

Remnant Life Church

June 9, 2019

## The Story of Love: The Gift of the Holy Spirit

### Pt 1

Acts 2:1-12; 22-32

*Pentecost Sunday*

Today is Pentecost Sunday

- It was the coming of the Holy Spirit as the helper or advocate that Jesus promised ([John 14:26](#))
- The beginning of the church

**READ:** [Acts 2:1-12](#)

The word 'Pentecost' may be familiar to some in the church and unfamiliar to others

- If it is a word you have heard, you might not know its meaning
- It marks the occurrence of two very important events

Christmas is a time that everyone loves to celebrate

- Even those who nothing of God, Jesus, or the church celebrate Christmas
- Easter, although to somewhat a lesser degree, is also universally recognized as having significance – whether to the church or the world

Pentecost, on the other hand, is fairly unknown

- Certainly, outside of the church
- But even within the church, it is not given the same amount of attention as Christmas or Easter

Pentecost did not find its origin in the 2<sup>nd</sup> chapter of Acts

- Many believe it was the name given to that time when the Holy Spirit was given to believers following the ascension of Jesus
- Pentecost, however, is the third of the six great feasts of Israel given in [Lev 23](#)
  1. Passover
  2. First fruits
  3. Seven Weeks (Pentecost)
  4. Trumpets
  5. Atonement
  6. Tabernacles

We are taking this NT account from the book of Acts – context

- Acts is written by Luke (physician; formal education; gifted writer)
- He also wrote the Gospel that bears his name although he was not one of the 12 disciples of Jesus
- He is writing the books of Acts to a man by the name of Theophilus
  - We know little about this man although Luke called him “most excellent” which were reserved for men in high ranking positions meaning he very possibly could have been a Roman official who converted to Christianity

- Tradition has both these men coming from Antioch in Syria – possible past friendship
- He most likely changed his name after becoming a follower of Jesus since his name means “lover of God” (theos – God; phileo – love)

The word “Pentecost” comes from the Greek word which means “50,” and it is that number that makes the time of its celebration so important

The OT Pentecost should be compared and contrasted to the NT Pentecost:

- In the Old Testament, the third feast was called the feast of Seven Weeks (49 days)
- The first celebration occurred 50 days after the nation of Israel left Egypt led by Moses
  - The first Passover lamb was slain on the night of the 10<sup>th</sup> plague when the death angel was sent by God to kill the first-born of all of Egypt (Ex 12:12)
  - Biblical historians, using both biblical and extrabiblical data, have come to believe that date would have been April 14, 1491 BC (Ex 12:1-2)
  - On the very next day, the people would leave Egypt
  - 50 days later they arrived at the foot of Mt. Sinai putting them at the base of the mountain in the first week of June (Ex 19:1)
  - There they celebrated the giving of the law of God and marked the day as a day to remember by a feast
- In light of that event, the day of Pentecost in the 2<sup>nd</sup> chapter of Acts is celebrated on that same day as the feast in the OT
  - The NT Pentecost occurred 50 days after the resurrection of Jesus Christ
  - Jesus was crucified during the time of Passover in the first week of April (John 19:14)
  - He then spent the next 40 days appearing to His disciples and other followers (Acts 1:3)
  - He ascended into heaven (Acts 1:9) and then 10 days later, on the day of Pentecost, the Holy Spirit came (Acts 1:5, 2:1)
- Under the old covenant, the day signified the coming of the Law; under the new covenant it signified the coming of the Holy Spirit

Look at how God so perfectly aligned the function and purpose of both times of Pentecost

- The OT Pentecost celebrated the birth of a nation, Israel (Ex 19:5)
- The NT Pentecost celebrated the birth of the church (Acts 2:41-47)
- In the OT it witnessed the death of 3000 (punishment for the golden calf – Ex 32:28)
- In the NT we witness the salvation of 3000 souls at the conclusion of Peter’s sermon – the first one given under the anointing of the Holy Spirit (Acts 2:41)

There are other comparisons to be found in the Bible that involve Pentecost:

- In Bethlehem, God prepared a body for His Son to work through and Jesus Christ was born a child who grew in the ways and the same manner as a man
- At Pentecost, after the death and resurrection of Jesus, God prepared a body for His Spirit to work in and through. The body of believers, the church.
- At the tower of Babel in Gen. 11, sinful man worked for their own glory and God confused their languages so they would scatter

- At the NT Pentecost, God gave Peter and the other believers the ability to speak so that every language there was understood, and God united the people through a common, supernatural language

God was bringing a renewed unity among the people for the church to begin, and it was not only for the Jews – how do we know this?

- We see God's intent for salvation and the church to be for all people through three recorded conversions in the book of Acts
1. The Ethiopian Eunuch ([Acts 8:36-38](#)) – an important official who Philip baptized - he was a descendent of Ham
  2. Saul who would be renamed Paul ([Acts 9:1-6](#)) – he was a descendent of Shem
  3. Cornelius the Roman centurion ([Acts 10:44-48](#)) – he was a descendent of Japheth

Ham, Shem, and Japheth were the sons of Noah and it was from these three that the world was repopulated after the flood

- These three converts in Acts are a demonstration of the love of God given for the entire world ([John 3:16](#))

God's love was shown clearly through the fulfilling of the promise through His Son, Jesus Christ and the continuation of His ministry

- **READ** – [Acts 1:3-8](#)
- Jesus commands them to spread the message, the message of God's love and that command is for us as well
  - First to Jerusalem – their home area – we are to show God's love to the people in our lives every day
  - To Judea and Samaria – these were provinces around and including Jerusalem
    - Samaritans were a mixed race between the Assyrians and the Jews and were looked down on as being impure and beneath Jews of pure blood (the Samaritan woman at the well ([John 4](#)))
    - Jesus said to share the message with them too
  - Then to the ends of the earth – meaning everywhere you go
    - The dispersion of the disciples took them to Italy, India, Lebanon, Spain, and Greece
    - [John 3:16](#)