

**ETHAN TEMPLE MINISTRIES**  
**TOOLS FOR LIFE**  
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**GOSPEL WORK FINISHED UNDER HOLY SPIRIT POWER**

Jesus foretold that the “gospel of the kingdom of shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come” (Matt. 24:14). Just before Jesus comes, there will be a tremendous evangelism explosion that will produce a mighty witness of the gospel on this earth.

The prophet Joel foretold two great Holy Spirit outpourings – the former or early rain and the latter rain:

“Be glad then, ye children of Zion, and rejoice in the Lord your God: for he hath given you the former rain moderately, and he will cause to come down for you the rain, the former rain, and the latter rain in the first month” (Joel 2:23).

Peter indicated in his sermon on the day of Pentecost that the former, or early, rain outpouring of the Holy Spirit had begun on that day:

“But this is that which was spoken by the prophet Joel; and it shall come to pass in the last days, saith God, I will pour out of my Spirit upon all flesh: and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams: And on my servants and on my handmaidens I will pour out in those days of my Spirit; and they shall prophesy” (Acts 2:16-18).

This early rain of the Spirit is also called the baptism of the Holy Spirit:

“And being assembled together with them, commanded them that they should not depart from Jerusalem, but wait for the promise of the Father, which, saith he, ye have heard of me. For John truly baptized with water; but ye shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days hence... .But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth” (Acts 1:4-8).

The book of Acts describes the great evangelism explosion that took place at that time. Thousands were won to Christ.

Every Christian who has read the book of Acts has probably longed for the day that a similar mighty working of the Holy Spirit will take place again. Several years ago I started to better understand how the mighty moving of God's Spirit will happen as I began studying and seeking the baptism of the Holy Spirit.

God began clarifying how “anointed, Spirit-filled” believers will be mightily used by Him to win thousands to Christ. I realized that the professional evangelist and radio or television broadcasts would not finish God's last-day work, though these will play a role. Rather, God's work will be finished when His people seek and experience the baptism of the Holy Spirit and allow Christ to reach out to others through them. God's work will not be finished by some new program or method; God will finish His work through Spirit-filled believers who surrender themselves completely to Christ and allow Him to live in them and minister to others through them. That is why Jesus told the disciples to wait for the baptism of the Holy Spirit before they sought to take the gospel to the world (Acts 1:4-8). Even though they had been with Jesus and ministered to others for three and one half years, they weren't yet ready to tell the world about Jesus. They needed to wait for the power of the Spirit.

When consecrated Christians experience Christ in this way, the second great evangelism explosion will take place, and the second great outpouring of the Holy Spirit, called the latter rain, will fall upon this earth. This section of these devotional studies is dedicated to helping the reader understand how this second great evangelism explosion will take place, and how every believer can be a part of it. In fact, all who are ready to meet Jesus when He returns will have had a part in it.

## **Personal Reflection and Discussion**

Have you experienced the power of the Holy Spirit as much as you would like in witnessing to others?

What were the disciples to wait for before they took the gospel to the world, and why?

What do you think will be the major factor in God's work being finished?

Do you want to be part of the last great evangelism explosion?

How can you become part of this last evangelistic work of God?

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