



# 1



## THE PROMISE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

<sup>1</sup> In my first book I told you, Theophilus, about everything Jesus began to do and teach <sup>2</sup> until the day he was taken up to heaven after giving his chosen apostles further instructions through the Holy Spirit. <sup>3</sup> During the forty days after he suffered and died, he appeared to the apostles from time to time, and he proved to them in many ways that he was actually alive. And he talked to them about the Kingdom of God. <sup>4</sup> Once when he was eating with them, he commanded them, “Do not leave Jerusalem until the Father sends you the gift he promised, as I told you before. <sup>5</sup> John baptized with water, but in just a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.”

### THE ASCENSION OF JESUS

<sup>6</sup> So when the apostles were with Jesus, they kept asking him, “Lord, has the time come for you to free Israel and restore our kingdom?” <sup>7</sup> He replied, “The Father alone has the authority to set those dates and times, and they are not for you to know. <sup>8</sup> But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you. And you will be my witnesses, telling people about me everywhere—in Jerusalem, throughout Judea, in Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” <sup>9</sup> After saying this, he was taken up into a cloud while they were watching, and they could no longer see him. <sup>10</sup> As they strained to see him rising into heaven, two white-robed men suddenly stood among them. <sup>11</sup> “Men of Galilee,” they said, “why are you standing here staring into heaven? Jesus has been taken from you into heaven, but someday he will return from heaven in the same way you saw him go!”

### MATTHIAS REPLACES JUDAS

<sup>12</sup> Then the apostles returned to Jerusalem from the Mount of Olives, a distance of half a mile. <sup>13</sup> When they arrived, they went to the upstairs room of the house where they were staying. Here are the names of those who were present: Peter, John, James, Andrew, Philip, Thomas, Bartholomew, Matthew, James (son of Alphaeus), Simon (the zealot), and Judas (son of James). <sup>14</sup> They all met together and were constantly united in prayer, along with Mary the mother of Jesus, several other

women, and the brothers of Jesus. <sup>15</sup> During this time, when about 120 believers were together in one place, Peter stood up and addressed them. <sup>16</sup> “Brothers,” he said, “the Scriptures had to be fulfilled concerning Judas, who guided those who arrested Jesus. This was predicted long ago by the Holy Spirit, speaking through King David. <sup>17</sup> Judas was one of us and shared in the ministry with us.” <sup>18</sup> (Judas had bought a field with the money he received for his treachery. Falling headfirst there, his body split open, spilling out all his intestines. <sup>19</sup> The news of his death spread to all the people of Jerusalem, and they gave the place the Aramaic name *Akeldama*, which means “Field of Blood.”) <sup>20</sup> Peter continued, “This was written in the book of Psalms, where it says, ‘Let his home become desolate, with no one living in it.’ It also says, ‘Let someone else take his position.’ <sup>21</sup> So now we must choose a replacement for Judas from among the men who were with us the entire time we were traveling with the Lord Jesus— <sup>22</sup> from the time he was baptized by John until the day he was taken from us. Whoever is chosen will join us as a witness of Jesus’ resurrection.” <sup>23</sup> So they nominated two men: Joseph called Barsabbas (also known as Justus) and Matthias. <sup>24</sup> Then they all prayed, “O Lord, you know every heart. Show us which of these men you have chosen <sup>25</sup> as an apostle to replace Judas in this ministry, for he has deserted us and gone where he belongs.” <sup>26</sup> Then they cast lots, and Matthias was selected to become an apostle with the other eleven.



## 2

**THE HOLY SPIRIT COMES**

<sup>1</sup> On the day of Pentecost all the believers were meeting together in one place. <sup>2</sup> Suddenly, there was a sound from heaven like the roaring of a mighty windstorm, and it filled the house where they were sitting. <sup>3</sup> Then, what looked like flames or tongues of fire appeared and settled on each of them. <sup>4</sup> And everyone present was filled with the Holy Spirit and began speaking in other languages, as the Holy Spirit gave them this ability. <sup>5</sup> At that time there were devout Jews from every nation living in Jerusalem. <sup>6</sup> When they heard the loud noise, everyone came running, and they were bewildered to hear their own languages being spoken by the believers. <sup>7</sup> They were completely amazed. “How can this be?” they exclaimed. “These people are all from Galilee, <sup>8</sup> and yet we hear them speaking in our own native languages! <sup>9</sup> Here we are—Parthians, Medes, Elamites, people from Mesopotamia, Judea, Cappadocia, Pontus, the province of Asia, <sup>10</sup> Phrygia, Pamphylia, Egypt, and the areas of Libya around Cyrene, visitors from Rome <sup>11</sup> (both Jews and converts to Judaism), Cretans, and Arabs. And we all hear these people speaking in our own languages about the wonderful things God has done!” <sup>12</sup> They stood there amazed and perplexed. “What can this mean?” they asked each other. <sup>13</sup> But others in the crowd ridiculed them, saying, “They’re just drunk, that’s all!”

