

# “The Day Of Pentecost (Part I)”

## Acts 2:1-21

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**Teaching Aim:** To explore the circumstances surrounding “*The Day of Pentecost*” and the establishment of the Church 50 days after the resurrection of Jesus Christ. To recognize the role of the Holy Spirit in bringing new life to believers in Christ and empowering them for ministry. To see the radical transformation that took place in Peter’s life from his being a coward during the crucifixion to his being a powerful preacher led by the Holy Spirit.

### DIGGING DEEPER INTO GOD’S WORD (*THE BIBLE*)

#### Part I: The disciples of Jesus Christ were in one accord and in one place (Acts 2:1-4)

1. Few days in the history of the world are as significant as the Day of Pentecost. Perhaps the day of creation, the birth of Jesus, or the death of Christ on the cross. What significant event took place 50 days after the resurrection of Jesus Christ? What makes the Day of Pentecost and what took place on it so important to us today?
2. The last will and testament of Jesus Christ to His disciples was found in **Acts 1:8**, just one verse before His ascension (**vs. 9**). What did Jesus command in His last will and testament? How does this command relate to you and your fellow believers today? Why is it so important for every believer to evangelize?
3. After the ascension of Jesus Christ, the disciples remained in Jerusalem as He had commanded them to do. (See **Acts 1:4-5**) According to **Acts 2:1**, what major Jewish festival of Israel fell just 10 days after the ascension? How do we know only 10 days had passed? (See **Acts 1:3**) Note: The word “*Pentecost*” means “*fifty*” and falls 50 days after the Feast of Firstfruits, the day on which Jesus was resurrected from the dead. Pentecost fell on the first day of the week which is Sunday.
4. What additional names are used for “*the Feast of Pentecost?*” (See Bible Dictionary or search online) What is the significance of Pentecost to the Jews? How many people were killed following the giving of the Law? (See **Ex. 32:28**) What is the significance of Pentecost to the Christian? How many people were saved following Peter’s sermon? (See **Acts 2:41**)

5. As the disciples were gathered in one accord and in one place, what event suddenly took place (**vs. 2**)? Have you ever sat through a big windstorm? What was it like? Did the noise catch your attention? How did the sound affect the worshipers in Jerusalem that day?
  
6. How can we see fire symbolizing the presence and holiness of God in the following Bible verses? (See **Ex. 3:1-3; 13:21; 19:16-18; 1 Kings 18:30-39; Acts 2:1-4**) Note: Fire not only symbolizes judgment, but it also symbolizes light. Jesus is the Light of the world.
  
7. *“Tongues”* symbolize speech (**vs. 3**). What do tongues *“as of fire”* symbolize? Have you ever listened to a preacher under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit preach a fiery sermon? Who was it? According to **verse 4**, who controlled every syllable and word as the disciples prophesied? What major change took place at this moment according to **John 14:15-18**?
  
8. William MacDonald wrote, *“On the Day of Pentecost, the believers were not only indwelt by the Holy Spirit, but they were filled with Him as well. We are indwelt by God’s Spirit the moment we are saved, but to be filled with the Spirit we must study the Word, spend time in meditation and prayer, and live in obedience to the Lord.”* What steps are you taking to sharpen your faith? What is the difference between *“the filling of the Holy Spirit”* and *“the baptism of the Holy Spirit?”* When does the baptism of the Holy Spirit take place today?
  
9. The spiritual gift of tongues is used only two more times in the Book of Acts? What was the occasion behind each use? (See **Acts 10:44-46; Acts 19:4-7**) Even though **Acts 2:1-4** never specifically states *“the baptism of the Holy Spirit”* took place at Pentecost, **Acts 1:5** anticipated that it would. (See **Acts 1:4-5**) What other passage also indicated that the Baptism of the Holy Spirit first occurred on the Day of Pentecost as seen in **Acts chapter 2**? (See **Acts 11:15-17**)

