

## Pentecost? What's That?

The Feast of Pentecost was a Jewish feast observed in Jerusalem fifty days after the celebration of the Passover, which commemorated Israel's deliverance out of Egypt. It is significant that this day (feast) was chosen by the Lord to begin the fulfillment of the Old Testament prophecy found in Joel 2:28: "*I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh...*"

The Holy Spirit came upon the waiting, praying disciples in an overwhelming manner. Their complete commitment to Christ and His commission evoked a mighty baptism of God's power. The initial sign of this infilling (or baptism) was expressed by their speaking in tongues (Acts 2:4). The Spirit was resident in their lives from that moment. The Spirit-filled early church witnessed many outstanding miraculous happenings (Acts 3:1-7; 4:31). They were able to lead victorious lives as a result of their Pentecostal experience.

In reality, two baptisms were disclosed on the day of Pentecost. There was a baptism in the Holy Spirit, and in the Apostle Peter's message that followed, *water* baptism in the name of Jesus Christ was commanded (Acts 2:38). This outward, physical baptism in water joins with that of the baptism of the Holy Spirit, and is the "*one baptism*" referred to in the New Testament book of Ephesians 4:5. This is what Jesus referred to as being "*born again*" (John 3:3-7). How wonderful it is to be born into the family of God; changed, transformed, and made a "*new creature in Christ Jesus*".

It can truly be said, Pentecost is **not** a denomination. It is a new birth experience. It is primitive Christianity made relevant to today's world. The people referred to as "*Pentecosta!*" simply believe, teach, and receive all that transpired on that birthday of the church, Pentecost, 33 A.D. It was a true inside-out experience that changed the lives of all who were waiting on the Spirit of God. The same experience is available, today.

Come experience your personal Pentecost! At The Sanctuary, we believe that changed hearts mean changed lives!