

June 5, 2022 Pentecost Sunday Message

And Lord's Supper

Today is what is known on the Christian calendar as Pentecost. Pentecost has its roots in one of the Seven Festivals/Feasts/HolyDays of the Old Testament.

The Spring Feasts:

1. Passover
2. Unleavened Bread
3. First Fruits (Resurrection)
4. Pentecost (Shavu'ot)

The Fall Feasts:

5. Trumpets (Yom Teruah)
6. Atonement (Yom Kippur)
7. Tabernacles (Sukkot or Booths)

(Chanukah is prophesied in Daniel 8, and known as Feast of Dedications in the New Testament, but it is not generally regarded as one the God Ordained Feasts)

There are many other names by which this celebration has been known:

Shavuot. Shavuot is the original designation for this festival (it is the plural form of the Hebrew, shavua, meaning weeks. Thus, the name Shavuot emphasizes the counting of the weeks.

Pentecost. Pentecost is the Greek form of the biblical name and means fiftieth. Thus, the name Pentecost emphasizes the counting of the days.

Feast of Weeks (Exodus 34:22; Numbers 28:26; Deuteronomy 16:10).

Feast of Latter Firstfruits [of the wheat harvest (Exodus 34:22)].

Bikkurim Bikkurim is Hebrew for firstfruits. Feast of Harvest (Exodus 23:16).

Season of the giving of the Torah¹ (Romans 9:4).

Day of the Revelation of God at Mt. Sinai. **Yom Kahal**, or Day of the Assembly (Deuteronomy 18:16).

Known as Whitsunday in more liturgical circles, the 7th Sunday after Easter)

Feast of Pentecost: Teaches us about the **POWER OF GOD**

Dictionaries - Easton's Bible Dictionary - Pentecost i.e., "fiftieth", found only in the New Testament (Acts 2:1 ; 20:16 ; 1 Corinthians 16:8). The festival so named is first spoken of in Exodus 23:16 as "the feast of harvest," and again in Exodus 34:22 as "the day of the firstfruits" (Numbers 28:26). From the sixteenth of the month of Nisan (the second day of the Passover), seven complete weeks, i.e., forty-nine days, were to be reckoned, and this feast was held on the fiftieth day. The manner in which it was to be kept is described in Leviticus 23:15-19 ; Numbers 28:27-29 .

Besides the sacrifices prescribed for the occasion, every one was to bring to the Lord his "tribute of a free-will offering" (Deuteronomy 16:9-11). The purpose of this feast was to commemorate the completion of the grain harvest. Its distinguishing feature was the offering of "two leavened loaves" made from the new corn of the completed harvest, which, with two lambs, were waved before the Lord as a thank offering. The day of Pentecost is noted in the Christian Church as the day on which the Spirit descended upon the apostles, and on which, under Peter's preaching, so many thousands were converted in Jerusalem (Acts 2).

<https://www.biblestudytools.com/dictionary/pentecost/>

Acts 2: 1-24... ¹When the day of Pentecost had arrived, they were all together in one place. ²Suddenly a sound like that of a violent rushing wind came from heaven, and it filled the whole house where they were staying. ³And tongues, like flames of fire that were divided, appeared to them and rested on each one of them. ⁴Then they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in different languages, as the Spirit gave them ability for speech. ⁵There were Jews living in Jerusalem, devout men from every nation under heaven. ⁶When this sound occurred, a crowd came together and was confused because each one heard them speaking in his own language. ⁷And they were astounded and amazed, saying,^[a] "Look, aren't all these who are speaking Galileans? ⁸How is it that each of us can hear in our own native language? ⁹Parthians, Medes,

Elamites; those who live in Mesopotamia, in Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, ¹⁰Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya near Cyrene; visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, ¹¹Cretans and Arabs—we hear them speaking the magnificent acts of God in our own languages." ¹²They were all astounded and perplexed, saying to one another, "What could this be?" ¹³But some sneered and said, "They're full of new wine!"¹⁴ But Peter stood up with the Eleven, raised his voice, and proclaimed to them: "Men of Judah and all you residents of Jerusalem, let me explain this to you and pay attention to my words. ¹⁵For these people are not drunk, as you suppose, since it's only nine in the morning. ¹⁶On the contrary, this is what was spoken through the prophet Joel: ¹⁷And it will be in the last days, says God, that I will pour out My Spirit on all humanity; then your sons and your daughters will prophesy, your young men will see visions, and your old men will dream dreams. ¹⁸I will even pour out My Spirit on My male and female slaves in those days, and they will prophesy. ¹⁹I will display wonders in the heaven above and signs on the earth below: blood and fire and a cloud of smoke. ²⁰The sun will be turned to darkness and the moon to blood before the great and remarkable Day of the Lord comes. ²¹Then everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.

