



A just weight
and balance

are the
LORD'S:

Thus saith the Lord...

- As we begin our journey into the book of Acts it is important that we begin with a study of the Holy Spirit on the Day of Pentecost.

- It is in the

Passover Feast

that we learn that everything
depends on the blood of the lamb:

- **For the life of the flesh is in the blood; and I have given it to you upon the altar to make atonement for your souls: for it is the blood that maketh atonement by reason of the life.**

(Leviticus 1:11)

- There could be **no other feasts** if there were no Passover.
- People today who want to do away with the blood are **undermining** **the very foundation** of God's plan for forgiveness of sin!

- When the Holy Spirit came upon the apostles on the Day of Pentecost, those who heard them speaking in tongues were perplexed and asked,

“What does this mean?”

(Acts 2:12).

- The question **persists** in our day.

- Many claim that the meaning of Pentecost is that we should have the same experience and that we are to seek the baptism of the Holy Spirit and to speak in tongues.

- What is the meaning of Pentecost?
 - Acts 2 must be interpreted in light of Acts 1:4-8,
- Where the risen Lord Jesus instructed the apostles to wait in Jerusalem for the baptism of the the Holy Spirit.

- Jesus explained that they {apostles} would “**be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now**” (**Acts 1:1:5**)

- **And they would receive power to be Christ’s witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth”** (**Acts 1:8**).

- Their ministry would depended on the Holy Spirit providing them with **courage** and **inspiration**.
(**John 14:26**)
- While they had experienced **a measure of the Spirit's power before**
(**John 20:22**),
 - Now He would come **to dwell in them permanently**
(**John 14:17**).

- Thus **Acts 2** signifies a new period in which God deals **with all people.**
- The result being that the church would then witness to all the nations so that **He will be glorified among the nations.**
 - **2 Thessalonians 1:10**
when he comes to be **glorified** among his saints and admired on that day among all who have believed...

- The point of Pentecost is mission,
- and the goal of mission is that
- **“the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord, as the waters cover the sea”
(Habakkuk 2:14).**

- To understand this event,
we must understand
the Jewish Feast of Pentecost.

- **It was**
not by coincidence
that God poured out His Spirit
on the apostles that day.

- There were
three great Jewish feasts
each year:

•
1 Passover
Feast of Unleavened Bread.

2 Pentecost
Also called the Feast of Weeks,
(or a week of weeks)
which occurred
50 days after Passover.

3 Feast of Tabernacles.

- Pentecost was an initial harvest feast,
- Where the Jews offered to the Lord the first fruits of the new grain.
 - **The Feast of Pentecost** lasted but one day.
 - Among other rituals, they were to wave before the Lord two loaves of wheat bread, made with leaven (Leviticus 23:15-21).

- **This picture came to fulfillment**
in the outpouring of
the Holy Spirit
on the Day of Pentecost.
 - **Until this time,**
the Lord's people
consisted of Israel,
along with a few Gentile proselytes.
 - And it was through
Israel exclusively
that God worked
to form a people for Himself.
- **The New Testament Church.**

- Now the Lord's church was to be made up of Jews and Gentiles on equal footing.
 - Paul calls this inclusion of the Gentiles in the church a mystery,
 - Meaning that it had not been formerly revealed in its entirety.
(**Ephesians 3:4-7**),

- Although it was typified in this Jewish feast with two loaves.

- Leviticus 23:17

You must bring two loaves of bread for a wave offering;...
baked with yeast,
as first fruits to the LORD.

- This anticipated the N.T. Pentecost when, under the administration of the Holy Spirit, both Jews and Gentiles were baptized into union with the glorified Christ.

- The Lord had told Peter that He would build His church and the gates of hell would not prevail against it (**Matthew 16:18**).

- Thus the church is God's means of taking the gospel to all the nations, resulting in His being glorified in all the earth.

