

As we celebrate Pentecost, the birth of the church, understand that the Acts 2 outpouring of the Holy Spirit came upon 120 Jewish men and women, in the midst of the Jewish **feast of weeks** or in **Hebrew Shavuot *shav-you-ought* which means weeks.** *This feast was 7 weeks and one day after Passover or 50 days.* Pentecost means 50 and is the Greek New Testament name for Shavuot. Jews made the pilgrimage to Jerusalem to celebrate the giving of the Torah (law) to Moses on this special day. God had His people's lives revolve around the feasts in order to remember His faithfulness. They would count down the days from Passover to Pentecost, celebrating their deliverance from Egypt in Passover and celebrating the giving of the Torah at Pentecost.

Deuteronomy 16:16 (NKJV) “Three times a year all your males shall appear before the LORD your God in the place which He chooses: at the *Feast of Unleavened Bread*, at the *Feast of Weeks*, and at the *Feast of Tabernacles*; and they shall not appear before the LORD empty-handed.

First Pentecost

Exodus 19:16-20 (NKJV) 16 Then it came to pass on the third day, in the morning, that there were thunderings and lightnings, and a thick cloud on the mountain; and the sound of the trumpet was very loud, so that all the people who [were] in the camp trembled. 17 And Moses brought the people out of the camp to meet with God, and they stood at the foot of the mountain. 18 Now Mount Sinai [was] completely in smoke, because the LORD descended upon it in fire. Its smoke ascended like the smoke of a furnace, and the whole mountain quaked greatly. 19 And when the blast of the trumpet sounded long and became louder and louder, Moses spoke, and God answered him by voice. 20 Then the LORD came down upon Mount Sinai, on the top of the mountain. And the LORD called Moses to the top of the mountain, and Moses went up.

- In order to understand Pentecost more fully we can lay Acts 2 the giving of the Holy Spirit in Jerusalem over the giving of the Torah at Mount Sinai in Exodus 19 (*superimpose*). **The two events are forever inseparable and linked. This link creates profound theological implication for all believers.** *This helps us have greater understanding of the sovereignty and forethought of God and His revelation to man.* **The second Pentecost could not have come if the first Pentecost had not had happened.**
- **On the same day that Israel celebrated the Receiving of the law from God, He spoke again, ripped open the heavens, sent the sound of a mighty rushing wind, tongues like flames of fire and wrote not on tablets of stone but upon the heart of man when He filled them with His Spirit, His very breath.** The first Pentecost the Law was given, this Pentecost His Spirit was given.
- **When God spoke from Mount Sinai it is believed His voice spoke simultaneously in all the languages of the world.** **Jewish scholars translate EX. 19:16 as people actually**

saw the voice of God coming out of the mountain in tongues of fire, since it seems strange to see voices these phrases were translated as thunders and lightnings.

- After being filled with the Holy Spirit in Acts 2, the baptism of fire, the disciples found themselves proclaiming the Gospel in every language. Holy Spirit spoke out of their mouths.
- At Sinai 3000 people perished that day because they worshipped a false god. (Ex. 32:28) On Pentecost, 3000 souls were born again and came to life as they responded to the true God (Acts 2:41)
- The initial giving of the Torah was with signs and wonder in the heavens, there were signs and wonders in the upper room.
- Instead of fire descending upon the mountain, the fire of God descended upon His people!
- As we look at the two separate events being linked together it gives us a greater/more complete understanding.

This is the day we celebrate the outpouring of The Holy Spirit upon His church. The baptism of the Holy Spirit is not simply an add on but is a primary goal of the Bible for all believers. It would be a tragic thing for the church to look upon the historical aspects of these events without seeing the heart of Jesus Christ and longing to fill all of those who call upon his name with the power of his Holy Spirit.

Acts 1:4-5 Gathering them together, He commanded them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait for what the **Father had promised**, “Which,” He said, “you heard of from Me; ⁵ for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.”

Acts 1:8 but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth.”

Jesus died on Passover, was resurrected on the 3rd day and spent 40 days on earth revealing himself to His disciples. Following His ascension the disciples met in the upper room in prayer for 10 days.

Acts 2:1-8 (NKJV) *1 When the Day of Pentecost had fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. 2 And suddenly there came a sound from heaven, as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. 3 Then there appeared to them divided tongues, as of fire, and [one] sat upon each of them. 4 And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance. 5 And there were dwelling in Jerusalem Jews, devout men, from every nation under heaven. 6 And when this*

sound occurred, the multitude came together, and were confused, because everyone heard them speak in his own language. 7 Then they were all amazed and marveled, saying to one another, "Look, are not all these who speak Galileans? 8 "And how [is it that] we hear, each in our own language in which we were born?

