descendants.” (Isaiah 44:2–3)

In this day we are witnessing the return of the Jewish people to the land of Israel. We are literally watching these prophecies being fulfilled right before our eyes. Therefore as we celebrate Pentecost this year, we are not just remembering when God poured out His Spirit on a handful of people to start His Church. We are anticipating God pouring out His Spirit on all Israel and in fact on all flesh as we watch end-time events unfold.



## Outpouring With a Purpose

The outpouring of God's Spirit on the apostles at the Day of Pentecost brought gifts that enabled them to function as God's instruments in the earth. Likewise, the outpouring of God's Spirit in the end-time has that same purpose. It is one thing to know that God is pouring out His Spirit. It is another thing to recognize that the outpouring of the Spirit, and the gifts that come with it, are for the purpose of enabling the Body of Christ to move and function in the realm of spirit. At this time of Pentecost, there needs to be a greater immersion into the world of spirit so that we, as the Body of Christ, can move in the gifts and ministries of the Holy Spirit.



This is how we function in the Kingdom of God, just as Yeshua told Nicodemus.

Jesus answered and said to him, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God.” Nicodemus said to Him, “How can a man be born when he is old? He cannot enter a second time into his mother’s womb and be born, can he?” Jesus answered, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.” (John 3:3–5)



## Born Again to Live in the Spirit

We know that the Kingdom of God, where Christ is seated at the Father’s right hand, is a spiritual Kingdom. Just as God abides in the realm of spirit and is invisible to us by the natural eye, so now is Christ since He ascended into heaven. But He also said to His disciples, “Where I am, there you may be also” (John 14:3). We as believers need to learn how to live and relate in the spirit world with Him.

Yeshua told Nicodemus, “You must be born again” (John 3:7). And the term born again is commonly used in Christianity to mean the salvation experience. But we also need to recognize that He was referring to something more than an initial salvation experience. He was talking about a literal new birth into the world of spirit. He clearly stated that unless you are born again, you will not enter or even see the Kingdom of God. And unfortunately, I think most believers in the Body of Christ are in that state. People do not see the Kingdom of God. They do not see what is going on concerning God, the throne, and Christ at His right hand. These things are invisible to them.

Yes, we know that when Christ returns to the earth, He will establish His Kingdom in the physical realm and every eye will see Him (Matthew 24:30; Revelation 1:7). Then the Kingdom will not be invisible. It will not be simply spiritual. It will be on the natural plane. Until that happens, however, we as believers are striving to be immersed in and live in a spiritual Kingdom. His Kingdom is already established in the realm of spirit, and He wants us there with Him. Therefore, He gives us the Spirit of truth who is to dwell in us and teach us what we need to know, enabling us to function in the spiritual Kingdom that exists today.

That is why the Day of Pentecost is not only about receiving the Holy Spirit. We need more than the Spirit surrounding us or even filling us. We must be born into the Holy Spirit to live where He lives. This is why Christ sent the Holy Spirit to teach us all things so that we do not relate to the Kingdom on a natural plane (John 14:26). And we need that desperately as we come to the time of the end. If we are incapable of moving in the Spirit, then we will not be very effective in our prayers and will even be misled because we cannot discern the spirit of truth from the spirit of error (1 John 4:6).



## His Outpouring Brings His Gifts

As God pours out His Spirit on us at Pentecost, I want us to be born again. I want Him to teach us and lead us into all the truth. I want Him to show us how to live and move in the world of spirit, just as Yeshua Himself was able to move. Christ did nothing but what He saw the Father do because He saw with the Spirit (John 5:19). He said nothing but what He heard the Father say because He heard with the Spirit (John 5:30). These are the things that we need in this day to be His disciples.

All that Christ has for us will be given to us through this means of the Holy Spirit (John 16:12–15). And the Holy Spirit imparts gifts to the believers (1 Corinthians 12:4–11). Among

these gifts are the word of wisdom, the word of knowledge, and the discerning of spirits. These gifts are very important because they enable us to understand what is really taking place in our circumstances and the world we live in.

