

Fresh Wind, Fresh Fire, Part 2 - Acts 2:1-13
Notes, Family Worship, Bible Reading

Notes from the Sermon

The reality that the Holy Spirit first filled all of the believers in the early church on Pentecost is not just some random fact. Last week we jumped in to this text and studied the doctrine of the Holy Spirit, finding that He is a member of the Triune God, is a person, and that His role is to bring the work of Jesus to us through His presence. He shows up as a wind, picturing invisible power to accomplish God’s purpose in our lives, and a fire, imaging the burning and beautifying of our lives. They speak in tongues as a result, making the mystery of God known (more on that in a bit). What happens in this room and moment are revolutionary, as the Spirit of God takes up residence in their lives and they receive the power Jesus promised for their witness (1:8). But the fact that this happened on Pentecost actually has deep meaning.

Pentecost is actually the Festival of Weeks from the Old Testament story. It was called this because it occurred after a “Week of weeks” from Passover, or 7 full weeks after the first day of the previous feast, which is 50 days. In the Torah God gave His people three celebrations they were to observe annually. These are actually big parties thrown by God for His people, and the command was that they were to gather together at the Tabernacle (and eventually the Temple) for each of them. By the time of the New Testament this meant that Jewish people from all over the world would make a pilgrimage to Jerusalem to observe and celebrate each of these week long feasts. Each feast celebrated two things. The first is the retelling of a part of the Exodus story, the story of their rescue from slavery and salvation, subsequent covenant with God, and His care for them as a people. Second, these festivals were annual reminders that God continued to care and provide for His people by giving them their crops and livestock for food. See the chart below for further explanation.

Festival	Time of year	Agriculture celebration	Covenant story
Passover	March-April	Firstfruits at beginning of barley harvest	Remembered the night they were delivered from slavery, the Passover lamb sacrificed, and the crossing of the Red Sea
Pentecost (Feast of Weeks)	May-June	Thanksgiving for the Spring harvest	The giving of the Law at Mt. Sinai through Moses and the beginning of the covenant
Feast of Booths	October	Fall thanksgiving for harvest	God’s care during the 40 years in the wilderness after their disobedience, they would build booths in and around Jerusalem

Verse 1 literally says that the Day of Pentecost was fulfilled, that all of its meaning and purpose had come to fulfillment. So Pentecost is exactly 50 days after the Passover. So catch this, Jesus, our perfect Passover Lamb was sacrificed, the first fruits of God’s redemption and the first fruits of those who would be raised from the dead. Then on

Pentecost the Spirit falls on the people, they are filled with the Spirit, and they speak in tongues. So, first of all, the filling of the Spirit means that the Law which we could not keep had been fulfilled in Christ, and our sin which kept us separated from God was forgiven, so the presence of God filled their now cleansed hearts. But the result is that they find themselves in the streets that are filled by people from all over the world, because it is Pentecost. They are speaking in tongues, and everyone hears the Gospel in their own language. Don't miss this, Jesus is the first fruits, but now the whole harvest is happening, on Pentecost, the day of thanksgiving for the Spring harvest.

This shows us what it means to be filled with the Spirit. It is for their joy, of course, but that joy overflows as they are sent into the city to be witnesses with the power of the Spirit. We are commanded to be filled with the Spirit, an interesting imperative, because it is a command to have someone else do something to us. We cannot force the Spirit, He is God and does His will as He wants. But we can be like ships in a harbor waiting for the wind so we can go out to sea. We cannot make the wind blow, but we sure can be ready with our sails hoisted at our post ready for the moment it does. And when the wind blows it will propel us to join the great mission of God in the world.

Bible Reading for the Week

Daily Bible Readings

Sun	Mon	Tues	Weds	Thurs	Fri	Sat
1 Samuel 16	1 Samuel 17	1 Samuel 18	1 Samuel 19	1 Samuel 20	1 Samuel 21	1 Samuel 22

Reading from this past week: Acts 2:1-13

Reading in preparation for this coming Sunday: Acts 2:14-41

Family Worship

Song - *I'll Not be Shaken*

<https://youtu.be/Vsg-pLr3iyE>

Gospel Project

Unit: Back to the Land

Story: The Bible Helps us Live For God

Big Picture Question: What is the Bible?

Answer: The Bible is God's Word that tells us what is true about God and ourselves.

Scripture: 2 Timothy 3

New City Catechism

Question #12: What does God require in the ninth and tenth commandments?

Answer: Ninth, that we do not lie or deceive. Tenth, that we are content, not envying anyone.

Verse: James 2:8

Scripture

Acts 2:1-13

- Why would God choose to send His Spirit on the Day of Pentecost? What does this tell us about what it means to be filled with the Spirit?
- What is the outcome of their speaking in tongues here in Acts 2? Why is this important to our understanding of the story and the work of the Spirit?
- Why might it be important to remember that the result of being filled with the Spirit (the experience) ended with them proclaiming Jesus in Jerusalem (the mission)?

Prayer

*Pray that God would fill you with His Spirit and empower you to live boldly for Christ.

*Pray for our Genesis Kids Director, Missy Raley.