

April 15, 2018

“Empowered: The Church on Fire!”

“A Journey through the Book of Acts”

“The Fire Begins...”

“Then, what looked like flames or tongues of fire appeared and settled on each of them.” Acts 2:3

A. The Day of Pentecost...

1. Pentecost, in Greek, literally means 50th. It was the first Sunday, 7 weeks after Passover, and celebrated in the Jewish calendar. (*Leviticus 23:16; Numbers 28:26; Exodus 23:16; Exodus 34:22; Deuteronomy 16:9*)

“At the Festival of Harvest, when you present the first of your new grain to the LORD, you must call an official day for holy assembly, and you may do no ordinary work on that day.” Numbers 28:26

2. The Jews from every nation had come to the Temple in Jerusalem to offer their first fruits and sacrifices.

“At that time there were devout Jews from every nation living in Jerusalem.” Acts 2:5

3. Pentecost was one of the three Jewish feasts that called for a pilgrimage to the Holy City.

“Keep counting until the day after the seventh Sabbath, fifty days later. Then present an offering of new grain to the LORD.” Leviticus 23:16

4. It was a feast of harvest and it truly became their first great harvest where 3,000 were given eternal life on that day.

“Second, celebrate the Festival of Harvest, when you bring Me the first crops of your harvest.” Exodus 23:16a

B. The Holy Spirit was poured out on the Jews gathered in Jerusalem...

1. The Holy Spirit came like a rushing wind.

“Suddenly, there was a sound from heaven like the roaring of a mighty windstorm, and it filled the house where they were sitting.” Acts 2:2

“When Saul and his servant arrived at Gibeath, they saw a group of prophets coming toward them. Then the Spirit of God came (rushing) powerfully upon Saul, and he, too, began to prophesy.” 1 Samuel 10:10

“So as David stood there among his brothers, Samuel took the flask of olive oil he had brought and anointed David with the oil. And the Spirit of the LORD came (rushing) powerfully upon David from that day on. Then Samuel returned to Ramah.” 1 Samuel 16:13

- a. Jesus related that the symbol of the Holy Spirit was a like a wind.

“The wind blows wherever it wants. Just as you can hear the wind but can’t tell where it comes from or where it is going, so you can’t explain how people are born of the Spirit.” John 3:8

- b. Both the Hebrew (OT) and Greek (NT) words for spirit are translated breath or wind.

2. The Holy Spirit came like flames or tongues of fire.
“Then, what looked like flames or tongues of fire appeared and settled on each of them.” Acts 2:3

- a. God appeared in a fire to Moses.

“There the angel of the LORD appeared to him in a blazing fire from the middle of a bush. Moses stared in amazement. Though the bush was engulfed in flames, it didn’t burn up.” Exodus 3:2

- b. God led the Israelites by a pillar of fire (and a cloud) to guide them.

“The LORD went ahead of them. He guided them during the day with a pillar of cloud, and He provided light at night with a pillar of fire. This allowed them to travel by day or by night. And the LORD did not remove the pillar of cloud or pillar of fire from its place in front of the people.” Exodus 13:21-22

3. Each individual received a personal presence of the Holy Spirit like a fire.

“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.’ Luke 3:16

“But I will send you the Advocate—the Spirit of truth. He will come to you from the Father and will testify all about Me.” John 15:26
“(When He said ‘living water,’ He was speaking of the Spirit, who would be given to everyone believing in Him. But the Spirit had not yet been given, because Jesus had not yet entered into His glory.)” John 7:39

4. The disciples spoke in more than 15 languages as a witness of the Gospel to all the nations.

“And everyone present was filled with the Holy Spirit and began speaking in other languages, as the Holy Spirit gave them this ability.” Acts 2:4

“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you. And you will be My witnesses, telling people about Me everywhere—in Jerusalem, throughout Judea, in Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” Acts 1:8

C. Peter’s message was two-fold...

“Peter’s words pierced their hearts, and they said to him and to the other apostles, ‘Brothers, what should we do?’” Acts 2:37

1. Everyone is in need of forgiveness of sin and to be born again!

“Peter replied, ‘Each of you must repent of your sins and turn to God, and be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. Then you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.’” Acts 2:38

“Jesus replied, ‘I tell you the truth, unless you are born again, you cannot see the Kingdom of God.’” John 3:3

“All praise to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. It is by His great mercy that we have been born again, because God raised Jesus Christ from the dead. Now we live with great expectation,” 1 Peter 1:3

2. Everyone is in need of the power of the Holy Spirit to live a victorious Christian life.

“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you...” Acts 1:8a

“Don’t be drunk with wine, because that will ruin your life. Instead, be filled with the Holy Spirit,” Ephesians 5:18

- a. Sincerely desire to be controlled by the Holy Spirit.

“So I say, let the Holy Spirit guide your lives. Then you won’t be doing what your sinful nature craves.” Galatians 5:16

- b. Confess any sin that may be present.

“My dear children, I am writing this to you so that you will not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an Advocate who pleads our case before the Father. He is Jesus Christ, the one who is truly righteous.” 1 John 2:1

- c. Surrender yourself as an offering to God.

“And so, dear brothers and sisters, I plead with you to give your bodies to God because of all He has done for you. Let them be a living and holy sacrifice—the kind He will find acceptable. This is truly the way to worship Him.” Romans 12:1

“So here’s what I want you to do, God helping you: Take your everyday, ordinary life—your sleeping, eating, going-to-work, and walking-around life—and place it before God as an offering.” Romans 12:1 The Message

- d. By faith, thank God for filling you completely with His Holy Spirit.

“He made no distinction between us and them, for He cleansed their hearts through faith.” Acts 15:9

If you have made a personal decision to receive Christ as your Lord and Savior, please send us a text so we can celebrate with you.

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