

The Day of Pentecost

May 23, 2010

Turn to **Acts 2:1**. “When the Day of Pentecost.” The Day of Pentecost is not a denomination. It’s a Jewish festival. We’re going to talk about it. “When the Day of Pentecost had fully come.” The word “Pentecost” means “50.” “When the Day of Pentecost had fully come, they were all with one accord in one place.” The key is harmony, unity, and oneness.

The devil works overtime to divide families, to divide churches, and to divide nations; because a house divided against itself cannot stand.

Verse 2: “And suddenly.” They had been there 10 days. The Lord had ascended back to Heaven after 40 days. They had been there 10 days praying, and now it’s the 50th day. I wonder how many in this house would have stayed 10 days in a prayer meeting?

“And suddenly there came a sound.” When God shows up, there is going to be some noise. The church is too quiet. **When God shows up, there is always sound.** When He showed up on Mount Sinai, there was thunder, lightning, and fire. “And suddenly there came a sound from Heaven, as of a rushing mighty wind, and it (that sound) filled the whole house where they were sitting.”

Verse 3: “Then there appeared to them divided tongues, as of fire (a flame), and one (this flame) sat upon each of them.” Then after the flame sat on them, **(Verse 4)** “They were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance.”

The Day of Pentecost was the 50th day after the Passover. This is a Jewish festival. We celebrate Christmas (the birth) and Easter (the resurrection), but we don’t get excited about Pentecost. They celebrated when the sacrificial Passover lamb was killed in Egypt, and they placed the blood of that sacrificial lamb on their doorposts.

The only way you’re going to get saved, the only way God’s wrath and judgment are going to pass over your life and my life is if we have the blood applied to our hearts. **It’s all about the blood!** The blood is a token of the atonement. So when the Passover lamb was slain, its blood was placed on everyone’s doorpost in the Jewish family; and when God came and saw the blood, He said, “I will pass over.” That means God passed over every family and every household where the blood was applied.

During this 50-day period, the children of Israel have crossed the Red Sea. They have gone out into the Sinai Desert during this period. Now, on the 50th day, Moses is on Mount Sinai and is receiving the law of God (the Ten Commandments). So, on the 50th day, the Jews celebrate the law being given on Mount Sinai.

When Moses received the law of God and came down off that mountain on the 50th day, the children of Israel were worshipping a golden calf, and God slaughtered 3,000 of them. In Corinthians, the Apostle Paul says that the “letter of the law kills,” because it’s impossible to keep. That happened 50 days after the lamb was slain in Egypt.

This is amazing to me. On the Day of Pentecost, 50 days after Jesus, the Lamb of God, was slain on the cross, 3,000 got saved; and on Mount Sinai, the 50th day after Passover, 3,000 die when the law is given. You may not know this, but when the law was given on Mount Sinai, the Jewish nation was birthed.

When the Holy Spirit fell and the Spirit was given on the Day of Pentecost, the church was birthed.

I think it's amazing that 3,000 died when the law was given, and 3,000 become alive in Christ when the Holy Spirit was given. That was not by accident. God doesn't do anything by accident. **So the Jews are celebrating the giving of the law on the Day of Pentecost.**

There was one other celebration attached to the Day of Pentecost, and it was called **the celebration of the first-fruits of the wheat harvest**. On the Day of Pentecost, the priests would lift up two loaves of wheat bread as an offering to God. At the same time, the priests would lift up a lamb and wave them as an offering to the Lord celebrating the harvest.

On the Day of Pentecost the church was birthed, the Spirit was given, 3,000 got saved, the first-fruits of the harvest of souls began, and we are still in the harvest today.

I want to give you some facts about Pentecost. **(1) On the Day of Pentecost, a PROMISE was FULFILLED.** Our God is a promise-keeping God. AMEN? I don't believe John the Baptist fully understood what he was saying when he said, "I baptize you with water, but He that comes after me will baptize you with the Holy Ghost and fire."

In **Luke 24:49**, before Jesus ascended back to Heaven, He gave His disciples a promise. This is what He said. "Behold, I send the Promise of My Father." You have to get hold of this. When God gives you a promise, you may have to wait a little while, but **God keeps His word**. Does He not? "Behold, I send the Promise of My Father; but tarry (wait) in the city of Jerusalem."

He didn't tell them to wait anywhere else but in Jerusalem. **Jerusalem is the only city that has God's name on it.** Let me tell you why the devil wants Jerusalem. Let me tell you why they are fighting over Jerusalem. They are fighting over Jerusalem because God said, "I put My name on that city." It's the only city where God has implanted His name. As a matter of fact, He told the Jews that all they had to do was just pray toward that city.

In Israel, the local guides will always tell you that Jerusalem is the only city in the world where a call to Heaven is a local call. Jesus goes on to say, "But tarry in the city of Jerusalem until you are endued with power from on high."

