

# The Birth of the Church Notes12312023am

## Acts 2

Introduction:

The church began on the Day of Pentecost, fifty days after the Passover when Jesus died and rose again. The word translated “church” comes from two Greek words that together mean “called out from the world for God.” The word is used throughout the Bible to refer to all those who have been born again (John 3:3) through faith in the death and resurrection of Jesus (Romans 10:9–10). The word church, when used to reference all believers everywhere, is synonymous with the term Body of Christ (Ephesians 1:22–23; Colossians 1:18).

### 1. A Supernatural Event

- **The sound of the wind symbolized the mysterious presence of the Holy Spirit.**
- **The tongues of fire symbolized the purifying and cleansing work of the Holy Spirit.**
- **The miraculous speech symbolized the worldwide flow of the gospel from Jerusalem to people of every language group, breaking down all previous barriers (Gal. 3:28-29).**

### 2. A Powerful Sermon (2:14-39).

- *A Careful Explanation.*
- *An Illuminating Proclamation.*
- *A Challenging Invitation.*

### 3. An Overwhelming Response (2:40-47).

Three thousand Jewish people repented, were baptized, and received the Holy Spirit. They immediately began meeting together, experiencing the power of the Holy Spirit’s presence, and displaying a beautiful sense of oneness.

- **Worship**
- **Instruction**
- **Fellowship**

- **Expression**

**Conclusion:**

**“Christian community is not an ideal we have to realize, but rather a reality created by God in Christ in which we may participate. The more clearly we understand that the ground and strength and promise of all our community is in Jesus Christ alone, the more calmly we will learn to think about our community and pray and hope for it.”**

**— Dietrich Bonhoeffer**

Listen to a few of the one another commands from the NT, and consider what these commands assume and imply about the nature of Christian community:

- “Love one another with brotherly affection” (Romans 12:10).
- “Greet one another with a holy kiss” (1 Cor. 16:20, 2 Cor. 13:12)
- “Serve one another” (Galatians 5:13).
- “Bear one another’s burdens” (Galatians 6:2).
- “Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another” (Ephesians 4:32).
- “Encourage one another and build one another up” (1 Thessalonians 5:11).
- “Always seek to do good to one another” (1 Thess. 5:15)
- “Exhort one another every day” (Hebrews 3:13).
- “Stir up one another to love and good works” (Heb. 10:24)
- “Confess your sins to one another and pray for one another” (James 5:16).
- “Show hospitality to one another without grumbling.” (1 Peter 4:9).

The one another commands of the New Testament imply at least three things:

- **You cannot live the Christian life on your own.**
- **The Christian life cannot be restricted to a once-a-week meeting.**
- **Your personal relationship with Jesus radically reorients your relationships with others.**

The one-another's are not busy work or add-ons; they are the overflow and expression of the life you share with one another in Christ.