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# Shepherd's Path

## A Shepherd's Personal Devotions

Jesus Now Series, Lesson 51

**Lesson Title:** Pentecost—Jesus Gives the Holy Spirit

**Take Home Point:** Jesus gives the Holy Spirit to continue his ministry.

### Warm-Up:

I am fascinated by books. Not that I find the content of every book interesting or true, or even acceptable. What I find fascinating is the idea that someone took the time to write thoughts, facts, perceptions, dreams, and stories because it was important enough to write them down. Those ideas were captured in print, a transmittable form of communication that spans lifetimes. For example, John Bunyan wrote *Pilgrim's Progress* over 300 years ago. He did this to give others an encouraging view of the spiritual life. Many people read that book and profited by it. Those people died and left their copy behind, or gave it away to someone else. But however it happened, passing the book on did not change the writing. All that was written in that book remains even today. By giving his thoughts to print, John Bunyan continues to encourage believers as they live for Christ in a sinful world.

**Read:** Acts 1:8 – 2:47; 2 Timothy 1:7-8

### Observation (What happened?):

How did Peter explain the speaking in tongues?

From 2 Timothy, what kind of Spirit have we been given?

### Interpretation (What does it mean?):

Why do you think Paul emphasized the Holy Spirit as “the spirit of self-discipline?”

What kind of behavior did the new believers exhibit when they turned to the Lord?

### Insight:

Why did wind and fire play such an important role in the public giving of God's Holy Spirit to his people? Because both were clear signs of God's presence in the Old Testament, and Jews from all over the world would have known this to be so. In Exodus 3, how did God present himself to Moses in the desert? Fire in a bush. In Exodus 13, how did God guide the wandering children of Israel during the night? By a pillar of fire. In Exodus 10, it was the wind that brought many of the plagues on the Egyptians. In Exodus 14, God's wind divided the Red Sea so the Israelites could cross safely and escape the Egyptians. In Numbers 11, the wind brought a miraculous feast of quail to the Israelite camp. The Jews of the first century knew these accounts from the books of Moses. That is why, in spite of a few mockers, Peter's audience was ready to hear what he had to say about the signs of Pentecost and their meaning.

### Application (What does it mean to me?):

What kind of behavior do you exhibit specifically because you are a believer?

What ministry is God calling you to as a continuation of the ministry of Jesus on earth?