The word of knowledge, for example, shows us by the Spirit what we need to know. This knowledge could be about a person for the purpose of ministry, but it could also be about what is going on with groups and nations. Also the word of wisdom shows us the wisdom of the Lord in the circumstances and situations we find ourselves in. And the discerning of spirits enables us to identify the spirits that are motivating people or events.



## We Must Have Spiritual Perception

**I**n 1 Corinthians Paul emphasizes this need for spiritual perception.

But a natural man does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually appraised. But he who is spiritual appraises all things, yet he himself is appraised by no one. For WHO HAS KNOWN THE MIND OF THE LORD, THAT HE WILL INSTRUCT HIM? But we have the mind of Christ. (1 Corinthians 2:14–16)

We do not want to be in the category of the natural man who does not accept the things of the Spirit of God. As the Body of Christ, we must not be in a place where we do not accept or understand how people and events around us are spiritually initiated or motivated. If we do not have the knowledge, wisdom, or discernment by the Holy Spirit to know what is happening, we will find ourselves being deceived or confused.



The closer we get to the times of the end, the more we will find that they are spiritually initiated and that there is a spiritual root to what is happening and what is motivating people. Therefore, these gifts of the Spirit are requirements for living in these last days when lies and deception will play a huge role in everything that transpires.



## How Spirits Shaped History

The Scriptures are filled with examples of people and events being motivated by the spirit realm, as well as the role that deceiving spirits play. According to Judges 9:23–24, Abimelech and the men of Shechem were set against each other by an evil spirit from God to bring judgment on them. Another example is in 1 Samuel 18:10–11. After the Spirit of God departed from Saul, an evil spirit came and motivated him to kill David. In fact Saul was so driven to kill David that he pursued him endlessly. Think about what satan was trying to accomplish in killing David. The fulfillment of the Kingdom of God is based on Christ's return to sit on the throne of David. And here we see an evil spirit driving Saul to kill David so that his kingdom could not be established.

Next we read in 1 Kings 22:19–23 about the prophet Micaiah, who told an interesting story about God needing a spirit to change the course that Israel was on because of Ahab. In response a spirit appeared before the Lord and volunteered to take care of it. When the Lord asked this spirit how he proposed to do that, the spirit answered, "I will be a deceiving spirit in the mouth of Ahab's prophets." Ahab was then defeated in battle because of this deception (1 Kings 22:34–37). So here is a scriptural example of how a king, a prominent national leader like Ahab, was influenced through deceiving spirits to change the course of history.



Another example of spiritual knowledge and discerning of spirits is found in 2 Kings 6:11–17. The prophet Elisha was in a city that was surrounded by an army sent by the king of Aram to destroy him. At this sight Elisha's servant panicked. But Elisha simply prayed, "O LORD, I pray, open his eyes that he may see." The servant's eyes were opened, and he saw that they were surrounded by angelic forces that were far greater than the forces coming against them. We also need the perception to see the positive forces of God. He is the Lord of hosts, and there are myriads of angelic forces surrounding Him and surrounding us ready to engage the forces of this world, especially as we get closer to the days of His return.



## We Need to Discern the Truth

These examples from the Scriptures show us how events in the natural realm can be influenced by spiritual forces and how our perception of what is happening can be completely wrong. The natural world is far more motivated by the spirit world than most people realize. But as believers in Christ, we should not only realize it, but we should also have the knowledge, the wisdom, and discerning of spirits to understand how things really work.

This becomes even more important as we get into the end-times. Most of what will happen in the conflicts of the end-time will be based on this reality that people are moved by spiritual forces that are driving what is happening on the earth, and they are believing what is false. Paul gives us a warning about this in 2 Thessalonians.

For the mystery of lawlessness is already at work; only he who now restrains will do so until he is taken out of the way. Then that lawless one will be revealed whom the Lord will slay with the breath of His mouth and will bring to an end

by the appearance of His coming. That is, the one whose coming is in accord with the activity of Satan, with all power and signs and false wonders, and with all deception of wickedness for those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth so as to be saved. For this reason God will send upon them a deluding influence so that they will believe what is false, in order that they all may be judged. (2 Thessalonians 2:7–12)

This should be a wake-up call. We must be able to discern the truth by the Spirit of truth—the Holy Spirit who has been given to us. We must not be susceptible to the deluding influences that will come upon the world to make people believe what is false. We must know the truth. And the truth will set us free from the delusions and the lies that are motivating mankind during the days of the end (John 8:32).