- **A Failure To Glorify the Lord:**

- **Nadab and Abihu**

- **Aaron's sons Nadab and Abihu each took his own firepan, put fire in it, placed incense on it, and presented unauthorized fire before the Lord, which He had not commanded them to do.**

- **Then fire came from the Lord and burned them to death before the Lord. So Moses said to Aaron,**

- **“This is what the Lord meant when He said:**

- **I will show My holiness**

- **to those who are near Me,**

- **and I will be glorified**

- **before all the people.”**

- **2 Thessalonians 1:8**

In flaming fire taking **vengeance** on them that **know not God**, and that **obey not the gospel** of our Lord Jesus Christ:

- **1:9** Who shall be **punished** with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power;
- **1:10** When he shall come to be glorified in his saints, and **to be admired** in all **them that believe** (because our testimony among you was believed) **in that day.**

- As you study **Acts 2**, you may wonder why **Luke goes through this long, somewhat tedious list of nations (Acts 2:9-11).**
- While most of the men mentioned were **Jews** (a few were Gentile proselytes), **they are representative of the nations that the Lord wants to reach.**

- The key to the list is in verse 5,
that it represents
“men from every nation under heaven.”

- They were “devout men”,
meaning God-fearing,
as is obvious from the fact
that they had made this
pilgrimage to Jerusalem
for this feast.

- But they did not yet
know that their Messiah
had come and had been sacrificed.

- Peter will shortly explain
all of that in his sermon.

- This list of the nations reminds us of the list of nations in **Genesis 10**, which led to the building of **the tower of Babel**.
- God judged those proud men by **confusing their languages**.
 - Here, by His grace, **God turned this confusion of tongues into a miracle of miraculous speech, resulting in great blessing.**

- The gift of speaking in tongues was a special miracle to demonstrate God's purpose in taking the gospel to all the nations.
 - It enabled the church to be established in all of these places when these men returned to their homes.
- But since then, missionaries must struggle to learn the foreign languages in the places they go.

- But the point is,
God's plan is
no longer to be bottled up
with the Jews.
- His good news is
for all the nations.
- As John proclaims in
Revelation 5:9,
Jesus purchased for God
with His blood
- “**men from every tribe and tongue and
people and nation.**”

- **The necessary power** for fulfilling God's plan is His Holy Spirit
- This power from on high **was the means whereby** God fulfilled his plan on earth.

- The Holy Spirit is not just a force.
 - He is the third person of the Trinity,
- He is God in every way.

- We know that He is a personal being in that He can be grieved (**Ephesians 4:30**);
 - You cannot grieve an impersonal force.
 - Jesus calls Him the “Comforter”
 - one called to encourage & exhort.

- We know that He is God in that He performs deeds, such as creation, which only God can do.
- In Acts 5:3, Peter accuses Ananias of lying to the Holy Spirit and then adds,
- “**You have not lied to men but to God” (Acts 5:5).**
- It is the whole Godhead that is involved in our salvation.

- Before the Day of Pentecost, the Holy Spirit was at work.

- 2 Peter 1:21

For no prophecy ever came by the will of man: but men spake from God, being moved by the Holy Spirit.

- In the Upper Room, Jesus had told the apostles that He would send the Holy Spirit to be with them forever.
- **And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever;**
(**John 14:16-17**).
- Thus on the Day of Pentecost, the apostles were baptized with the Holy Spirit (**Acts 1:5**)

- We are, however, commanded **“to be filled with the Spirit”**,
(**Ephesians 5:18**).
- We must empty ourselves **by confessing all known sin**
and by dying self.
- We must yield ourselves fully by **“walking in the Spirit,”**
(**Galatians 5:16**)

- 1 John 1:7

But if we live in the light---just as he is in the light---then we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies {G_2511} us from every sin.

- **“Purifies”** is in the Presence tense thus the blood of Jesus **“keeps on cleaning.”**
- **There is a fountain filled with blood, drawn from Immanuel's veins;**
- **And sinners plunged beneath that flood, lose all their guilty stains.”**

- Being filled with the Spirit is also called **“letting the word of Christ richly dwell in you”** (Colossians 3:16).
- The results being **the fruit of the Spirit** (Galatians 5:22-23)

- This initial outpouring of the Spirit at Pentecost was marked by three symbolic phenomena.
- # 1 There was the sound of a violent rushing wind that filled the house.
- # 2 Then, there was the visible sign of tongues of fire resting on each apostle.
- # 3 Finally, there was the miraculous speaking in foreign languages which none had previously learned.

