

## **PENTECOST THE BIRTHDAY OF THE CHURCH**

### **References:**

Acts 2

### **Notes For Servants:**

- 1.
- 2.

### **Objectives:**

**General:**

**Specific:**

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

### **Instructions:**

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### **Bible Verse:**

“But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.”

(Acts 1:8)

### **Lesson:**

#### **Pentecost The Birthday Of The Church**

The disciples lived with Jesus with hearts full of hopes that, one day, Jesus would reign on earth and establish an earthly kingdom for the Jewish Nation. Whenever they saw multitudes gathered round Him, they would think that their dreams were coming true soon. Palm Sunday was their supreme happiness, but soon their dreams failed when Jesus was taken from them to be crucified. They were obliged because of this to flee and disappear. When they wanted to meet, they gathered secretly in a small upper room. In their grief and fear, they forgot the fact Jesus assured

that, when He leaves the world, it does not mean the end of His work, but the start of accomplishing the work to perfection. His leave does not mean defeat, but the beginning of the victory of God's kingdom in this world. They forgot what He told them, "I will pray the Father, and He shall give you another comforter, that He may abide with you". But the Comforter, which is the Holy Spirit, whose the Father will send in My Name, He shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatever I have said unto you" (John 14:16-26).

### **THE DAY OF PENTECOST:**

The Day of Pentecost approached. It was a big feast for the children of Israel which fell on the fiftieth day after the Passover. It was also the feast of harvest which they celebrated by happy and bright festivals. Jerusalem was full of pilgrims who had come from different countries of the world to participate in the joy of the feast. Amidst all these festivals, there was a small group of men and women gathered in the upper room. They were sharing with each other their memories of Jesus, waiting for the promise and praying.

The Day of Pentecost came, and the small group was in the upper room, suddenly a great thing happened and there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. And there appeared unto them tongues as of fire and it sat upon each one of them" (Acts 2:1-4).

Suddenly, a great change happened to the disciples. They felt power within them that pushed them out of the upper room to the people outside to tell them of their faith without fear.

In front of the temple, the pilgrims were gathered enquiring about the cause of the noise they heard. The disciples stood in the midst telling of Jesus and proving to them that He is the Messiah whom their fathers were expecting. "Strange enough each had heard the disciples talking to him in his own language, so that the multitude marvelled and said to each other, What does this mean". But others mocked them saying, "They are full of new wine".

### **THREE THOUSAND BELIEVED:**

Peter stood in the middle of the group, full of courage and zeal (Acts 2:14-26). Peter who denied Jesus seven weeks ago, and said to the maid, "I know him not", stands now fearless before thousands to declare his faith in Jesus and calls them also to believe in Him. This was the work of the Holy Spirit who gave the courage and the knowledge. He gave the disciples to speak different languages that they had no previous knowledge of. It was not Peter nor the disciples talking; it was the Holy Spirit who spoke in them. That was why the words were effective. The Bible says; "They were pricked in their heart" (Acts 2:37), and they said, "What shall we do?". Peter answered and said "Repent and be baptized . . . and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit". They accepted his words with joy and were baptized. About three thousand souls were added that day to the church.

### **THE FRUIT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT:**

The Day of Pentecost was a real wonderful day in the history of humanity. In it, the Holy Spirit was shed forth on the disciples and opened their eyes; they were filled with a great power from above that was not in them before. They no more workers, but the Spirit of God worked in and through them.

**1. THE HOLY SPIRIT GAVE THEM COURAGE:** They were a group of fearful and anxious men before. In the day of the crucifix of Jesus, everyone fled to a different place and when they gathered, it was in secret away from the eyes of men. Now, here they are speaking in public and facing the multitudes not only bravely but accusing them and putting the responsibility of crucifying Christ on them The Holy Spirit was working in them and gave them both courage and knowledge. He gave them the words by which they spoke before men, rulers and kings. Jesus had said to them "But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be my witnesses (Acts

1:8).

**2. THE HOLY SPIRIT FILLED THEIR HEARTS WITH LOVE:** Another change happened to all Who believed, love had Filled their hearts towards each other. Selfishness disappeared, they become of one heart. "And the multitude of them that believed were of one heart and of one soul; no one said that any of the things which he possessed was his own; but they had all things in common.

This was marvellous. People from all ranks joined the Church, poor and rich, ignorant and educated, but all of those were filled with love and became one. The Holy Spirit filled their hearts, and they loved one another. He who possessed something gave to him who had none. No one thought of himself, but everyone thought of the others. Thus, "Neither was there any among them that lacked: for as many as were possessors of lands or houses sold them, and brought the prices of the things that were sold, and laid them down at the apostles' feet: and distribution was made unto every man according as he had need." (Acts 4:34-35).

**3. THE HOLY SPIRIT FILLED THEIR LIVES WITH JOY:** They rejoiced in the new life of sharing in the Holy Spirit who gave them united and harmonious group life. "And they, continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, did eat their food with gladness, and singleness of heart praising God" (Acts 2:46-47). The Day of Pentecost was a real wonderful day in the history of the Church. It is actually its birthday. The Spirit worked, taught, fortified, and propped. "And the Lord add to the Church daily such as should be saved" (Act.2:47)

**Conclusion:**

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“But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.”

(Acts 1:8)