

PENTECOST

Origin of Pentecost

In the olden time Pentecost was the celebration of the beginning of the harvest. We come across two harvests each year. The early harvest came during the months of May and June; the final harvest came in the Fall. Pentecost was the celebration of the beginning of the early wheat harvest.

Happy Birthday, Church

The Feast of Pentecost is the birthday of the Church. God wants all to be saved and come to the knowledge of the truth. The Good News Jesus came to reveal was meant not only for the people of his day, but for people of all time. So while Jesus was personally proclaiming the Good News to his contemporaries, he was preparing a means by which his mission would be continued after he had returned to his heavenly Father.

The apostles were celebrating this festival when the Holy Spirit descended on them. It sounded like a very strong wind, and it looked like tongues of fire. The apostles then found themselves speaking in foreign languages, inspired by the Holy Spirit.

It was right after Pentecost that Peter, inspired by the Holy Spirit, preached his first homily to Jews and other non-believers, in which he opened the scriptures of the Old Testament, showing how the prophet Joel prophesied events and the coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost.

He also told the people that the Jesus they crucified is the Lord and was raised from the dead, which "cut them to the heart." When they asked what they should do, Peter exhorted them to repent of their sins and to be baptised.

“The Spirit too comes to help us in our weakness. For when we cannot choose words in order to pray properly, the Spirit himself expresses our plea in a way that could never be put into words, and God who knows everything in our hearts knows perfectly well what he means...” (Rom 8:26-27)

The purpose of Pentecost is to remind every Christian that even though Christ died for our sins and that by baptism we accept the forgiveness of our sins, there is something else each one of us needs to do. We need to receive the Holy Spirit so we can do the work of discipleship that awaits each one of us.

The Holy Spirit and Jesus Christ

The Holy Spirit was intimately connected with Jesus throughout his entire life. Before Jesus' virginal conception, an angel told Mary, "the Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you" ([Luke 1:35](#); cf. [Matt. 1:18, 20](#)). When Jesus was baptized by [John the](#)

[Baptist in the Jordan River, the Father anointed him with the Spirit \(Matt. 3:16; Mark 1:10; Luke 3:22\)](#). Then Jesus was immediately driven into the wilderness by the Spirit for a season of testing ([Matt. 4:1; Mark 1:12; Luke 4:1](#)). Luke says that Jesus was “full of the Spirit” when this happened; he afterward returned to Galilee in “the power of the Spirit” ([Luke 4:14](#)).

The Holy Spirit was prophesied in the Old Testament and promised by Jesus. Jesus promised the Holy Spirit in [John 14:26](#), who would be the Helper for his people. “*But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all that I said to you.*”

This New Testament event is also significant because it fulfils an Old Testament prophecy in [Joel 2:28-29](#):

“And afterward, I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your old men will dream dreams, your young men will see visions. Even on my servants, both men and women, I will pour out my Spirit in those days.”

The significance of Pentecost: In our modern-day of the New Testament church, we don't celebrate Pentecost in the way that the Old Testament Hebrews did. The Pentecost in our present time is part of the history of the ascension of Jesus Christ. Through Gospel narratives we come to know that JESUS had promised, during his earthly ministry, that he would leave, but that he would send the comforter that is the Holy Spirit. And because of the presence of the Holy Spirit the Apostle Peter was chosen to be the one who could stand up in front of thousands of people, to proclaim the gospel there in the midst of thousands of people.

Pentecost and our Living: We are all interested to live a life as God wants us to live. It is possible only if the Holy Spirit comes to us and helps us to made us understand what the Lord Jesus would be telling us. Pentecost, therefore, is a very important feast and reality for all of us because we are in need of the Holy Spirit who will make us understand and live our lives as we are expected by the Lord. Let us celebrate this feast very sincerely and honestly so that we will be filled with the Holy Spirit who will lead and help us in every way. God bless us all.

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