

28 May

 Break the ice

Write down what God is saying to you in today's message:

TOPIC: Pentecost



Let's hear your story

1. Tell of a time when you had to explain to a friend or family member what the Holy Spirit did on the day of Pentecost in Acts 2?
2. What was the determining factor between Elijah and the prophets of Baal in 1 Kings 18:24? (**The god who answers by fire – he is God.**)
3. Where was the fire seen in 2 Chronicles 7:3 when Solomon dedicated the temple? (**Above the temple.**)
4. What festival was celebrated according to Exodus 23:16? (**The festival of harvest.**)



Let's go deeper

5. What did the new believers devote themselves to in Acts 2:42? (**The Word of God; fellowship, breaking of bread and prayer.**)
6. What were the qualifications for the first deacons in Acts 6:5? (**Full of faith, and the Holy Spirit.**)
7. What message was proclaimed in Acts 11:20 that led to the church in Antioch? (**The good news about the Lord Jesus.**)
8. What does Acts 19:10 tell us? (**That all the Jews and Greeks who lived in the province of Asia heard the Word of the Lord.**)



Let's apply this

9. Acts 1:8; But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.

For effective witness, we need the Holy Spirit's power. The Holy Spirit wants to give us His power to witness about the Good News of the Lord Jesus Christ.

- Surrender to the Holy Spirit and allow Him to give you, His power.
- Use your testimony this week to speak to people about Jesus.
- Pray for God's people this week, and encourage them to ask the Holy Spirit for His power to witness.

SUMMARY:

Pentecost: The birth of the church

Read: Acts 1:8 and Acts 2:1 – 11

In **1 Kings 18:23 – 39;** God used fire to show and demonstrate His acceptance upon Elijah's sacrifice.

In **2 Chronicles 7:1 – 3;** we read that all the Israelites saw fire above the temple. The fire representing God's acceptance and presence.

In **Acts 2:1 – 3;** we read that divided tongues of fire appeared to them and rested on each one of them. The fire representing God's presence and acceptance was not on the temple anymore, but on individual born-again people. "God's house" moves from the temple to individual born-again people called the church.

Pentecost was a feast of harvest; see **Exodus 23:16** and **Deuteronomy 16:10.**

The outpouring of the Holy Spirit in power was meant for witness and world evangelism; a great harvest in the field of the world, and that is exactly what happened – 3000 people were harvested for God and given eternal life on the day of Pentecost, the feast of harvest.

How did the Gospel advance in the book of Acts?

In **Acts 2:37 – 41;** we read of radical salvations people were born-again and baptised

In **Acts 2:42 – 47;** we read how these new believers were developed as a priesthood of believers; by devoting themselves to the Word of God, prayer, fellowship, and the breaking of bread. And that the Lord added daily those who were born-again.

In **Acts 6:1 – 7;** we read how leaders were recognised, raised up to lead, and released to lead in the church of Jerusalem.

In **Acts 8:4 – 8;** we read that the church in Jerusalem became a base from which believers were scattered to other towns, cities and regions preaching the Word.

In **Acts 11:19 – 26;** we read that a New Testament church was planted in Antioch, from the church in Jerusalem and that many other churches were planted in the book of Acts in various regions.

In **Acts 19:10;** we read that all the residents of Asia heard the word of the Lord, both Jews and Greeks. An entire region was reached with the Word of God.