### PETER PREACHES TO THE CROWD

<sup>14</sup> Then Peter stepped forward with the eleven other apostles and shouted to the crowd, “Listen carefully, all of you, fellow Jews and residents of Jerusalem! Make no mistake about this. <sup>15</sup> These people are not drunk, as some of you are assuming. Nine o’clock in the morning is much too early for that. <sup>16</sup> No, what you see was predicted long ago by the prophet Joel:

<sup>17</sup> ‘In the last days,’ God says,  
‘I will pour out my Spirit upon all people.  
Your sons and daughters will prophesy.  
Your young men will see visions,  
and your old men will dream dreams.

<sup>18</sup> In those days I will pour out my Spirit  
even on my servants—men and women alike—  
and they will prophesy.

<sup>19</sup> And I will cause wonders in the heavens above  
and signs on the earth below—  
blood and fire and clouds of smoke.

<sup>20</sup> The sun will become dark,  
and the moon will turn blood red before that great  
and glorious day of the Lord arrives.

<sup>21</sup> But everyone who calls on the name of the Lord  
will be saved.’

<sup>22</sup> People of Israel, listen! God publicly endorsed Jesus the Nazarene by doing powerful miracles, wonders, and signs through him, as you well know.

<sup>23</sup> But God knew what would happen, and his prearranged plan was carried out when Jesus was betrayed. With the help of lawless Gentiles, you nailed him to a cross and killed him. <sup>24</sup> But God released him from the horrors of death and raised him back to life, for death could not keep him in its grip. <sup>25</sup> King David said this about him:

‘I see that the Lord is always with me.  
I will not be shaken, for he is right beside me.

<sup>26</sup> No wonder my heart is glad,  
and my tongue shouts his praises!  
My body rests in hope.

<sup>27</sup> For you will not leave my soul among the dead  
or allow your Holy One to rot in the grave.

<sup>28</sup> You have shown me the way of life,  
and you will fill me with the joy of your presence.’

<sup>29</sup> Dear brothers, think about this! You can be sure that the patriarch David wasn’t referring to himself, for he died and was buried, and his tomb is still here among us. <sup>30</sup> But he was a prophet,

and he knew God had promised with an oath that one of David’s own descendants would sit on his throne. <sup>31</sup> David was looking into the future and speaking of the Messiah’s resurrection. He was saying that God would not leave him among the dead or allow his body to rot in the grave. <sup>32</sup> God raised Jesus from the dead, and we are all witnesses of this. <sup>33</sup> Now he is exalted to the place of highest honor in heaven, at God’s right hand. And the Father, as he had promised, gave him the Holy Spirit to pour out upon us, just as you see and hear today. <sup>34</sup> For David himself never ascended into heaven, yet he said,

‘The Lord said to my Lord,  
“Sit in the place of honor at my right hand  
<sup>35</sup> until I humble your enemies,  
making them a footstool under your feet.”’

<sup>36</sup> So let everyone in Israel know for certain that God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, to be both Lord and Messiah!” <sup>37</sup> Peter’s words pierced their hearts, and they said to him and to the other apostles, “Brothers, what should we do?” <sup>38</sup> Peter replied, “Each of you must repent of your sins and turn to God, and be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ

for the forgiveness of your sins. Then you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. <sup>39</sup> This promise is to you, to your children, and to those far away—all who have been called by the Lord our God.” <sup>40</sup> Then Peter continued preaching for a long time, strongly urging all his listeners, “Save yourselves from this crooked generation!” <sup>41</sup> Those who believed what Peter said were baptized and added to the church that day—about 3,000 in all.

### THE BELIEVERS FORM A COMMUNITY

<sup>42</sup> All the believers devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching, and to fellowship, and to sharing in meals (including the Lord’s Supper), and to prayer. <sup>43</sup> A deep sense of awe came over them all, and the apostles performed many miraculous signs and wonders. <sup>44</sup> And all the believers met together in one place and shared everything they had. <sup>45</sup> They sold their property and possessions and shared the money with those in need. <sup>46</sup> They worshiped together at the Temple each day, met in homes for the Lord’s Supper, and shared their meals with great joy and generosity—<sup>47</sup> all the while praising God and enjoying the goodwill of all the people. And each day the Lord added to their fellowship those who were being saved.

# 3

## PETER HEALS A CRIPPLED BEGGAR

<sup>1</sup> Peter and John went to the Temple one afternoon to take part in the three o'clock prayer service. <sup>2</sup> As they approached the Temple, a man lame from birth was being carried in. Each day he was put beside the Temple gate, the one called the Beautiful Gate, so he could beg from the people going into the Temple. <sup>3</sup> When he saw Peter and John about to enter, he asked them for some money. <sup>4</sup> Peter and John looked at him intently, and Peter said, "Look at us!" <sup>5</sup> The lame man looked at them eagerly, expecting some money. <sup>6</sup> But Peter said, "I don't have any silver or gold for you. But I'll give you what I have. In the name of Jesus Christ the Nazarene, get up and walk!" <sup>7</sup> Then Peter took the lame man by the right hand and helped him up. And as he did, the man's feet and ankles were instantly healed and strengthened. <sup>8</sup> He jumped up, stood on his feet, and began to walk! Then, walking, leaping, and praising God, he went into the Temple with them. <sup>9</sup> All the people saw him walking and heard him praising God. <sup>10</sup> When they realized he was the lame beggar they had seen so often at the Beautiful Gate, they were absolutely astounded! <sup>11</sup> They all rushed out in amazement to Solomon's Colonnade, where the man was holding tightly to Peter and John.

