

LESSON 2

THE DAY OF PENTECOST

Read Acts 2 & Study Note: The Holy Spirit / Feasts of Israel

FACT QUESTIONS

1. How did the Holy Spirit manifest Himself on the Day of Pentecost? What do each of the symbols signify? (See study notes on The Holy Spirit)
2. The Scripture tells us that they all began to speak in other tongues or languages “as the Spirit enabled them.” How many different languages were heard? What were the various responses from the crowd that gathered?
3. Who is the Holy Spirit and what are the works of the Holy Spirit? (See study notes on The Holy Spirit)

LESSON QUESTIONS

4. Why do you think it was Peter who stood up to address the crowd? How did Jesus prepare Peter for this role of leadership? How has the Lord prepared you to be able to serve Him and share His Truth with others?
5. In his sermon, what false assumption did Peter address first? What Scriptures did he quote in this first sermon on Pentecost? How could you use Scripture to help people understand the Gospel message?
6. How did Peter “bring his message home” to his audience? What did he tell them to do? Have you obeyed this command (**Acts 2:38**)?
7. How did Peter describe Jesus’ death on the cross? How did he place responsibility on his hearers and yet balance it with God’s foreknowledge? What do you learn about God’s attributes from this passage?

HEART APPLICATION QUESTIONS

8. **The Holy Spirit, He is our comforter.** How have you relied on the Holy Spirit to give you comfort in the midst of your hardship?
9. Read **Acts 2:13**. The believers were made fun of and were falsely accused. How has God encouraged you to trust Him even when others mock your faith?
10. Describe the fellowship of the believers that followed Pentecost. Why is fellowship so important for believers? How has that encouraged you to be in a life group?

Memory Verse - Acts 2:38

“And Peter said to them, ‘Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.’”

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STUDY NOTES

THE HOLY SPIRIT / FEASTS OF ISRAEL

Who is the Holy Spirit?

The Holy Spirit is the third person of the Godhead, the Triune God - God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit.

The Holy Spirit is equal to the Father and the Son. Never refer to the Holy Spirit as an “it” or an influence. The Holy Spirit is God, distinct from the Father and the Son, as we see at creation. The Holy Spirit is seen actively engaged in the work of creation along with the Father and the Son, “hovering over the waters” (**Gen 1:2**).

The Holy Spirit functions with mind, emotion and will. He can be grieved, quenched, lied to, tested, resisted and blasphemed. The Holy Spirit is the divine agent who uniquely came upon God’s servants and inspired God’s sovereignly-chosen men to record God’s Word (**2 Peter 1:20-21**).

Scripture reveals that the Holy Spirit has been with believers to enable and empower them even before Pentecost.

- David (**1 Sam. 16:12-13**) - at his anointing, the Spirit of the Lord came powerfully upon him.
- John the Baptist (**Luke 1:15**) - filled with the Holy Spirit even before he was born.
- Mary (**Luke 1:35**) - the Holy Spirit came upon her to conceive the Christ child.

When John the Baptist spoke of Jesus, he said that Jesus would baptize with the Holy Spirit and with fire. At Jesus’ baptism, “the Holy Spirit descended on Him in bodily form like a dove” (**Luke 3:22**).

What is the work of the Holy Spirit?

- Convicts the world of sin (**John 16:9**)
- Regenerates the believer (**John 3:5 & Titus 3:5**)
- Indwells the believer (**1 Corinthians 3:16; 6:19-20**)
- Seals the believer (**Ephesians 1:13-14**)
- Infills the believer (**Ephesians 5:18**)
- Empowers the believer (**Acts 1:8; 4:31**)
- Guides the believer into all truth (**John 16:13**)
- Gives spiritual gifts to the believer (**1 Corinthians 12:1-11**)
- Enables the believer to bear spiritual fruit (**Galatians 5:16-23**)

The Holy Spirit is the believer's comforter, advocate, helper, teacher, counselor and guide.

The Holy Spirit came on the day of Pentecost and will remain with the Church until it is complete and presented to the Lord Jesus at His coming. Just as the Lord Jesus Christ finished the work He came to do in the flesh, so the Holy Spirit will finish the work He came to do in the Church.

How can we better understand the power and the work of the Holy Spirit?

The writers of the Bible used certain emblems when unfolding the mysteries of the Holy Spirit.

The first emblem is found at the baptism of Jesus (Matt. 3:16; Mark 1:10; Luke 3:22) - **the dove**. The dove speaks of Christ's gentle, tender and peaceful nature. He came that we might know the "peace of God, which transcends all understanding" (Philippians 4:7). He is "gentle and humble in heart" (Matt. 11:29).

The second emblem is fire (Luke 3:17) as the purifying power in the life of the believer. We see this same emblem at Pentecost with the tongues of fire.

The third emblem is wind. In the Greek, the word for spirit is the same as the word for wind. Jesus speaks of the Spirit giving birth to spirit...like the wind blowing wherever it pleases. "You hear its sound, but you cannot tell where it comes from or where it is going..." (John 3:5-8). The wind speaks of the hidden depth and mighty regenerating power of the Holy Spirit.

The fourth emblem we see in the Scriptures **is water**. Jesus compares the Holy Spirit to water in John 7:37-39. Water speaks of His power to fill the believer to overflowing with spiritual life.

The fifth emblem is oil. In Acts 10:38, Peter speaks of Jesus being anointed with the Holy Spirit and power. In the Old Testament oil was used to anoint kings, priests and prophets. It was a symbol of endowment with the Spirit of God for the duties of the office to which the person was being consecrated.

