

# Pastor's Bible Class

June 8, 2025

## Pentecost

### Hymn 913 "O Holy Spirit, Enter In"

1 O Ho - ly Spir - it, en - ter in, And in our hearts  
2 Give to Your Word im - pres - sive pow'r, That in our hearts  
3 O might - y Rock, O Source of life, Let Your dear Word,  
Your work be - gin, Your dwell - ing place now make us.  
from this good hour As fire it may be glow - ing,  
in doubt and strife, In us be strong - ly burn - ing  
Sun of the soul, O Light di - vine, A - round and in  
That in true Chris - tian u - ni - ty We faith - ful wit -  
That we be faith - ful un - to death And live in love  
us bright - ly shine, To joy and glad - ness wake us  
ness - es may be, Your glo - ry ev - er show - ing.  
and ho - ly faith, From You true wis - dom learn - ing.  
That we may be Tru - ly liv - ing, To You giv - ing  
Hear us, cheer us By Your teach - ing; Let our preach - ing  
Your grace and peace On us show - er; By Your pow - er  
Prayer un - ceas - ing And in love be still in - creas - ing.  
And our la - bor Praise You, Lord, and serve our neigh - bor.  
Christ con - fess - ing, Let us see our Sav - ior's bless - ing.

### Read Genesis 11:1-9

1. When does this account take place?

2. What do the people of "the whole earth" set out to accomplish in verse 4?

3. Why does God “go down and...confuse their language”?

4. About this reading Dr. Jeffrey Pulse writes: “Ever since the Fall in the Garden of Eden man has felt the pain of his separation from God. Thus, according to man’s usual pattern, he attempts to bridge the gap his sin has caused. And what better way to reunite with the Creator than by building a Tower which will put you on God’s level and give you your own special status and name. In other words, man is attempting to be equal with his Creator...Man has always wanted to bridge the gap between himself and God—he feels he must somehow make himself acceptable, prove his own worth, show his own power, or at the very least fix the mess he caused.”

### **Acts 2:1-21**

5. In verse one, Luke writes, “when the day of Pentecost arrived.” While this certainly sets the stage for the Pentecost story, the Greek verb that Luke uses (translated in the ESV as “arrived”) is unique and literally means “to be completed.” This same verb is used in Luke 9:51 and Galatians 4:4. How does this change or enhance the meaning of verse one?

6. According to Leviticus 23:15-22, the festival of Pentecost or “The Feast of Weeks” was established as a day of sacrifice and Sabbath to be, “a lasting ordinance for the generations to come, wherever you live” (Leviticus 23:21). How should we understand this command in light of Acts 2:1? See also Hebrews 8:13.

7. Who were the “they” mentioned in verse one? See Acts 1:15 and Acts 2:17-18.

8. What does the word “like” in verse two tell us about the sound that “filled the entire house where they were sitting”?

9. Why did Luke describe the manifestation of the Holy Spirit as “tongues” of fire?

10. How does the gift of languages relate to the Old Testament reading from Genesis 11:1-9?

11. What were the “wonders of God” proclaimed on Pentecost?

### **Devotional Thought**

The manmade structure of the Tower of Babel is a failure, but the God-provided structure of the Cross bridges the gap! As Luther says, “The Cross is the structure that holds Heaven and earth together.” This is why he identifies Jacob’s “ladder” as the Cross. It is God’s doing which reunites God and man and He accomplishes this, not by requiring man to come up to God, but rather, by sending His Son down to man to hang on a tree (Dr. Jeffrey Pulse).

### **Prayer**

We praise you, O God, that you enable Your Church to overcome language barriers with the Gospel of salvation in Jesus Christ. Amen.