

## The Holy Spirit Comes at Pentecost

Pentecost as described in Acts chapter 2 takes place every year. It was no different in the time of the Apostles just after Christ ascended to heaven. It was celebrated 50 days after the last Sabbath of the month of Passover week. Remember that the Passover was celebrated because that is the time in the history of the Hebrew people when they were in captivity in Egypt. The Lord sent the angel of death to **pass over** the land and kill the first born of all who lived there. The angel of death would spare those who painted lamb's blood on the doorposts of their homes. The Egyptian children died and the Hebrew children lived. This was done so that the hard-hearted Pharaoh would finally be convinced that God was all powerful and that he, Pharaoh, should let the Hebrews return to their homeland.

During this time, the Apostles were gathered in one place in Jerusalem and all of a sudden, the sound that was like a violent wind came from heaven and filled the room that they were in. The apostles saw what looked like tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of their heads. The Apostles were immediately filled with the Holy Spirit and were now able to communicate in the languages of all the people gathered in Jerusalem for Pentecost. The Jews had come from all over the world and spoke many different languages. Now, the Apostles could speak each person's language and they were able to share the gospel with them.

Peter stood and told the entire crowd the truth about Jesus Christ. These Jews were amazed. The Holy Spirit had a purpose on earth. He fulfilled this portion of it by providing the Apostles with the Spirit from God to be able to communicate the truth about Jesus who was and is the Christ.

**Scripture:** Acts 2: 1 – 13

**2** When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. **2** Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. **3** They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. **4** All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues<sup>a</sup> as the Spirit enabled them.

**5** Now there were staying in Jerusalem God-fearing Jews from every nation under heaven. **6** When they heard this sound, a crowd came together in bewilderment, because each one heard their own language being spoken. **7** Utterly amazed, they asked: "Aren't all these who are speaking Galileans?" **8** Then how is it that each of us hears them in our native language? **9** Parthians, Medes and Elamites; residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia,<sup>b</sup> **10** Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya near Cyrene; visitors from Rome **11** (both Jews and converts to Judaism); Cretans and Arabs—we hear them declaring the wonders of God in our own tongues!" **12** Amazed and perplexed, they asked one another, "What does this mean?"

**13** Some, however, made fun of them and said, "They have had too much wine."

**Questions:**

1. Was Pentecost an Egyptian holiday?
2. What was the Passover that took place in Egypt?
3. Was Peter a quiet man who never spoke about Jesus?
4. Was the Holy Spirit a real live person?
5. What power did the Apostles have once the Holy Spirit gave upon them?
6. To whom did the Apostles speak once they had the power of the Holy Spirit?

**Next Steps:** Make a drawing of the 12 Apostles and the tongues of fire.