

Pentecost: The History

Acts 2:1-4 (NLT)

2 On the day of Pentecost all the believers were meeting together in one place. **2** Suddenly, there was a sound from heaven like the roaring of a mighty windstorm, and it filled the house where they were sitting. **3** Then, what looked like flames or tongues of fire appeared and settled on each of them. **4** And everyone present was filled with the Holy Spirit and began speaking in other languages,[b] as the Holy Spirit gave them this ability.

Acts 2:1-4 (VOICE)

2 When the holy day of Pentecost came *50 days after Passover*, they were gathered together in one place.

2 *Picture yourself among the disciples:*

A sound roars from the sky without warning, the roar of a violent wind, and the whole house where you are gathered reverberates with the sound.

3 Then a flame appears, dividing into smaller flames and spreading from one person to the next. **4** All the people present are filled with the Holy Spirit and begin speaking in languages they've never spoken, as the Spirit empowers them.

* Without a **proper understanding** of the history of Pentecost, we cannot completely understand its **meaning** or fully appreciate its **fulfillment!**

Acts 2:14-17

14 Then Peter stepped forward with the eleven other apostles and shouted to the crowd, "Listen carefully, all of you, fellow Jews and residents of Jerusalem! Make no mistake about this. **15** These people are not drunk, as some of you are assuming. Nine o'clock in the morning is much too early for that. **16** No, what you see was predicted long ago by the prophet Joel:

17

'In the last days,' God says,

 'I will pour out my Spirit upon all people.

Your sons and daughters will prophesy.

 Your young men will see visions,

 and your old men will dream dreams.

* What is **Pentecost** and this **event** and what does it mean for us today?

I. The Feasts of Israel were God's **object lessons** in revealing the truths of our **redemption and salvation!**

A. There are **seven Feasts of Israel** celebrated throughout the calendar year in the Jewish faith. The scripture reveals much about each of them. Our faith is called **Judeo-Christian** which means our faith has its foundation in the **common worship** of our **common Creator**. The separation comes in accepting **Jesus as Messiah!!**

1. Feast of Passover.....Jesus, the Lamb of God
2. Feast of Unleavened Bread.....Dealing with Sin
3. Feast of First Fruits.....Jesus' resurrection
4. Feast of Pentecost.....Jesus' Promise of the Spirit
5. Feast of Trumpets.....Jesus' final defeat of satan
6. Feast of Atonement.....Jesus' blood sprinkled
7. Feast of Tabernacles.....God dwelling with us

B. Pentecost, also called the **Feast of Weeks, Feast of Harvest and Days of First Fruits!**

1. The word **Pentecost** is a Greek word that means 50!

Leviticus 23:15-17, 20-22

15 “From the day after the Sabbath—the day you bring the bundle of grain to be lifted up as a special offering—count off seven full weeks. **16** Keep counting until the day after the seventh Sabbath, fifty days later. Then present an offering of new grain to the Lord. **17** From wherever you live, bring two loaves of bread to be lifted up before the Lord as a special offering. Make these loaves from four quarts of choice flour, and bake them with yeast. They will be an offering to the Lord from the first of your crops.**20** “The priest will lift up the two lambs as a special offering to the Lord, together with the loaves representing the first of your crops. These offerings, which are holy to the Lord, belong to the priests. **21** That same day will be proclaimed an official day for holy assembly, a day on which you do no ordinary work. This is a permanent law for you, and it must be observed from generation to generation wherever you live.

22 “When you harvest the crops of your land, do not harvest the grain along the edges of your fields, and do not pick up what the harvesters drop. Leave it for the poor and the foreigners living among you. I am the Lord your God.”

2. Fifty days after Passover was the celebration of Pentecost, or the Feast of Weeks or Harvest Festival!
3. As a New Testament believer we would say; 50 days after the resurrection of Jesus, He poured out His Spirit, which is the Promise of the Father, to empower the Church to bring in the harvest of souls and to live a victorious life in Christ!
4. This truth really makes John 12:24 come alive!

John 12:24

24 I tell you the truth, unless a kernel of wheat is planted in the soil and dies, it remains alone. But its death will produce many new kernels—a plentiful harvest of new lives.

II. Notice some events leading up to the Day of Pentecost!

A. John the Baptist made a very interesting statement in Luke 3:16.

Luke 3:16

16 John answered their questions by saying, “I baptize you with water; but someone is coming soon who is greater than I am—so much greater that I’m not even worthy to be his slave and untie the straps of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire.

1. When reading the full context, we see how really amazing his words were.

Luke 3:15-17

15 Everyone was expecting the Messiah to come soon, and they were eager to know whether John might be the Messiah. **16** John answered their questions by saying, “I baptize you with water; but someone is coming soon who is greater than I am—so much greater that I’m not even worthy to be his slave and untie the straps of his sandals. He will baptize

you with the Holy Spirit and with fire. **17** He is ready to separate the chaff from the wheat with his winnowing fork. Then he will clean up the threshing area, gathering the wheat into his barn but burning the chaff with never-ending fire.”

2. We see the continued use of the example of **wheat!**
3. This should amaze and direct us as to the celebration of the **outpouring of the Holy Spirit** as it relates to harvest and power.