The Importance of Pentecost For Us Today

➤ Pentecost Proves Jesus' Promises are Trustworthy.

“Jesus had told his disciples that the Holy Spirit would come to them. He would come to be their comforter, to remind them of everything that he had said, to speak through them the words that God had for them to share. Here Jesus fulfills that promise too. The Holy Spirit transforms these men from nervous people hiding in locked rooms to boldly proclaiming the good news about Jesus to the world. The Holy Spirit turns Peter's impetuosity into confidently sharing Jesus' forgiveness with all”. Adapted from: <https://www.gdluth.org/blog/2019/6/9/sermon-what-does-pentecost-mean-acts-21-21>

➤ Pentecost Reminds Us of the Real and Powerful Presence of God In Our Lives

“On the day of Pentecost, seven weeks (50 days) after the resurrection of Jesus, the Holy Spirit was poured out upon those followers of Jesus who had gathered together in Jerusalem. Christians are meant to live in the presence and power of the Spirit of God. The Holy Spirit helps us to confess Jesus as Lord (1 Cor 12:3), empowers us to serve God with supernatural power (1 Cor 12:4-11), binds us together as the body of Christ (1 Cor 12:12-13), helps us to pray (Rom

8:26), and even intercedes for us with God the Father (Rom 8:27). The Spirit guides us (Gal 5:25), helping us to live like Jesus (Gal 5:22-23). Adapted from: <https://www.gdluth.org/blog/2019/6/9/sermon-what-does-pentecost-mean-acts-21-21>

- “Pentecost should bring a new revelation of God and spiritual things and bring a greater sensitivity to God and the ability to hear and discern his voice.
- Pentecost brings supernatural power for intense service to be witnesses and to live in holy victory over sin, sickness, poverty and temptation”.. Adapted from <http://www.angelfire.com/sd/sermons/PENTECOST.html>

A key take away is that Pentecost gives a healthy dose of humility as we see that it is not by our power, but through the power of God that lives can be changed and the world brought to faith. This leads us naturally into the next point...

➤ Pentecost Reveals To Us the Vital Role that the Church Has In God's Plan to Build and Extend His Kingdom

Some Christian scholars believe that Pentecost is the Birth of the Church. Whether that is the case or not, it does show that God has appointed the Church (the people of God) and given us the power and purpose to reach the world by sharing Christ.

We should join together with other believers in relying on the power of God to accomplish ‘*great and mighty things*’ (Jeremiah 33:3)

➤ **Pentecost Reveals The Multilingual and Multicultural Nature and Mission of the Church**

Many people tend to think of the Church in light of what they look like, dress like or talk like. We must realize that God wants people of all colors, languages and backgrounds to love and serve Him and to work together in harmony to accomplish God's plan and will. The Church of God is open to all people who will repent, believe and surrender to God through

Jesus. Outline point Adapted from - Pentecost: The Day Everything Changed Rev. Becca Wieringa
June 4, 2017. <http://stpaulsumc.us/wp-content/uploads/2017/07/20170604-Pentecost-change.pdf>

➤ **Pentecost Challenges Us to Be Active Disciples Who Share the Good News of Salvation and Lead People to a Deeper Relationship With God**

The first thing the early Disciples did were to go forth in the power of God and to begin sharing the Gospel message of salvation and calling people to become disciples of Jesus. That is just what we are to do!

In closing, I want to tie together Pentecost with Passover. These two remembrances are linked by the fact that **Jesus gave His life on the cross during Passover to give us power over sin and death. At Pentecost He gave us His Power through the Holy Spirit to live victoriously each and everyday.**