

Holman Street Baptist Church
Sunday School Lesson
June 1, 2025

Title: “Pentecost”

Scripture Reference: But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth. (Acts 1:8,)

Purpose of the Lesson: To explore “Pentecost” and its significance for today’s Christian community

Introduction: “Pentecost”, one of the major Feast Days on the Jewish calendar, has been celebrated by the Jewish community for thousands of years with prophetic implications for the coming of the Holy Spirit to empower and indwell believers and to mark the beginning of the Church Age. Today’s lesson will connect the observance and significance of Pentecost to the birth of the Christian Church and it’s charge to go into all the world, making disciples and setting captives free.

Lesson Outline

I. The Meaning of Pentecost and it’s Historical Background

- A. In the Greek(pentekostos) means— ***fiftieth***.
In the Hebrew (Shavuot), it means —***weeks***.
- B. The Feast of Weeks or Pentecost:
 - celebrated the giving of the Law, the Torah, to Moses on Mount Sinai. (The Mosaic Law served as a temporary placeholder for the Messiah, Jesus. It pointed to the future and revealed the need for a Savior who would fulfill its requirements through his death and resurrection.)
 - marked the end of the grain harvest and celebrated first fruit of the wheat harvest.
 - was commanded to be celebrated 50 days after the Passover Feast throughout their generations. (Leviticus 23:15,16; Deuteronomy 16:9,10)

II. The Events of Pentecost following Jesus' Death, Burial and Resurrection

- A. After receiving the great commission (Matthew 28:18-20; Mark 16:16-20) to take the gospel message into all the world, the disciples were admonished to tarry in Jerusalem (Luke 24:49) for the promised coming of the Holy Spirit who would be with them and in them (John 14:16,17).
- B. The promise was fulfilled on the day of Pentecost. A group of 120 prayerful, obedient, hopeful, faith-filled believers gathered on one accord in an upper room in Jerusalem and they all received the indwelling presence of the Holy Spirit and the outpouring of His power to serve their generation.

“And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.” (Acts 2:1-4)

- C. Because of the now indwelling presence of the Holy Spirit, these early believers became known as the body of Christ and the church of the Lord Jesus Christ was born.
- D. On that day of Pentecost an empowered disciple, Peter, preached under the anointing and, 3,000 souls were won for the kingdom of God. (Acts 2: 14-41)
- E. This early church was empowered after the Holy Ghost came upon them and they became witnesses in Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria and into the uttermost parts of the earth. (Acts 1:8)

III. The Significance of Pentecost for the Christian Community Today

Some of the lessons that the modern-day church can learn from their first century counterparts include:

- A. The importance of **unity of purpose** in the fellowship (They were all in agreement, on one accord, as they waited for the coming of the Holy Spirit.)
- B. The understanding of the **power of prayer**. (They continued in prayer and supplication as they waited to receive the promise.) Acts 1:14
- C. Exercising their **faith in God**. (Jesus told them that the Holy Spirit would come; they believed and they received.)
- D. The realization that they could not witness or serve God effectively without the **power of the Holy Ghost**. (After Pentecost the church grew dramatically; the disciples went forth and preached everywhere, the Lord working with them, and confirming the word with supernatural signs following. Mark 16:20)

Closing Comments

The Great Commission that was given to the early church is still in effect today. We are still expected to go, make disciples for the kingdom, minister to the sick and to set free those who are held captive to Satan's devices. Thank God that the outpouring of the Holy Spirit that the first century church experienced on the day of Pentecost is still available to present day believers. Being empowered by the Holy Spirit equips believers to witness effectively and to use their spiritual gifts to serve others according to God's plan for their lives. The world and the times that we are living in should motivate all believers to "**get in the game**" and live Spirit-filled lives so that we can effectively serve our God in this present generation.