

Pentecost

June 4th '17

Questions for further study

Check out background details...

Why were the disciples waiting in Jerusalem? (Acts 1:5)

How long after Jesus' resurrection & ascension was this? (Acts 1:3)

Who is likely to have been there? (Acts 1:12-15)

What else had been happening in the time since Jesus' return to heaven? (Luke 24:52,53)

Read the account of the gift of the Holy Spirit being given to the church:

Acts 2:1-13.

1. Why wind, fire and the gift of un-learnt languages?

The description of fire and wind mentioned in the Pentecost account resounds throughout the Old and the New Testament. The sound of the wind at Pentecost was "rushing" and "mighty." Scriptural references to the power of wind (always understood to be under God's control) abound. [Exodus 10:13](#) and [Isaiah 11:15](#) in the Old Testament and [Matthew 14:23-32](#) in the New Testament are only a few examples. More significant than wind as power is wind as life in the Old Testament ([Job 12:10](#)) and as spirit in the New ([John 3:8](#)). Just as the first Adam received the breath of physical life ([Genesis 2:7](#)), so the second Adam, Jesus, brings the breath of spiritual life. The idea of spiritual life as generated by the Holy Spirit is certainly implicit in the sound of the wind at Pentecost.

Fire is often associated in the Old Testament with the presence of God ([Exodus 3:2](#); [13:21-22](#); [24:17](#)) and with His holiness ([Malachi 3:2](#)). Likewise, in the New Testament, fire is associated with the presence of God ([Hebrews 12:28 & 29](#)) and the purification He can bring about in human life ([Revelation 3:18](#)). God's presence and holiness are implied in the tongues of fire. Indeed, fire is identified with Christ Himself ([Revelation 1:14](#); [19:12](#)); this association naturally underlies the Pentecost gift of the Holy Spirit, who would teach the disciples the things of Christ ([John 16:14](#)).

Another aspect of the Day of Pentecost is the miraculous speaking in foreign tongues which enabled people from various language groups to understand the message of the apostles. This underlines Jesus' commission to "Go into all the world" ([Matthew 28:19,20](#)). The effect of Peter's sermon was powerful, as listeners were "cut to the heart" ([Acts 2:37](#)) and instructed by Peter to "repent, and be baptized" ([Acts 2:38](#)). The narrative concludes with three thousand souls being added to the fellowship.

What examples can you see in our lives today of the Holy Spirit's continued action symbolized by these 3 things – wind, fire & super-natural abilities?

2. Read about this group of new Spirit-empowered believers – Acts 2:41-47.

What evidence can you see in their lives of the Spirit's power & leading?

What can we learn from their example?

PRAY

- For the church in our nation & around the world.
- For our church – particularly that the Fun Day on June 17th would be a blessing to our community.