## Part II: Multitudes visit Jerusalem for the Feast of Pentecost (Acts 2:5-13)

1. Why were devout men from every nation under heaven dwelling in Jerusalem on the Day of Pentecost. During what three festivals of Israel were all male Jews old enough, healthy enough, and close enough to Jerusalem required to attend? (See **Deut. 16:16**) Why did many of the pilgrims remain in Jerusalem from Passover through Pentecost?
2. What happened to the multitudes as they heard the sound as of a rushing wind (**vs. 6**)? What event caused confusion among the pilgrims? Why was this such a surprise (**vs. 7**)? How did most Jews look at the Galileans? Why? Where were Jesus and His apostles from?
3. What question was on the minds of the foreigners visiting Jerusalem (**vs. 8**)? This brings up an interesting question: *“Was the miracle one of “speaking in human languages that the disciples had never learned?” “Or was it a miracle within the ears of those foreigners listening to what was being said?”* In that case, the disciples would have spoken their own language with everyone else hearing it in their own native language.
4. How many different geographical regions are mentioned in **verses 9-11**? What were they symbolic of? According to **verse 11**, what was the message that the disciples proclaimed? How are the events recorded in **Acts 2** the exact opposite from what took place with *“The Tower of Babel”* account in **Genesis 11:1-9**? How did the people respond (**vs. 12**)?
5. In **verse 13**, others mocked the Spirit-filled disciples and said, *“They are full of new wine.”* The word for new wine specifically meant *“sweet wine.”* Some Christians take the position that wine in the Bible was non-alcoholic. Does **verse 13** uphold or rebuke this idea? Why?

## Part III: Peter begins his famous sermon by quoting Joel 2:28-32 (Acts 2:14-21)

1. Who among the disciples stood to address the large crowd that had gathered (**vs. 14**)? Who had been the first disciple to publicly acknowledge that Jesus was the Christ, the Son of the living God? (See **Matt. 16:15-19**) Was Peter still timid, or had he been radically transformed by the Holy Spirit into a bold Spirit-led preacher of God’s Word? What did Peter tell the men? Why was Peter preaching to just men and not women?

2. What argument did Peter use to demonstrate that the disciples were not drunk (**vs. 15**)? What time of the day was the third hour? (See Commentaries) Would Jews be drinking wine this early in the morning on a Holy Day? Some of the locals in Jerusalem thought the disciples were drunk when, in reality, they were under the control of the Holy Spirit proclaiming the wonders of God in foreign languages. Have you ever misjudged someone?
  
3. This was the moment that John the Baptist had prophesied about after calling the Sadducees a "*brood of vipers.*" (See **Matt. 3:11-12**) The Spirit had come, but Judgement Day had not.
  
4. What Old Testament prophecy did Peter use to begin his magnificent sermon on the Day of Pentecost? (See **Joel 2:28-32**) Note: In **Acts 2:17-21**, Peter quoted from the Septuagint (the Greek version of the Old Testament). What was the background behind this prophecy? (See Commentaries) Why do you think Peter referred to Joel's prophecy here (**vv. 16-17**)?
  
5. What period in history does "*the last days*" cover? (See Commentaries) The Day of Pentecost was a partial fulfillment of Joel's prophecy, when will it ultimately be fulfilled?
  
6. Moses had also looked forward to this day. How do we see the giving of the Holy Spirit in **Numbers 11:16-30**? What did Moses desire according to **Num. 11:29-30**? Should Joshua have been so zealous as he was in trying to protect Moses? Why or why not?
  
7. Peter informed us through quoting Joel that Pentecost was just a pre-fulfillment of what will take place during the Millennial Kingdom of Christ. What can we expect according to **verses 18-20**? Were some of these signs fulfilled at the crucifixion of Christ? If so, which ones?

8. What encouraging promise do we end today's study with (**vs. 21**)? In the context, what is the name of the Lord? What does the name "Jesus" mean? (See Bible Dictionary) The pivotal point in human history had finally arrived when Jesus died on the cross and rose again. According to the Bible, what is the only way a person can be saved today? (See **John 3:16; 14:6; Eph. 2:8-10; Rom. 10:9-10**)
  
9. R.C. Sproul wrote, *"Pentecost was a watershed moment in the history of the church. The day of Pentecost was that moment in redemptive history where God unlocked the power of the Holy Spirit and gave it to His church, not just for those who were gathered there, but to the church of every age and to every Christian throughout time. That wind, that fire, is as much for us today as it was for those gathered in the upper room. We are to be people of the Holy Spirit, as well as of the Son and the Father."* When you think of Pentecost, what makes this Day so important to you?

#### **MINER'S CORNER ~ *Manna to live by!***

- The disciples obediently remained in Jerusalem 10 days after the ascension of Christ.
- The disciples and the other believers being in one accord and in one place helped set the tone for Pentecost and the coming of the Holy Spirit. (See **John 17:20-23**)
- Tongues (or "*glossa*") in this case were real foreign languages representing Jews and Jewish proselytes from more than 15 geographical regions throughout the Roman Empire.
- Fire is often used in the Bible as a theophany to represent the presence and holiness of God.
- Jewish pilgrims often stayed in Jerusalem from Passover through Pentecost because of the difficulty traveling; this raised the population of Jerusalem to as many as a million people.
- Peter began his sermon on the Day of Pentecost by quoting the prophecy from Joel 2:28-32.
- Joel was calling for the people of Israel to repent from their sin while pointing to the amazing events that would take place at the appearance of the Messiah; that time had come.