Waiting is tough. Sometimes people have to wait through suffering, but waiting is tough. So, before Jesus went back to Heaven, He gave His church a promise that the Holy Spirit was coming.

In the beginning of our Lord's ministry (in the four Gospels), He emphasizes that "the Kingdom of God is at hand." He emphasizes that He has come to the lost sheep of Israel, the Jews. Then in the middle part of His ministry, He is performing miracles. Remember, His ministry only lasted 3.5 years, but then He begins to expand the borders of His ministry and begins to include Gentiles. I say, thank you, Jesus!

He goes into lands where none of the Jews would go and starts ministering to them; but at the very close of His ministry in the last parts of the four Gospels, you will see that the Lord's dominant theme began to shift. **The theme at the end of His ministry is the Holy Spirit.** We can't do anything without the Holy Spirit.

Some preachers preach without the Holy Spirit. Billy Graham once said that if the Holy Spirit was taken away from the modern American church, the church would not realize it was gone; but **the dominant theme of our Lord at the close of His earthly ministry was the Holy Spirit.**

Look at the last few words in **Acts 1:4** that Jesus said before He left. "He commanded them not to depart

from Jerusalem, but to wait for the Promise of the Father, 'which,' He said, 'you have heard from Me.'" That means He preached it. **Verse 5:** "For John truly baptized with water, but you shall (that's a guarantee!) be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now."

Whether you know it or not, sprinkling is not baptism. The word "baptize" in the Greek means "to dip." When you get baptized, you go all the way under the water. The water saturates you completely, from the top of your head to the soles of your feet. It's a symbol of what is going to happen to you when you get baptized in the Holy Spirit.

After Jesus speaks these words, in an instant He ascends; and 50 days later, the fulfillment of that promise came on the Day of Pentecost when the Holy Spirit fell. If you will look at **Acts 2:39**, this promise is not just for preachers. Preachers are not the only ones that need to be baptized in the Holy Spirit; because it says, "For the promise [of the Holy Spirit] is to you and to your children." Hallelujah!

That means every blood-washed saint of God has to be, needs to be, filled and baptized with the Holy Spirit. Do you realize it's for YOU? The promise is to YOU! Then He says, "and [it's] to all who are afar off, as many as the Lord our God will call." God says, "I am going to give the promise to them that are afar off." Isn't that awesome? My God is a promise-keeping God! **So, on the Day of Pentecost, a PROMISE was FULFILLED.**

(2) On the Day of Pentecost, a POWER was RELEASED. In **Acts 1:8**, Jesus said, "You shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you." Power that is not under control will destroy and do damage; but power under control, under God's guidance, will do great things for the Kingdom of God. **On the Day of Pentecost, God's storehouse of power was released.**

Look again at **Acts 2:2-3**. We think we know what it says before we read it, so we don't really READ what it says. When God released this storehouse of power, the very room where the 120 were assembled was impacted by the power of God.

In **Isaiah 6:1-4**, when King Uzziah died, Isaiah saw God and His robe filling the temple. Then the angels began to declare, "Holy, holy, holy," and the temple began to move. The power of God began to impact the room where the presence of God was dwelling. When God showed up in the upper room and released His power, it was FELT in the room before the people were filled. God manifested His presence in that room prior to the people being filled with His presence and His power.

Verse 2 says a SOUND was heard, and it filled the room. It was the sound of a rushing mighty wind, but we don't know how long the sound lasted. This sound of God is amazing. When Moses was up on Mount Sinai, there was a sound of thunder, and there was lightning on that mountain.

When Samuel told the people, "You have disobeyed God. You're trying to bring in a king, but God wants to be your King," the Bible says that thunder and lightning came. We come to church and sleep. I have people right now nodding off, and I'm giving you everything I've got. The SOUND was heard, and a sound will always precede anything God does.

Maybe the sound was angels flapping their wings throughout that room. Maybe they were flying all around that room. Angels are not bound by time and space. I wish God would start manifesting some of His angels so some of you would wake up before it's too late. The room was impacted with God's presence and power, and sounds were heard and sights were seen. Then it says a flame came.

All of these people in that room were different, just like you and me, and this flame divides and sets on each of them. They see it. Do you not think God can manifest His presence in this room? When God's

glory filled the temple when Solomon finished his prayer, the Bible says the fire of God fell, and the house was filled with His glory. The priests could not even get in the building, and they fell on their faces. I believe God is getting ready to manifest His presence among His people who are hungry and thirsty.

