

What Pentecost Means for the Church

May 20, 2018

PENTECOST - THE BIRTH OF THE CHURCH

- *The English word "Pentecost" comes from the Greek word pentekostos, which means "fifty" or "fifty days."*
- *Pentecost Sunday is 50 days after Jesus' resurrection (Easter Sunday) and 10 days after Jesus' ascension.*
- *The Jews also celebrated Pentecost or "Shavuot" (SHavoo'ot) meaning literally "Weeks" for seven weeks. Originally a harvest festival from Leviticus 23:16, this holiday celebrated the giving of the Ten Commandments 50 days after Passover. This was also when the Jewish people would start to bring their first and best fruits as an offering to God.*

Acts 1:13-26 NASB

13 **When they had entered the city [Jerusalem], they went up to the upper room where they were staying; that is, Peter and John and James and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James the son of Alphaeus, and Simon the Zealot, and Judas the son of James.**

14 **These all with one mind were continually devoting themselves to prayer, along with the women, and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with His brothers.**

15 **At this time Peter stood up in the midst of the brethren (a gathering of about one hundred and twenty persons was there together), and said**

16 **"Brothers, the Scripture had to be fulfilled, which the Holy Spirit spoke beforehand by the mouth of David concerning Judas, who became a guide to those who arrested Jesus.**

17 **For he was numbered among us and was allotted his share in this ministry."**

18 **(Now this man acquired a field with the reward of his wickedness, and falling headlong he burst open in the middle and all his bowels gushed out.**

19 **And it became known to all the inhabitants of Jerusalem, so that the field was called in their own language Akeldama, that is, Field of Blood.)**

20 **For it is written in the Book of Psalms, "May his camp become desolate, and let there be no one to dwell in it"; and "Let another take his office." ["May his days be few; may another take his office!" Psalm 109:8 ESV]**

21 **So one of the men who have accompanied us during all the time that the Lord Jesus went in and out among us,**

22 **beginning from the baptism of John until the day when he was taken up from us--one of these men must become with us a witness to his resurrection."**

23 **And they put forward two, Joseph called Barsabbas, who was also called Justus, and Matthias.**

24 **And they prayed and said, "You, Lord, who know the hearts of all, show which one of these two you have chosen**

25 **to take the place in this ministry and apostleship from which Judas turned aside to go to his own place."**

26 **And they cast lots for them, and the lot fell on Matthias, and he was numbered with the eleven apostles.**

After the coming of the Holy Spirit as a mighty rushing wind and cloven tongues of fire, the assembly of 120 persons sequestered in an upper room become a church of more than 3000 where there was God's power manifesting in signs, wonders and miracles, the Apostles teaching, daily fellowship, breaking bread from house to house, the selling of possessions to care for the poor and so forth.

Acts 2:41-47 ESV

41 So those who received his [Peter's] word were baptized, and there were added that day [Pentecost] about three thousand souls.

42 And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.

43 And awe came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles.

44 And all who believed were together and had all things in common.

45 And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need.

46 And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts,

47 praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved.

What was the event that transformed the life, function and personality of the assembly of 120 believers so supernaturally?

Acts 2:1-16 ESV

1 When the day of Pentecost arrived, they were all together in one place.

2 And suddenly there came from heaven a sound like a mighty rushing wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting.

3 And divided tongues as of fire appeared to them and rested on each one of them.

4 And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance.

5 Now there were dwelling in Jerusalem Jews, devout men from every nation under heaven.

6 And at this sound the multitude came together, and they were bewildered, because each one was hearing them speak in his own language.

7 And they were amazed and astonished, saying, "Are not all these who are speaking Galileans?"

8 And how is it that we hear, each of us in his own native language?

9 Parthians and Medes and Elamites and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia,

10 Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome,

11 both Jews and proselytes, Cretans and Arabians--we hear them telling in our own tongues the mighty works of God."

12 And all were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, "What does this mean?"

13 But others mocking said, "They are filled with new wine."

14 But Peter, standing with the eleven, lifted up his voice and addressed them: "Men of Judea and all who dwell in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and give ear to my words.