The Spirit of God fell upon a unified church, they tarried until they were of one accord! (with one mind, one passion. Homothumadon is a compound of two words meaning to "rush along" and "in unison". The image is almost musical; a number of notes are sounded which, while different, harmonize in pitch and tone. As the instruments of a great concert under the direction of a concert master, so the Holy Spirit blends together the lives of members of Christ's church.)

- **Wind**-There came a noise like a violent rushing wind and it filled the whole house. The sound that drew the crowd was the noise like a violent rushing wind. A sound from heaven.
- **Fire**-Tongues of fire distributing themselves, resting on each one of them. The flame of God descended upon them, not a mountain.
- They were all filled with the Holy Spirit (breath of God) and began speaking with other tongues or languages as the Spirit was giving them utterance
- The crowd was confounded (Confused, perplexed) because these Galilean, uneducated men were speaking boldly in other known languages the wonderful works of God!

Purpose of the infilling was not so we would have a specific gift but that the church would have the fullness of the Holy Spirit! From the beginning God longed to dwell with man and tabernacle with him. Jesus is after **oneness. The Holy Spirit is the very essence and person of God, who possesses all gifts, establishes all fruit and is the power of God living in you and through you. Jesus came to save us yes, but He also came to baptize with **Holy Spirit and fire!** There is a fire (passion) that is available for every believer who will not settle but will pursue the fullness of His Holy Spirit.**

There is a diversity in teaching about being filled with the Holy Spirit but perhaps that is because there is diversity in the New Testament itself. Though we were meant to build bridges within the Kingdom of God we have built doctrinal walls that highlights our understanding and experience and has no allowance for others. *God doesn't follow our systematic and doctrinal systems, He is not contained by us though often times our unbelief confines Him from moving fully.*

When studying the book of Acts, It is evident that God likes diversity and cannot be limited on when and how one is consumed by the Spirit. The Holy Spirit is free to do it any way He

pleases and it is His will that you are filled. Our job is to hunger and thirst for everything that He has. **The one consistent evidence of being filled with the Holy Spirit is a life that is sanctified to look more like Jesus.** It is a two fold work that is sanctifies in purity and filled with power. **Fruit and ministry gifts.**

Different works of the Holy Spirit

1. Receiving the Holy Spirit

In John 20 after Jesus death and resurrection but prior to His ascension *Jesus breathed upon His disciples* ***John 20:21-22-So Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you; as the Father has sent Me, I also send you." 22 And when He had said this, He breathed on them and *said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit.***

- In receiving the person of the Holy Spirit the disciples are born again and receive the indwelling Holy Spirit. Making them a new creation
- This passage parallels the Father breathing on Adam in the first creation and a new creation began. **This is John 3:3 being born again**

1. Being filled with the Holy Spirit (subsequent experience)

- A deeper work of full consecration, fully yielding your life to the life of Jesus Christ
- Being equipped from power on high to fulfill your mission to the world. Be a witness
- Both purifies your heart, empowers and emboldens. Jesus saved you so He could fill you.
- the Holy Spirit descended like a mighty wind and filled all the house they were sitting. **The word baptize means to dip or to immerse.** Baptism in water is an immersion in water. But baptism in the Holy Spirit is an immersion in the Holy Spirit. **baptism in water, you go down into the water and come up out of it. But baptism in the Holy Spirit, the Spirit comes down upon you and immerses you from above.**

3. Fellowship, abiding, maturing in love, living in oneness with Christ. There are more encounters and fillings with the Holy Spirit.

The question for today is if you have been saved by His grace, have you been baptized by the Holy Spirit of God. Have you given Him everything you know how to give and have you received His fullness. Are streams of living water flowing from you, are you abiding in the continual filling of the Presence of God? Are you free from the power of sin in your life and does the Holy Spirit have His full grip upon you?

We can enter into the same experience as the early disciples of Christ if we will follow the same order wait and tarry till he comes, press in, don't let Him go, wrestle until it is done.

This is not to be a doctrine that can be fully explained with the mind, it is an experience, an encounter with a baptism from the Son of God that is for every single believer that is backed with powerful encounters in Scripture and men, women, boys and girls throughout history.

Our part is wait, come into one accord, one longing for Jesus, dig in.

God's part-Fathers promise, outpouring

Home Groups

1. Discuss the importance and the beauty of connecting the first Pentecost in Exodus 19 and the Acts 2 Pentecost. Discuss the similarities and the differences.
2. Discuss the purpose of the infilling if the Holy Spirit and share testimonies.
3. Is there any doctrine that you have held onto that keeps you from believing the Holy Spirit can flow through you?
4. Are you living n the Holy Spirit's fullness? Discuss areas of longing and of breakthrough.
5. Spend time praying for a fresh outpouring together.