

31 May

 Break the ice

Write down what God is saying to you in today's message:

TOPIC: Pentecost Sunday

 Let's hear your story

1. Have you ever been to a feast or festival? (**arts / culture; etc?**)
2. What kind of feast was the day of Pentecost known for? (**A feast of harvest – see Exodus 23:16 and Deuteronomy 16:10**).
3. Pentecost means fiftieth (50 days after Passover), and Jesus ascended into heaven after 40 days – how many days did the disciples wait for the Holy Spirit? (**10**).
4. How many people got saved on the day of Pentecost? (**3000**).

 Let's go deeper

5. What did the believers **hear** and **saw** when the Holy Spirit was poured out in Acts 2:2 – 3? (**Mighty rushing wind, and tongues of fire**).
6. In what ways does a mighty wind and tongues of fire represent God, the Holy Spirit? (**Wind - might and power; fire – purity**).
7. How did the Holy Spirit demonstrate His power and purity in Acts 2? (**Power to witness effectively and purity of hearts in unity of believers**).
8. According to Acts 2:11; how can we know the early believers were filled with the Holy Spirit? (**they were speaking and declaring the wonderful works of God; God was being exalted**).

 Let's apply this

9. **How can I be filled (baptized) with the Holy Spirit?**
 1. **Convert** – We must be born again believers. The Holy Spirit will cannot fill someone whose life is not already given over to God.
 2. **Believe** - We must seek and believe the baptism in the Holy Spirit.
 3. **Cleanse** - The Spirit is holy, and cannot fill an unclean vessel. We must repent of all sin in our lives (turn from it) and renounce any evil activity.
 4. **Surrender** - To be full of the Spirit is to be controlled by the Spirit. If we want to be completely filled, we must surrender every part of our lives to God.
 5. **Thirst** - John 7:37-39; and **Ask** - Matthew 7:7 and Luke 11:11-13.
 6. **Relax and Receive**

SUMMARY:

Read: Acts 2:1 – 12; Exodus 23:16; Leviticus 23:22; Genesis 1:1 – 2; 2:7; Ezekiel 37:9.

1. Why did Jesus choose Pentecost to pour out His Spirit on the disciples?
2. What happened on the day of Pentecost according to Acts 2:1 – 12?

1.1. Many pilgrims would have been in Jerusalem for the feast of Pentecost

On this Jewish holiday there would be many pilgrims in Jerusalem from across the known world. It was one of the three national Jewish feasts that called for a pilgrimage. Pentecost, means fiftieth; because it took place 50 days after Passover.

1.2. It was a feast of harvest (see Exodus 23:16 and Deuteronomy 16:10)

Leviticus 23:15 – 22; gives the original instructions for the celebration of Pentecost. The main focus of Pentecost is a feast of harvest in Jerusalem, and on this day, Jesus pours out His Spirit in power and 3000 people are harvested (saved).

2. What happened on the day of Pentecost?

In **Acts 2:2;** both the Hebrew and Greek languages, the word for spirit (as in Holy Spirit) is the same word for breath or wind. The sound from heaven was the sound of the Holy Spirit being poured out on the disciples. The sound of this fast, mighty wind would make any of these men and women who knew the Hebrew Scriptures think of the presence of the Holy Spirit. (See Genesis 1:1 - 2; 2:7 and Ezekiel 37:9-10)

In **Acts 2:3 – 4;** fire reminds us that the filling of Holy Spirit is for power and purity.

In **Acts 2:5;** Many of these were the same people who gathered in Jerusalem at the last feast, Passover, when an angry mob demanded the execution of Jesus.

In **Acts 2:6;** Not many homes of that day could hold 120 people. It is more likely that this upper room was part of the temple courts, which was a massive structure, with porches, colonnades and rooms. The crowd were people around the temple courts.

In **Acts 2:7;** People from Galilee (Galileans); were known to be poor speakers. This was all the more reason to be impressed with their ability to speak eloquently in other languages. The believers all spoke in different tongues, yet they were united.

John Piper explains the fullness of the Spirit as follows: Being filled with the Holy Spirit here is being overwhelmed with the greatness of God. The translation of Acts 2:11 is that they were speaking "the greatness's of God." Since the Spirit was giving them utterance, and since the utterance was of God's greatness, I take the fullness of the Spirit to mean that the Spirit's experience of the greatness of God becomes our experience of the greatness of God. The fullness or the baptism they received, was an overwhelming experience of the greatness of God to be effective witnesses.