

WHO RECEIVED THE BAPTISM OF THE SPIRIT ON PENTECOST?

Bro. John: In Acts 2 we read that the apostles or people who gathered on the day of Pentecost had received the Holy Spirit. Does this mean that the 12 apostles only or all the 120 people including the apostles who received the power of Holy Ghost that fell upon them? Lawrence

Dear Bro. Lawrence: Careful attention to the context will clearly indicate upon whom the Spirit fell on the Day of Pentecost. The rule of grammar is that the identity of a pronoun (they in 2:1) must be traced back to its near antecedent. Observe:

- * In Acts 1:26, Matthias was numbered “with the eleven apostles.”
- * When the day of Pentecost was now come **they** (the twelve) were all together in one place (2:1).
- * There appeared unto them (the twelve) tongues of fire and it sat upon each one of **them** (apostles) (2:3).
- * **They** were all filled with the Holy Spirit...(the apostles) (2:5).
- * The people said, “are not all **these** that speak Galileans?” (apostles) (2:7)
- * “But Peter standing up with the eleven, lifted up his voice...”(2:14)
- * “This Jesus did God raise up, whereof **we** all (apostles) are witnesses” (2:32).
- * “Now when they heard this, they were pricked in their heart, and said unto Peter and the rest of the apostles...what shall we do?” (2:37).

We conclude then that the baptism of the Holy Spirit with its miraculous manifestations came only upon the apostles. Those who gladly received their word and were baptized in water received remission of sins and the gift of the Holy Spirit (Acts 2:41; 38). The gift of the Holy Spirit, which every Christian receives at his baptism, does not impart supernatural gifts like the baptism of the Spirit did. JHW

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