

*Jesus makes a promise to his disciples before he ascends. Yes, they must be witnesses to the ends of the earth, but for now they must wait for the arrival of a promised gift, the Holy Spirit. At Pentecost, a full fifty days after Passover, the Spirit falls upon these gathered faithful and transforms them and those who bore witness to God's power. At once, tongues as of fire rain down from the heavens, and people from every corner of the known world hear the gospel proclaimed in whatever language most closely speaks to their hearts. In the many languages in which they pray, worship, and hope, the Spirit and God's followers speak. This is an extraordinary moment which provides a critical glimpse into Luke's theology.*