



## Background and Context of the Day of Pentecost Revival in the First Century

### Description

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The Day of Pentecost, a significant event in the Christian faith, marks the descent of the Holy Spirit upon the apostles and other followers of Jesus Christ. This momentous occasion, described in the Book of Acts, Chapter 2, is considered the birth of the Church and a pivotal point in the spread of Christianity.

### The Setting: Jerusalem

Jerusalem, a bustling city at the time, was filled with pilgrims from various regions who had come to celebrate the Jewish Feast of Weeks, also known as Shavuot. This feast, occurring fifty days after Passover, commemorated the giving of the Torah at Mount Sinai. The convergence of diverse Jewish communities created a vibrant and dynamic atmosphere in the city.

### The Event: The Outpouring of the Holy Spirit

On the Day of Pentecost, the apostles and other believers were gathered in one place. Suddenly, a sound like a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. All of them were filled with the

Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them (Acts 2:2-4).

## **The Reaction: A Multilingual Miracle**

The crowd that gathered was bewildered because each one heard their own language being spoken. They were utterly amazed and asked, "Aren't all these who are speaking Galileans? Then how is it that each of us hears them in our native language?" (Acts 2:7-8). This miraculous event signaled the universality of the Gospel message and the beginning of the Church's mission to all nations.

## **The Message: Peter's Sermon**

Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, stood up and addressed the crowd. He explained that what they were witnessing was the fulfillment of the prophecy from the book of Joel: "In the last days, God says, I will pour out my Spirit on all people" (Acts 2:17). Peter's powerful sermon convicted many, and about three thousand people accepted his message and were baptized that day.

## **The Impact: Birth of the Early Church**

The revival at Pentecost marked the beginning of a new community of believers. They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching, fellowship, breaking of bread, and prayer (Acts 2:42). This nascent church experienced remarkable growth and unity, sharing everything they had and praising God together.

## **Significance for The Day**

The Day of Pentecost serves as a reminder of the transformative power of the Holy Spirit. It underscores the importance of unity, evangelism, and the global mission of the Church. As Christians reflect on this event, they are encouraged to seek the Spirit's guidance in their lives and communities.

**Salvation Prayers** : Dear Lord Jesus, I come to you today acknowledging my need for salvation. I confess that I have sinned and fallen short of your glory. But I believe that you died for my sins and rose again. I ask that you come into my heart and be my Lord. I commit to following you and living for you every day. Thank you for your love and for the gift of eternal life. In your name I pray, Amen.

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## Multiple Choice Questions

1. What Jewish feast coincided with the Day of Pentecost?
  - a) Passover
  - b) Feast of Weeks (Shavuot)
  - c) Hanukkah
  - d) Feast of Tabernacles
2. What phenomenon accompanied the arrival of the Holy Spirit on the Day of Pentecost?
  - a) Earthquake
  - b) Tornado
  - c) Sound of a violent wind
  - d) Thunderstorm
3. How many people were baptized after Peter's sermon on the Day of Pentecost?
  - a) 500
  - b) 1,000
  - c) 3,000
  - d) 5,000
4. What prophecy did Peter cite in his sermon on the Day of Pentecost?
  - a) Isaiah's prophecy
  - b) Joel's prophecy
  - c) Jeremiah's prophecy
  - d) Ezekiel's prophecy
5. What activities did the early church devote themselves to after the Day of Pentecost?
  - a) Worship and fasting
  - b) Apostles' teaching, fellowship, breaking of bread, and prayer

- c) Charity and almsgiving
- d) Evangelism and healing

## Discussion Questions

1. How does the event of Pentecost influence your understanding of the Holy Spirit's role in the Church today?
2. In what ways can modern Christians embody the unity and community spirit of the early Church described in Acts 2?
3. How can the experience of the first Pentecost inspire contemporary evangelism efforts?
4. What does the multilingual nature of the Pentecost miracle teach us about the inclusivity of the Gospel?
5. How can we seek and experience the transformative power of the Holy Spirit in our daily lives?

## FAQs

Q: Why is Pentecost considered the birth of the Church?

A: Pentecost is considered the birth of the Church because it marks the first time the Holy Spirit was poured out on believers, empowering them to spread the Gospel and form a new community of faith.

Q: What was the significance of the apostles speaking in different languages?

A: The apostles speaking in different languages symbolized the universality of the Gospel and God's intention to reach all people, regardless of their native tongue.

Q: How did the early church members support each other?

A: The early church members supported each other by sharing their possessions, devoting themselves to teaching, fellowship, breaking bread together, and praying as a community.

Q: Why was Peter's sermon so impactful?

A: Peter's sermon was impactful because it was delivered with the power of the Holy Spirit, explained the fulfillment of prophecy, and addressed the spiritual needs of the listeners, leading to the conversion of about three thousand people.

Q: What lessons can we learn from the Day of Pentecost for our faith journey

today?

A: The Day of Pentecost teaches us about the importance of the Holy Spirit, the power of unity and community, the need for bold evangelism, and the inclusivity of God's message for all people.

## Multiple Choice Answers

1. b) Feast of Weeks (Shavuot)
2. c) Sound of a violent wind
3. c) 3,000
4. b) Joel's prophecy
5. b) Apostles' teaching, fellowship, breaking of bread, and prayer

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