B. It is also interesting that **God gave Moses the Law** on what would become the Day of Pentecost!

1. From Exodus 19 we learn that the Israelites arrives at Mt. Sinai “in the 3rd month on the 3rd day”.
2. When you do the calendar math, you realize that on the 6th day of the **Jewish month of Sivan** the Lord appeared to Moses and gave him the Law!
3. This date became the Feast of Weeks, the Harvest Festival or as we call it.....**Pentecost!**

Exodus 19:10-11

10 Then the Lord told Moses, “Go down and prepare the people for my arrival. Consecrate them today and tomorrow, and have them wash their clothing. **11** Be sure they are ready on the third day, for on that day the Lord will come down on Mount Sinai as all the people watch.

4. Is this not **exactly** what happened on the **Day of Pentecost?**
5. When the Spirit was poured out, there was a **consecrating and empowerment** given to enable us to walk out the **cleansing from sin** that begun at Passover through the death of Christ!

C. The Day of Pentecost did not originate with Christianity! It was a Jewish Feast during which **God chose to send His Spirit as proof that Jesus was the glorified and risen Lord!**

1. Notice the fuller context of John 12!

John 12:20-26

20 Some Greeks who had come to Jerusalem for the Passover celebration **21** paid a visit to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee. They said, “Sir, we want to meet Jesus.” **22** Philip told Andrew about it, and they went together to ask Jesus.

23 Jesus replied, “Now the time has come for the Son of Man to enter into his glory. **24** I tell you the truth, unless a kernel of wheat is planted in the soil and dies, it remains alone. But its death will produce many new kernels—a plentiful harvest of new lives. **25** Those who love their life in this world will lose it. Those who care nothing for their life in this world will keep it for eternity. **26** Anyone who wants to serve me must follow me, because my servants must be where I am. And the Father will honor anyone who serves me.

2. The thought or truth here seems to be, **laying my life down for the Lord.**

3. Is this not exactly what Paul later says in I **Corinthians 6:19-20**?

19 Don't you realize that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit, who lives in you and was given to you by God? You do not belong to yourself, **20** for God bought you with a high price. So you must honor God with your body.

III. From Resurrection to Pentecost. Jesus was quite active!!

A. The **Story of Doubt: Thomas 101**

John 20:24-28

24 One of the twelve disciples, Thomas (nicknamed the Twin),^[a] was not with the others when Jesus came. **25** They told him, “We have seen the Lord!”

But he replied, “I won't believe it unless I see the nail wounds in his hands, put my fingers into them, and place my hand into the wound in his side.”

26 Eight days later the disciples were together again, and this time Thomas was with them. The doors were locked; but suddenly, as before, Jesus was standing among them. “Peace be with you,” he said. **27** Then he said to Thomas, “Put your finger here, and look at my hands. Put your hand into the wound in my side. Don't be faithless any longer. Believe!”

1. Jesus met Thomas **on his level!** Right where Thomas was!
2. So will He do that with us! Just be willing to **“reach and touch”!**
3. Learn to trust the Lord!!!!!!!

B. Jesus showed up again during a **time of frustration!**

John 21:1-7

21 Later, Jesus appeared again to the disciples beside the Sea of Galilee. This is how it happened. **2** Several of the disciples were there—Simon Peter, Thomas (nicknamed the Twin), Nathanael from Cana in Galilee, the sons of Zebedee, and two other disciples.

3 Simon Peter said, “I’m going fishing.”

“We’ll come, too,” they all said. So they went out in the boat, but they caught nothing all night.

4 At dawn Jesus was standing on the beach, but the disciples couldn’t see who he was. **5** He called out, “Fellows, have you caught any fish?”

“No,” they replied.

6 Then he said, “Throw out your net on the right-hand side of the boat, and you’ll get some!” So they did, and they couldn’t haul in the net because there were so many fish in it.

7 Then the disciple Jesus loved said to Peter, “It’s the Lord!” When Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord, he put on his tunic (for he had stripped for work), jumped into the water, and headed to shore.

1. Sometimes you just have to **do what you know to do!** Go fishin’.
2. Be honest about the circumstances of life! They said, **“We haven’t caught anything”!**
3. Be obedient to the Lord!!!! Even when it seems silly. After all, **how far could it have been to the other side of the boat?**
4. Be like Peter.....take the plunge!!

C. Jesus Continues to **comfort!**

Luke 24:44-49

44 Then he said, “When I was with you before, I told you that everything written about me in the law of Moses and the prophets and in the Psalms

must be fulfilled.” **45** Then he opened their minds to understand the Scriptures. **46** And he said, “Yes, it was written long ago that the Messiah would suffer and die and rise from the dead on the third day. **47** It was also written that this message would be proclaimed in the authority of his name to all the nations, beginning in Jerusalem: ‘There is forgiveness of sins for all who repent.’ **48** You are witnesses of all these things. **49** “And now I will send the Holy Spirit, just as my Father promised. But stay here in the city until the Holy Spirit comes and fills you with power from heaven.”

1. The Lord was patient with them. So it is with us!!
2. He explains to them **“The Promise of the Father”!**
3. This **Promise of Power!**
4. This Promise is based on the **authority of Who He is!**
5. He is the **glorified Lord!**

Matthew 28:18-20

18 Jesus came and told his disciples, “I have been given all authority in heaven and on earth. **19** Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. **20** Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age.”

* **The outpouring of the Holy Spirit on Pentecost was the “Promise of the Father” that enables us to live fully and victoriously in our redemption and salvation and empowers us to express this relationship to others!!**