

# Pentecost

## Sermon: The Fire and the Festival

### Icebreaker

1. Share a funny story about a time you committed a "party foul" (an awkward social blunder, missing the dress code, or showing up at the wrong time/place).
2. Before hearing this sermon, what did you usually picture or think about when you heard the word **Pentecost**?

### Part 1: The Blueprint

**Sermon Recap:** The Holy Spirit didn't disrupt the Jewish harvest festival (*Shavuot*); He fulfilled it. Exactly 50 days after Passover, Israel celebrated both the firstfruits of the harvest and the anniversary of God giving the Ten Commandments at Mount Sinai.

**Read out loud:** Exodus 19:16–20 and Jeremiah 31:31–33

1. Compare the scene at Mount Sinai (Exodus 19) with the scene in the Upper Room (Acts 2:1–4). What similarities and differences stand out to you?
2. Look closely at Jeremiah 31:33. Why is a law written on a *heart* so much more powerful than a law written on a *stone*? How have you experienced this shift in your own life?
3. **Sticky Statement Reflection:** Discuss this quote from the sermon:
4. "*What God promised on Sinai, He poured out by His Spirit.*" How does knowing the Old Testament background change the way you view the arrival of the Holy Spirit?

### Part 2: The Fire & The Purpose

**Sermon Recap:** At Pentecost, God's presence shifted from a physical building (the Tabernacle/Temple) to living inside His people. Furthermore, the miracle of diverse languages reversed the curse of the Tower of Babel (Genesis 11), signaling that God's gospel is for all nations.

**Read out loud:** Acts 2:1–8, Acts 2:41, and Ephesians 1:13

1. Pastor Warren Wiersbe said, "*The Spirit did not give them a new book of rules; He gave them a new heart.*" In what ways do Christians accidentally treat the Holy Spirit like a new set of rules rather than a relationship?
2. In Ephesians 1:13, Paul says believers are "sealed with the promised Holy Spirit." The sermon noted that *the Spirit changed His address—He moved in*. How should the reality that your body is the actual Temple of God change the way you view your everyday life?
3. At Babel (Gen 11), human pride divided people into different languages. At Pentecost, God used languages to bring people together. What does this tell us about God's heart for diversity, culture, and reaching people who are different from us?

## Part 3: The Daily Walk

**Sermon Recap:** The Christian life requires a two-fold response to the Spirit: a one-time reception at salvation, and a daily commitment to "keep in step" with His cadence.

**Read out loud:** Galatians 5:25

1. The Greek word for "keep in step" (*stoicheō*) means to march in a straight military line or follow a leader's cadence/beat. What does it look like practically to "keep in step" with the Spirit?
2. The sermon challenged us to practice two daily habits:
  - **Morning Surrender:** Handing over our schedule, thoughts, and mouth to God first thing.
  - **Prompt Obedience:** Instantly acting on the Spirit's nudges (to encourage, confess, or share).
3. Which of these two is currently harder for you, and why?
4. **Final Sticky Statement:** > *"We don't just need the Spirit for the start of our faith; we need to follow His pace for our daily stride."*
5. What is one practical area of your life (at work, with family, in your finances, or a specific anxiety) where you need to surrender your pace to the Holy Spirit's pace this week?

## Prayer & Moving Forward

**Group Prayer Focus:**

- Spend time thanking God that He does not leave us to try to follow His rules in our own strength, but has given us His very presence.
- Pray for anyone in the group who needs to take that first step of salvation and fully receive the Holy Spirit.
- Pray for a heightened sensitivity to the Holy Spirit's nudges this week, asking for the courage to obey promptly when He speaks.

**The Weekly Charge:** *As you leave this week, remember: You are not walking in your own strength. Tomorrow morning, before your feet hit the floor, give the Holy Spirit control of your day and try to keep time with His rhythm.*