

Alive with the Spirit

Keep these ideas in mind as you study *Chapter 23*.

❖ The Spirit came to the disciples during the Jewish harvest feast of Pentecost. Mary and the disciples were gathered in a house in Jerusalem, waiting for the Spirit to come and strengthen them for their mission.

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❖ The coming of the Spirit was accompanied by the sound of a powerful wind that filled the house where the disciples were waiting. The visible sign of the coming of the Spirit was tongues of fire that rested over the heads of the disciples. You can read the story of the coming of the Spirit in Acts of the Apostles 2:1–13.

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❖ The Holy Spirit had been present before—when John baptized Jesus. This was the time Jesus was anointed for his mission. In the same way, the disciples were anointed for their mission by the Holy Spirit.

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❖ The most important change that occurred with the coming of the Spirit was in the hearts of the disciples. With the continuing presence of the Spirit, they became enthusiastic, courageous witnesses to Christ.

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❖ The disciples, empowered by the Spirit, began to teach in the crowded streets of Jerusalem. They were able to speak in other languages. The Spirit empowered Peter to address the crowd, and 3,000 were baptized as a result. The coming of the Spirit at Pentecost bound together the disciples of Jesus Christ. They formed the early Christian community, and the Church was born with the Spirit as its strength and guiding force. The story of what happened after the Spirit came can be found in Acts of the Apostles 2:5–41.

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❖ The Holy Spirit empowers all Christians even today. Through our Baptism, all the faithful are gifted with the Spirit.

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❖ The Spirit is present in the Fruits of the Holy Spirit—love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. Church tradition has added modesty, goodness, and chastity. Read Galatians 5:22–23.

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