



LIFE *On* MISSION

ADVENTIST CHURCH *in Sydney*

The Spirit

Have you ever had a really hot day? What did you do to cool down? What is something really fun that you have done on one of those hot days?

Digging into the Bible

The Bible makes it really clear that the mission of Jesus is guided and empowered by the Holy Spirit.

- Jesus' public ministry commenced with His baptism by water and the Holy Spirit (**Matthew 3:13-17**).
 - Jesus promised that everyone who is baptised by water and the Holy Spirit will enter the kingdom of God (**John 3:1-8**).
 - He promised that anyone who believed in Him would become like a spiritually refreshing fountain of living water and that the Holy Spirit would flow like a spiritual river through their lives to others around them (**John 4:13,14** and **John 7:37-39**).
 - Jesus promised that the Holy Spirit would guide us to understand what is true (**John 16:13**).
 - Before He returned to heaven, Jesus promised that we will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon us and that we will become witnesses for Him (**Acts 1:8**).
1. Do you feel a real need to experience the refreshing baptism of the Holy Spirit in your own life and walk with Jesus?
 2. In what ways could the Holy Spirit transform you into a fountain of living water to those around you?
 3. Do you want to receive power from the Holy Spirit?

The Bible describes what happened when the Holy Spirit was poured out into the lives of Jesus' followers. Read this amazing story in **Acts 2**.

4. What were the keys to receiving the incredible gift and power of the Holy Spirit?
5. What did the Holy Spirit empower Jesus' disciples to do?
6. Why is important that everyone hears that their sins can be forgiven through Jesus and about the promise of the gift of the Holy Spirit?

The book of Acts is an exciting record of what the Holy Spirit did through the lives of Jesus' disciples. Throughout this book, the Holy Spirit always focuses the disciples on living a life of mission.

A Personal Promise

Just like Peter told the crowd at Pentecost, the promise of the gift of the Holy Spirit is for you personally. You can be baptised with the Holy Spirit! You can be filled with the Spirit of the living God!

Consider these amazing promises:

For this reason I kneel before the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth derives its name. I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the Lord's holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.

Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen. **Ephesians 3:14-21** (NIV)

There is no limit to the usefulness of one who, by putting self aside, makes room for the working of the Holy Spirit upon his or her heart, and lives a life wholly consecrated to God.¹

Time has not changed the promise that Jesus gave His disciples as He was leaving to send the Holy Spirit as His representative. It is not because there is any restriction on the part of God that the riches of His grace do not flow from heaven to people. If the fulfillment of the promise is not seen as it might be, it is because the promise is not appreciated as it should be. If all were willing, all would be filled with the Spirit....

Since this is the means by which we are to receive power, why do we not hunger and thirst for the gift of the Spirit? Why do we not talk of the Spirit, pray for the Spirit, and preach about the Spirit? The Lord is more willing to give the Holy Spirit to those who serve Him than parents are to give good gifts to their children. For the daily baptism of the Spirit every Christian should offer his or her petition to God. Small groups of Christians should gather to ask for special help, for heavenly wisdom, that they may know how to plan and engage in mission wisely.²

7. Would you like to be baptised and filled with the Holy Spirit today?

Talk with the Master

Spend time praying conversationally as a group. Ask Jesus to baptise you and fill you with His Holy Spirit today. Pray that the Holy Spirit would give you wisdom and boldness as you live a life of mission with Jesus.

¹ Adapted slightly from *The Desire of Ages*, p250,251

² Adapted slightly from *The Acts of the Apostles*, p50,51