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THE PROMISE OF THE FATHER

One of Jesus' final instructions before His ascension is found in Luke 24:49 where it says, ***"Behold, I send the promise of the Father (Almighty God) upon you. But tarry ye in the city of Jerusalem, until ye be endued with power from on high."***

As about 400 disciples gathered to witness Jesus' ascension back to heaven, he again gave them this instruction in Acts 1:4 and 5: do not leave Jerusalem, but (rather) ***"wait for the promise of the Father... (and) ye shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit..."*** Verse 8 adds, ***"ye shall receive power after that the Holy Spirit has come upon you (NKJV)..."***

The promise of the Father has always been to pour out His Spirit (Holy Spirit) upon His people to give them power to witness to the world. It is done through word and by the power of miracles, signs, and wonders.

This initially happened with the 120 disciples who tarried in the Jerusalem upper room on the day of Pentecost.

So, where in scripture do we find this "promise of the Father" of which Jesus spoke? Well, it is found in many Old Testament passages that were spoken hundreds of years before it happened.

In Acts 2:16 Peter referred to Joel 2:28-29 where God said, ***"I will pour out my Spirit (NKJV) upon all flesh."*** But that is not the only place. The prophet Ezekiel prophesied the word from the LORD saying in Ezekiel 11:19, ***"I will put a new spirit within them."*** Again, in Ezekiel 36:25 and 27 it says, ***"I (God) will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you... I will put my (Holy) Spirit within you..."*** Then again in Ezekiel 37:14 it says, ***"I will put my Spirit in you."*** Ezekiel 39:29 also promises ***"For I shall have poured out my Spirit on the house of Israel."*** In Acts 2:39 Peter said, ***"and to all (generations) that are (yet) afar off, even as many as the Lord our God shall call (to come to Him)."***

Joel was written over 800 years before the outpouring at Pentecost, and Ezekiel was written more than 600 years before Pentecost. So, you can clearly see that this was God's plan all along. It was the "promise of the Father" and can also be fulfilled in you today.