15 For these people are not drunk, as you suppose, since it is only the third hour of the day.

16 But this is what was uttered through the prophet Joel...

What was it about this event that cause such a miraculous transformation that gave birth to His Church?

The Holy Spirit's Power

Acts 1:8 ESV

8 But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in

Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.

Luke 22:54-61 ESV

54 Then they seized him and led him away, bringing him into the high priest's house, and Peter was following at a distance.

55 And when they had kindled a fire in the middle of the courtyard and sat down together, Peter sat down among them.

56 Then a servant girl, seeing him as he sat in the light and looking closely at him, said, "This man also was with him."

57 But he denied it, saying, "Woman, I do not know him."

58 And a little later someone else saw him and said, "You also are one of them." But Peter said, "Man, I am not."

59 And after an interval of about an hour still another insisted, saying, "Certainly this man also was with him, for he too is a Galilean."

60 But Peter said, "Man, I do not know what you are talking about." And immediately, while he was still speaking, the rooster crowed.

61 And the Lord turned and looked at Peter. And Peter remembered the saying of the Lord, how he had said to him, "Before the rooster crows today, you will deny me three times."

Acts 2:14 ESV

14 But Peter, standing with the eleven, lifted up his voice and addressed them: "Men of Judea and all who dwell in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and give ear to my words.

Acts 4:5-10 ESV

5 On the next day their rulers and elders and scribes gathered together in Jerusalem,

6 with Annas the high priest and Caiaphas and John and Alexander, and all who were of the high-priestly family.

7 And when they had set them in the midst, they inquired, "By what power or by what name did you do this?"

8 Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, "Rulers of the people and elders,

9 if we are being examined today concerning a good deed done to a crippled man, by what means this man has been healed,

10 let it be known to all of you and to all the people of Israel that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead--by him this man is standing before you well.

Acts 5:27-29 ESV

27 And when they had brought them, they set them before the council. And the high priest questioned them,

28 saying, "We strictly charged you not to teach in this name, yet here you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching, and you intend to bring this man's blood upon us."

29 But Peter and the apostles answered, "We must obey God rather than men.

Acts 4:33 ESV

33 And with great power the apostles were giving their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all.

The Holy Spirit's Will

Acts 2:4 ESV

4 And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance.

Acts 2:47 ESV

47 And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved.

1 Corinthians 12:18 ESV

18 But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose.

Acts 5:3-5 ESV

3 But Peter said, "Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit and to keep back for yourself part of the proceeds of the land?

4 While it remained unsold, did it not remain your own? And after it was sold, was it not at your disposal? Why is it that you have contrived this deed in your heart? You have not lied to man but to God."

5 When Ananias heard these words, he fell down and breathed his last. And great fear came upon all who heard of it.

Acts 13:2-4 ESV

2 While they were worshiping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, "Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them."

3 Then after fasting and praying they laid their hands on them and sent them off.

4 So, being sent out by the Holy Spirit, they went down to Seleucia, and from there they sailed to Cyprus.

Acts 16:6-7 ESV

6 And they went through the region of Phrygia and Galatia, having been forbidden by the Holy Spirit to speak the word in Asia.

7 And when they had come up to Mysia, they attempted to go into Bithynia, but the Spirit of Jesus did not allow them.

The Holy Spirit's Method - *a church can operate by human strategies and worldly methods or remain surrendered in prayer to God's methods, which are always beyond human comprehension and initiation.*

Acts 2:5-13 ESV

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Isaiah 55:8-9 ESV

8 For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, declares the LORD.

9 For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.

1 Corinthians 2:14 ESV

14 The natural person does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are folly to him, and he is not able to understand them because they are spiritually discerned.

Zechariah 4:6 ESV

6 "Not by might, nor by power, but by my Spirit, says the LORD of hosts."

Psalm 127:1 ESV

1 Unless the LORD builds the house, those who build it labor in vain. Unless the LORD watches over the city, the watchman stays awake in vain.

1 Corinthians 1:27-29 ESV

27 But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong;

28 God chose what is low and despised in the world, even things that are not, to bring to nothing things that are,

29 so that no human being might boast in the presence of God.