

BIBLE STUDY – ACTS Chapter 2

Pentecost was a Jewish festival day celebrating the gifts of God. The word *pentecost* literally means “fiftieth,” and the festival fell annually on the fiftieth day after Passover. Pentecost is also referred to in the Old Testament as the Feast of Weeks and the Feast of Ingathering (Ex 34:22; Num 28:26–31). At this time of the year, between Passover and Pentecost, the wheat harvest was coming in. Thus the Feast of Ingathering (Pentecost) was like a Thanksgiving Day in the United States and likewise lasted one day. All males of Israel were required to travel to the temple in Jerusalem for worship.

Read 2:1-13

1. Where were the disciples and what were they still doing?
2. What were some outward signs of the Holy Spirit’s presence?
3. How did the wind bring the people to where the disciples were?
4. How does “tongues of fire” fulfill what John the Baptist said in Matthew 3:11?
5. Why were the disciples (the eleven) able to speak in different languages?
6. These were basically Jews from many different lands. Why were so spread out?
7. How has the Holy Spirit come to you?

Read 2:14-41

8. What was Peter like before Pentecost? Read Matthew 16:21-23; 26:69-75; John 18:10-11.
9. What are some words you could use to describe Peter in today’s reading?
10. How might you explain verse 15?
11. What are some things that the words of Joel, verses 17-21 tell us?
12. By quoting Scripture different than how Peter had acted before (see again the texts in question 8)?
13. What does the word “accredited” in verse 22 mean?
14. Why was quoting David and the OT wise in preaching to these Jews?

15. The Law is used to show us our sins and bring us to repentance. The Gospel tells us what God has done for us and brings us comfort. Look at verses 23-40. How do these words show the use of Law and Gospel?

16. What is the result of Peter's preaching of the Word (v. 41)?

Read 2:42-47

17. After the spectacular events of Pentecost it could have been really tempting for the disciples to ease up a bit. The word "devoted" indicates otherwise. The Greek from the lexicon has the following phrases: to persist in adherence to a thing; to be intently engaged in; attend constantly. What does this say for the disciples? What can we learn from this?

18. What was "apostles' teaching"? What might be meant by it today?

19. What might have been meant by "fellowship"? What does that look like today?

20. Read 1 Corinthians 10:16; 11:24 and Acts 20:7. What do these verses suggest about what "breaking of bread" meant?

21. What does "prayer" suggest for us today?

22. "Wonders and miraculous signs" (v. 43) occurred in the earliest days of the church but have not been as apparent since then. What do you think accounts for this?

23. How is what we find in verses 44-45 different than modern communism?

24. What activities did these Christians also continue doing? What might an application for our church life today?

25. What do verse 47 and Isaiah 55:10-11 teach us? How is that comforting?