## Exercising the Keys of the Kingdom

**W**e read in Matthew 16:13-14 that people were in confusion about who Yeshua was. “Is He the Christ? Is He not the Christ? Is He one of the prophets? Is He a false prophet? Who is He?” So Yeshua tested His disciples on that question.

He said to them, “But who do you say that I am?” Simon Peter answered, “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.” And Jesus said to him, “Blessed are you, Simon Barjona, because flesh and blood did not reveal this to you, but My Father who is in heaven. I also say to you that you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build My church; and the gates of Hades will not overpower it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; and whatever you bind on earth shall have been bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall have been loosed in heaven.” (Matthew 16:15–19)



Upon what rock did Christ say He would build His Church? It is upon the rock of revelation, the knowledge and understanding that showed Peter what was transpiring around him. This was something that the Father in heaven revealed to him. And this is how we need to move by the Holy Spirit.

If we are His Church, then we need to exercise the keys of the Kingdom. We need to have the word of wisdom, the word of knowledge, and the discerning of spirits, so we can be free in ourselves from the deception that comes to all the world. We need to have the prophetic flow that can bind on earth that which is bound in heaven.

I encourage you to enter into your prayer closet and contend with God to grant you spiritual eyes to see what is happening around you. Christ did not judge by what His natural eyes saw or His natural ears heard (Isaiah 11:3). And if we are going to be the sons of God in this generation, we must be the same way. We must not be moved by what seems to be happening in the natural realm. We must be able to see the spiritual influences and factors behind what is happening.

Let us believe God for the outpouring of the Holy Spirit upon us and within us in this generation. As Paul exhorted, we need to “pursue love, yet desire earnestly spiritual gifts” (1 Corinthians 14:1). We should be earnestly desiring and seeking this outpouring of God’s gifts upon us. We need these gifts to function in us, for us, and through us so that when we prophesy, we will prophesy those things that should happen according to the will of God. We need to pray effectively, “Your kingdom come. Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven” (Matthew 6:10).

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*All Scripture references are from the New American Standard Bible 1995 (NASB1995).*



# ABOUT GARY HARGRAVE



GARY HARGRAVE has a passion for leading people into spiritual maturity. Gary effectively ministers the life-changing truth of God's Word through Bible teaching and prophetic revelation that emphasizes the Lordship of Christ.

Gary embraces the teachings and insights of the Hebrew Scriptures as the essential foundation of God's Kingdom and the roots of Christian faith.

By cultivating spiritual maturity in Christians, Gary is deeply committed to teaching and inspiring unity in the Body of Christ and between Christians and the Jewish people.

Throughout decades of ministry, Gary has worked closely with leaders in the Jewish, Catholic, and Protestant communities to build relationships based on commonality and understanding. He frequently leads study tours to Israel in the land of the Bible.

Gary is the host of a weekly podcast entitled *Growing In God* and is the founder of Shiloh University, an accredited online Bible college and seminary.

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**For other insightful resources by Gary Hargrave, including podcasts, books, articles, videos, and other educational materials, please visit: [www.HargraveMinistries.org](http://www.HargraveMinistries.org).**

## ABOUT HARGRAVE MINISTRIES

The calling of the Lord upon this ministry is to lead people into spiritual maturity by revealing biblical truth. **Our passion is to see the Kingdom of God manifest on earth** as the Body of Christ grows in unity, power, and love.

Everything we do flows from the revelation of the Jewish foundations of our Christian faith. It is our desire and privilege to bless the land and people of Israel. Our Israel outreach includes our ability to:

- **Feed the poor and break the cycle of poverty in Israel.**
- **Support the orphans and widows of fallen Israeli soldiers.**
- Provide physical and emotional care to **child victims of terrorism.**
- **Build bridges between Christians and Jews with biblical study and research.**
- Support archaeology and preservation of the **biblical City of David.**
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- **Help persecuted Jews around the world return to Israel and start new lives.**
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