The writer of Hebrews quotes from Psalm 45 which speaks of being anointed with the oil of joy referring to the Lord Jesus (Hebrews 1:9). Christ means "the Anointed One."

When Jesus spoke to His disciples in the Upper Room, He promised that the Holy Spirit, the Advocate, the Spirit of Truth, would live with them and in them and in this way, He would never leave them. In John 15:11, He told them that His joy would be in them, "that your joy may be complete."

The Feasts of Israel

Leviticus 23 declares the “appointed festivals” of the LORD, also called “sacred assemblies.” There are seven feasts to be observed in addition to the Sabbath which was to be observed every seventh day.

The Sabbath

The children of Israel had been given instructions about the Sabbath day in the Ten Commandments.

“Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy. Six days you shall labor and do all your work, but the seventh day is a sabbath to the Lord your God” Exodus 20:8-10.

The Passover

The first of the sacred feasts in Israel is the Passover. The Passover commemorates God’s deliverance of His people from slavery in Egypt.

Each household was to slaughter a yearling lamb and take some of the blood and put it on the sides and the tops of the doorframes of their houses. When the Lord struck down the firstborn of every family in Egypt, the blood would protect all within the house, and tenth plague, the death of the firstborn, would “pass over” that house (See Exodus 12).

The Passover was to be a lasting ordinance for generations to come.

John the Baptist pointed to Jesus as “the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.” Jesus Christ has delivered us from bondage to sin (John 8) by His blood (1 Peter 1:18-19). Jesus died on the Cross on Passover as the Passover lambs were led to slaughter at the Temple. In 1 Corinthians 5:7 Paul said, “For Christ, our Passover lamb, has been sacrificed.”

The Feast of Unleavened Bread

This feast began on the heels of Passover, the very next day. This feast lasted for seven days (combined with Passover, it is an eight-day feast). The people of Israel were to remove all yeast from their homes and eat only unleavened bread. This was because in the Scriptures leaven represents sin. When the Israelites left Egypt, they left in a hurry, with no time to let their bread rise, so this festival represents their hurried flight from Egypt.

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In John 6, Jesus declares that He is the Bread of Life. He is the bread without “leaven,” without sin. He alone is the Sinless One.

Feast of Firstfruits

This feast commemorated the first of the spring barley harvest. This signified Israel's gratitude and dependence on God. The priest would wave the sheaf of barley before the Lord.

Firstfruits is a picture of Jesus' resurrection. He was the first to rise from the dead and receive a glorified body, and all those who are born again will inherit an "incorruptible body" (1 Corinthians 15:35-49).

1 Corinthians 15:20 - "But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep."

The Feast of Weeks or Pentecost

Pentecost occurred 50 days after the Feast of Firstfruits and celebrated the end of the barley harvest and the new grain of the summer wheat harvest. It demonstrated joy and thankfulness for the Lord's blessing.

This was one of the three pilgrimage feasts when all Jewish males were required to go to Jerusalem to "appear before the LORD" (Deuteronomy 16:16). The other two were Passover and the Feast of Tabernacles.

After Jesus' resurrection, the believers (120 of them) were all together in one place, and the Holy Spirit filled the house with a sound like a mighty wind and what appeared to be tongues of fire, filling the disciples with the ability to speak in other tongues (languages). Those who were in Jerusalem for the Feast gathered together when they heard praises to God each in their own language. At the gathering Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, preached his first sermon and about 3,000 were "added to their number that day" (Acts 2).

Feast of Trumpets

The Lord commanded that this feast be held on the first day of the seventh month and was to be a day that they sounded the trumpets. Sacrifices and offerings were to be made. This was a celebration of the civil new year.

The Feast of Trumpets signifies Christ's second coming (1 Thessalonians 4:16). The sounding of the trumpets in Revelation points to the pouring out of God's wrath.

The Day of Atonement

This is the high holy day on Israel's calendar, the one day when the high priest of Israel entered the Holy of Holies to make an offering for the sins of Israel. This day occurs just ten days after the Feast of Trumpets. This was the one day that all Israel was required to fast.

Jesus is both our Great High Priest and our atoning sacrifice. His blood has been poured out on the mercy seat of God and the curtain has been torn in two so that all who trust in Him may enter into the very presence of Almighty God.

The Feast of Tabernacles (Booths)

This is the seventh and final feast of the Lord and this feast took place five days after the Day of Atonement. For seven days the Israelites presented offerings to the Lord, during which time they lived in temporary housing (booths or huts made from palm branches). To tabernacle is to dwell in a tent. When the Israelites left Egypt, they lived in tents for 40 years as they wandered in the wilderness. This feast would remind them of their sojourn before entering the Promised Land.

John 1:14 declares that Jesus "tabernacled among us." Jesus took on a body of flesh, living in a temporary, physical human body (**Philippians 2:6-11**) before His ascension and glorification in heaven.

The prophet Zechariah declared that this Feast will be celebrated in the Millennial kingdom of our God (**Zechariah 14:16**). This feast signifies the future time when Christ rules and reigns on this earth and we, His people, will "tabernacle" with Him in the New Jerusalem.

The first four feasts look back at what Christ accomplished at His first coming, and the last three feasts point to the glory of His Second Coming. Christ has made atonement for our sins on the Cross, and He is coming back to take us home to heaven.

LESSON 2: MESSAGE NOTES

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PRAISES & PRAYER REQUESTS