

## Series – God gives us Reasons to Celebrate

### Celebration of His Power **Festival of Pentecost**

*Exodus 19:18-20, Leviticus 23:15-22, Deuteronomy 16:9-12, and Acts 2:1-13*

*Big celebrations always include fireworks!! God knows how to throw a really big celebration – Fireworks!!*

#### Review – God gives us reasons to celebrate

**His Presence** - Festival of Shelters – camping out to remember He dwells among us

**His Plan** - Festival of Passover – eating in our traveling clothes to remember His deliverance from sin.

Today- **His Power** - Festival of Weeks (also called Harvest and from Greek, Pentecost)

#### Event – God’s Power to create a new nation called to holiness

*Exodus 19:18-20*

**Marked the Completion of deliverance from Egypt** – 50 days to Mount Sinai

Thunder roared and lightning flashed – long, loud blast of a ram’s horn

The Lord descended in the form of fire and the whole mountain

God called Moses to the top of the mountain, law was given

#### Celebration – Annual celebration of giving of harvest (wheat harvest) and the law

*Leviticus 23:15-22*

Each man to bring two loaves of bread (made with yeast) to wave

Sacrifices offered and a Holy convocation announced

(note the gleanings were to be left in the fields for the poor)

#### Customs - Celebration of David (tradition that he was born and died on Pentecost) and the law

The book of Ruth was read telling of God’s hand upon David

The book of Exodus or the entire Torah was read commemorating the law.

Note – both showed the grace of God on His people - a great King and a holy law

#### Fulfillment – A spectacular transformation from the Old Covenant to the New Covenant in Christ

*Acts 2:1-13*

The day of Pentecost was fully come – could be translated completed

The believers were waiting as instructed by Christ – 50 days after death, 10 days after ascension

**Signs**

**Sound** –of mighty windstorm from Heaven

**Sight** - of tongues of fire settled or sat on each one

**Speaking** – of languages they had not learned (the wonderful things God has done)

**Gift** – They were all (men and women) filled with the Holy Spirit

**Prophecy** – Isaiah, Ezekiel, Joel, Psalms in all over 90 verses in Old Testament

The Holy Spirit was active in creation and many miracles

Prophets and Kings were filled with the Spirit for special tasks

**John the Baptist proclaimed Him in *Matthew 3:11-12* “I baptize with water those who repent of their sins and turn to God. But someone is coming soon who is greater than I am—so much greater that I’m not worthy even to be his slave and carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire. He is ready to separate the chaff from the wheat with his winnowing fork. Then he will clean up the threshing area, gathering the wheat into his barn but burning the chaff with never-ending fire.”**

**Offered by Jesus to His disciples *Luke 24:49* “And now I will send the Holy Spirit, just as my Father promised. But stay here in the city until the Holy Spirit comes and fills you with power from heaven.”**

***But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you. And you will be my witnesses, telling people about me everywhere—in Jerusalem, throughout Judea, in Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” Acts 1:8***

#### Meaning of signs and purpose of the gift – the Power of God seen in us.

**Mighty wind** –Life.

Word for Wind and breath are the same in Hebrew and Greek

God breaths life and power into us that we can proclaim His Word.

**Fire** – Purity

John the Baptists spoke of the separation and cleansing of the Spirit

After Pentecost Paul did not speak of the signs but of the cleansing

*Acts 15:8-9 God knows people's hearts, and he confirmed that he accepts Gentiles by giving them the Holy Spirit, just as he did to us. He made no distinction between us and them, for he cleansed their hearts through faith.*

### **Languages – Harvest**

They were able to speak the languages of the world (at least 16 mentioned) so the message could go to all the world as Christ promised  
The curse of Babel was wiped away and the will of God was made known  
On that very day 3000 believed and the harvest has not stopped.

### **Gifts and Ministries – Power to serve**

Pentecost is strongly associated with the **gifts** and **ministry** in the power of the Holy Spirit.  
On that day for the first time, as far as we know, people spoke in unlearned languages. In the following days, wonderful *healings* took place, *words of knowledge* revealed hidden sin and prison doors were *miraculously* opened. It was a glorious time of divine manifestation. God's hand was visible among his people.

As well as gifts there were ministries. Paul, writing to the Ephesians, speaks of apostles, prophets, pastors, teachers, and evangelists.

### **Transformation from nation of Israel to nation of believers**

David is remembered but not worshipped – for the true King has come  
The two loaves seem to represent the Jews and non-Jews celebrating before God  
Most importantly the law is seen as leading us to Christ not to salvation

*The law of Moses was unable to save us because of the weakness of our sinful nature. So, God did what the law could not do. He sent his own Son in a body like the bodies we sinners have. And in that body God declared an end to sin's control over us by giving his Son as a sacrifice for our sins. Romans 8:3*

*Is there a conflict, then, between God's law and God's promises? Absolutely not! If the law could give us new life, we could be made right with God by obeying it. <sup>22</sup> But the Scriptures declare that we are all prisoners of sin, so we receive God's promise of freedom only by believing in Jesus Christ. Galatian 3:21-22*

*Brothers, listen! We are here to proclaim that through this man Jesus there is forgiveness for your sins. <sup>39</sup> Everyone who believes in him is made right in God's sight—something the law of Moses could never do. Acts 13:38-39*

### **How shall we celebrate?**

**Follow God's intent** – The day was to be marked with rejoicing and the giving of thanks  
Offerings that were precious to God were to be given  
The whole family – men and women, adults and children were to be involved  
Generosity was to be shown toward the poor, widows, and orphans

### **Personally, we are to yield ourselves to the Holy Spirit**

Come before God confessing all known sin  
Offer yourselves as a living sacrifice to be purified and used  
Accept the Holy Spirit's authority and power  
Seek ways to serve in the power of the Spirit  
    Telling all His wonderful works – forgiveness and salvation  
    Using your spiritual gifts for the good of the whole church  
    Placing all you are and all you have at His disposal

### **Two Great reasons to celebrate Pentecost**

**1. God has provided the Holy Spirit and expects all believers to receive**  
*Ephesians 5:18 Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery. Instead, be filled with the Spirit,*

**2. God delights to give the Holy Spirit to all who ask**  
*Luke 11:13 If you then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!"*