Spiritual combustion was ignited: fire! Don't play games with the Holy Ghost. If you play with fire, you will get burned! On the Day of Pentecost, the divine spiritual fire of God exploded in that room. Divine electricity was flowing, and the disciples, the followers, were charged with this electricity. **Not only were they charged, they were changed.**

When the Holy Spirit fills you, you will get excited and you will change. You can't stay the same. The disciples in that room were already saved, but the Holy Spirit changed them. They were now on fire! They were **restored** and **recharged**. A lot of you want the charge, but the Holy Ghost will change you. The Holy Ghost will work on the inside of you and begin to weed out stuff you left in there. He will sanctify you and set you apart. **The power was released, and they would never be the same again.**

(3) On the Day of Pentecost, a PERSON was REVEALED. Acts 2:4 says, "And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit." The Holy Spirit is a PERSON, not an "it." The Holy Spirit is the third Person of the Holy Trinity. He is a Person that can be grieved. You can grieve the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit can be quenched, because your disobedience can put out the fire. Don't you know that? The Holy Spirit can be grieved, and He can be quenched. **The Holy Spirit is a Person, and He was revealed on the Day of Pentecost.**

In **John 7:38**, Jesus tells us that out of your innermost being will flow rivers of living water. In **Verse 39**, He tells us this is going to happen when He, the Lord Jesus Christ, is enthroned as our mighty mediator at the right hand of the Father, when He is glorified and steps into His rightful position as mediator between a sinful man and a holy God. It didn't happen until Jesus ascended back to Heaven, stepped into His rightful position as mediator, and sat down to intercede for you and me.

Let's talk about what the Holy Spirit came to do. (1) The Holy Spirit came to **destroy demonic strongholds**. (2) The Holy Spirit came to **convict sinners**. (3) The Holy Spirit came to **convince men and women, boys and girls, that they need Jesus**. (4) The Holy Spirit came to **comfort** those who are grieving.

(5) The Holy Spirit came to **counsel** us, not into error but into all truth. (6) The Holy Spirit came to **refuel** us. Some of you believe once filled always filled, but every once in a while everyone needs to be refueled. (7) The Holy Spirit came to **refire** us, to **revive** us, and to **restore everything the devil has stolen**.

Some of you shout thinking about cars and houses, jobs and finances; but you ought to be shouting about the fact that what He is going to restore is your sons and your daughters. Your sons and your daughters are more important than cars, houses, and land. I can live in a shack as long as my sons and daughters get into the Kingdom!

(8) The Holy Spirit came to **appoint** and came to **anoint**. (9) The Holy Spirit came to **search, sanctify, and set us apart**, and then He came to **seal** us. You have been sealed by the Holy Spirit, and every demon and devil that looks at you on your way to your destination sees that you have been sealed by the Holy Spirit. That means you are the King's property, and **the devil can't curse what God has blessed**. Quit talking about the curse and start talking about the blessing!

(10) The Holy Spirit came to **guide** us, to **guard** us, and to **give us gifts**. You who have been told that the

gifts of God are no longer in existence have been told lies. Shame on the preacher that told you God no longer gives gifts. You cannot do the work of the Kingdom without the gifts of the Spirit, because the gifts are not toys. The gifts are tools, equipment, to enable us to do the work of God. Prophetic gifts, verbal gifts, power gifts; we need them.

Paul told Timothy, who was not an apostle, to “stir up the gifts that are within you.” God has gifted some of you, and those gifts are lying dormant because of your disobedience. Obey God and stir up the gifts within you.

(11) The Holy Spirit came to **teach** us and **to testify of Jesus**. (12) The Holy Spirit came to **give us freedom**, to set us free. Where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. (13) The Holy Spirit came to **release God’s favor** on us. The righteous are surrounded with God’s favor. (14) The Holy Spirit came to give us **fellowship**. There is nothing in this world like Holy Ghost fellowship.

(4) On the Day of Pentecost, a PURPOSE was REVEALED. That purpose is found in **Acts 1:8**. It says, “and you shall be My witnesses.” In **Matthew 28:19**, Jesus said, “Go into all the world and make disciples of all the nations.” Churches today are small-minded: two, three, or four and no more. No! We’re after souls.

Jesus clarified the business of the church when He said, “The Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost.” Our mission is to see souls saved. **The purpose of the church was realized on the Day of Pentecost.**

In **Acts 2:36-39**, Peter reminds them of what had been done to Jesus, and **Verse 37** says, “They were cut to the heart.” Then they asked, “What must we do [to be saved],” and Peter said, “Repent and be baptized.”

In **Verse 41**, 3,000 got saved and baptized the same day. Then it says in **Verse 47**, “And the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved.” He added to the church every day. The mandate of my Master is to go into all the world, and we are going to reach as many as we can reach until He splits the Eastern sky.

A **fire fell** on the Day of Pentecost that Satan has not been able to put out. The **wind of God began to blow**, and Satan has never been able to stop it. **Revival started** on the Day of Pentecost, and that revival has not been stopped by Satan. A **unity** began that the devil couldn’t divide.

In **Luke 11:13**, Jesus said, “Our Heavenly Father is more than willing to give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him!”