

Pentecost: *Shavuot*



Scriptures

- **Acts 2:1-6**

When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. And suddenly there came from heaven a noise like a violent rushing wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. And there appeared to them tongues as of fire distributing themselves, and they rested on each one of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit was giving them utterance. Now there were Jews living in Jerusalem, devout men from every nation under heaven. And when this sound occurred, the crowd came together, and was bewildered because each one of them was hearing them speak in his own language.

- **Lev.23:15**

You shall also count for yourselves from the day after the Sabbath, from the day when you brought in the sheaf of the wave offering; there shall be seven complete Sabbaths. You shall count fifty days to the day after the seventh Sabbath; then you shall present a new grain offering to the LORD.

- **John 4:20-24**

“Our fathers worshiped in this mountain, and you people say that in Jerusalem is the place where men ought to worship.” Jesus said to her, “Woman, believe Me, an hour is coming when neither in this mountain nor in Jerusalem will you worship the Father. You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews. But an hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for such people the Father seeks to be His worshipers. God is spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.”

- **Acts 5:32**

And we are witnesses of these things; and so is the Holy Spirit, whom God has given to those who obey Him.

Other Scriptures

- Leviticus 23:15-16
- I Cor. 10:11
- Matt. 13:52
- Acts 2:15-21
- Matt. 5: 17-19
- John 5:46
- John 10:10
- Exodus 19-20
- John 4:22
- John 14:17
- I John 4:4
- Acts 1:8

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Main Points

- Shavuot in Hebrew is the same as Pentecost in Greek and means fifty in English.
- All of God's Holy Days in the Old Testament are shadows of what Jesus has done.
- Torah-first five books of the Bible.
- B'rit Chadashah in Hebrew is the New Testament in English.
- Pentecost was celebrated before the Spirit came.
- When the Spirit came, He brought Shavuot to its fulfillment.
- Shavuot was a time of thanksgiving for God's abundant provision.
- The Rabbis believe that it was on this day that God gave the law at Mt. Sinai.
- On the day of Pentecost, the thoughts of those gathered in Acts 2 would have been about the giving of the Law. The same God who fell at Sinai, fell on them in the upper room, but on the inside of them.
- Pentecost was a fulfillment of what Jewish people had been celebrating for 1500 years.
- Jesus is the fulfillment of Judaism.
- It is important to understand your faith from its Judeo roots.
- Pentecost symbolizes God's Spirit moving from the outside to the inside.
- Pentecost is the birthday of the living church.
- Through the Spirit we now have access to God.
- When He gave us His Spirit, He gave us Himself, in abundance.
- We cannot live in the reality of abundance unless we obey the Spirit.
- The Spirit was given for power to obey Him and be His witnesses.
- Our mission as the church is to be His witnesses.
- Make Jesus relevant to the people around you.

Discussion Questions

1. The Rabbi said that the connection between the Old Testament shadows and the New Testament fulfillments are treasures to be unwrapped. What jewels of connection are there between the O.T. Pentecost celebration and the New Testament coming of the Holy Spirit? Did the apostle Peter recognize the connection between the old and new testaments?

2. What is the major difference in the coming of the Holy Spirit in Acts 2 from God's giving the law in Exodus? What are some ways that God living inside of us is superior to the outside words of God in the law?

3. The giving of the Holy Spirit as an indwelling Person brings the abundance of God inside of us. What does this mean to you? He is given for a reason. What is that reason? Are you His witness today? What are some practical ways you can be His witness today?