- The sound of the violent rushing wind was primarily a picture of **an invisible power.**
- As you know, the wind, which you cannot see, **exerts incredible power** in a tornado or hurricane.
- In this case, the disciples **heard the noise,**
- But there is **no** indication that they felt it blowing.

- It was rather a miraculous sound that came from heaven.
- The noise was loud enough that it gathered the crowd to find out what was happening (**Acts 1:6**).

- Both the Hebrew and Greek words for wind and spirit are the same.
- The Holy Spirit, like the wind, is a mighty power, but we cannot see Him.
 - We can only see His effects.

- One of His most powerful effects is when He imparts spiritual life to those who were dead in their sins.
 - **For I am not ashamed of the gospel: for it is the power of God unto salvation... (Romans 1:16)**
 - Where is the “power”?
 - In the “gospel”!

- The second phenomenon was the appearance of *tongues of fire* resting on the apostles.
- Throughout the Bible, fire symbolizes God's holy presence.

- Moses in the wilderness saw the bush that was burning and yet not consumed.
 - God Himself was in the bush.
- Later, Israel in the wilderness was guided and protected by the pillar of fire.

- John the Baptizer predicted that Jesus would baptize with the Holy Spirit and with fire.
- Jesus said that He had come to cast fire upon the earth (**Luke 12:49**).
- Our Lord intended by the word fire the influence of the Holy Spirit in the destruction of sin.

- Fire brings both heat and light.
- The heat of fire consumes the dross, purifying those who come in contact with it.
- The heat of fire also pictures the zeal that should mark believers, who are to be hot, not lukewarm, in their devotion to Christ (**Revelation 3:15-16**).

- The light pictures the illumination that God brings to those in spiritual darkness.
 - Matthew 4:16
- The people that sat in darkness
 - Saw a great light,
 - And to them that sat in the region and shadow of death,
 - To them did light spring up.
 - That is the work of the Holy Spirit.

- That gospel must be verbally proclaimed for the Holy Spirit to do His work.
- **How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher?**
(Romans 10:14)

- These Jews from all of these nations heard the apostles **“speaking of the mighty deeds of God”** (Acts 2:11).

- Peter will shortly **preach the gospel**, leading to the conversion of over 3,000 souls.

- **The ultimate goal** of the gospel is the glory of God.
- In **Revelation 5:13**, John has a **vision of the nations** worshiping before God's throne.
 - That should be **our vision as well**.

- Note that **not all responded positively,** even though this was a **“Class A” miracle.**

- Even miracles **will not convince mockers,** who do not want to submit their lives to the Sovereign God.

- The Book of Acts is a record not only of might conversions,
- But also of fierce opposition to the preaching of the gospel.
- We should expect the same response.

- But we know that our God will triumph, that every knee will someday bow to Jesus Christ as Lord, to the glory of God the Father (**Philippians 2:9-11**).

- God's purpose at Pentecost

was to equip His church with the mighty power of the Holy Spirit.

- The Spirit bringing both light and heat

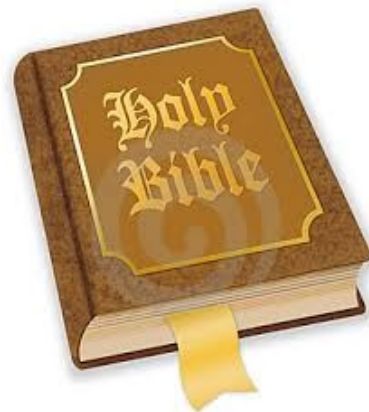
- Thus energizing the church to fulfill it's mission

- Which will result in His eternal glory.

**The doors of the church
are open.**

**The Spirit and the Bride
Say
“Come”.**

Revelation 22:17



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