

BIBLE STORY: PENTECOST, THE HOLY SPIRIT IS POURED OUT ON THE APOSTLES

Acts 2:1-17a, 22-24, 36-39

Central Thoughts

- God the Father and God the Son sent forth God the Holy Spirit on the Day of Pentecost according to Jesus' promise to the Twelve.
- The Holy Spirit was poured out on the apostles on Pentecost so that they could faithfully preach Jesus' Word and write the New Testament Scriptures.
- The Holy Spirit is poured out in the world today through the faithful preaching of the Gospel, the Sacrament of Holy Baptism, and the administration of Holy Absolution according to the apostolic Scriptures.
- The Holy Spirit's work is to proclaim Jesus' death and resurrection, calling sinners to repentance and faith in Christ, and to give us the hope of the resurrection to eternal life.
- The Holy Spirit unites us with Christ and with one another by the gift of faith in Christ Jesus.

Discussion Questions

Why was the Holy Spirit given to the Apostles on the Day of Pentecost?

Jesus promised them the gift of the Holy Spirit, so that they might remember His words and faithfully preach the Gospel.

What were the signs of the coming of the Holy Spirit?

A rushing mighty wind, tongues of fire upon their heads, and speaking the Gospel in foreign languages.

What do these signs teach us about the Spirit's work?

The sound of wind signifies the blowing of the breath of God through the preaching of the Gospel. The tongues of fire upon the apostles' heads designated the apostles Jesus' eyewitness spokesmen. The speaking in tongues shows that the Gospel of Jesus Christ is to be preached to all people of every tribe and nation.

What did the Old Testament Day of Pentecost celebrate?

How the Lord gave His life-giving Word to the children of Israel at Mount Sinai after their Exodus from slavery in Egypt.

What does Pentecost now celebrate?

How the Lord Jesus gave His life-giving Gospel to the world in the preaching of the Gospel after His suffering and death upon the cross.

Why were the people confused who heard the Apostles preach?

Because they heard the Gospel preached in their own languages in which they were born

Why did some people think the Apostles were drunk?

Because the Gospel is the wonderful message of salvation as a gift of God's grace through what Jesus has done for us upon the cross.

How did Peter answer those who mocked them?

He quoted the prophet Joel who predicted the outpouring of the Holy Spirit through the preaching of this Good News of Jesus' death and resurrection.

How is the Holy Spirit poured out upon all flesh today?

Through the preaching of the Gospel

According to the Apostle Peter, what is at the heart of the preaching of the Gospel?

The preaching of the death and resurrection of the Christ for the forgiveness of sins

What effect did Peter's sermon have upon those who heard it?

They were "cut to the heart" or converted to repentance and faith in Jesus

Where did Peter direct them for the certainty of salvation?

To repent and be baptized

What is the promise of Holy Baptism?

The forgiveness of sins and the gift of the Holy Spirit

To whom does the promise of the Gospel in Holy Baptism apply?

“To you and to your children, and to all who are afar off, as many as the Lord our God will call.”

Meditation on the Bible Story

The Holy Spirit was poured out upon the apostles on Pentecost so that they would be able to preach the Gospel faithfully to the world. The outpouring of the Holy Spirit upon the apostles is the fulfillment of Jesus' promise to them concerning the Holy Spirit and their work as His apostles. The Holy Spirit would bring to their remembrance everything Jesus taught them (John 14:26) and enable them to testify to Him faithfully (John 15:26-27 and John 16:13-15).

Peter's sermon on Pentecost makes it clear that the Holy Spirit was given for the preaching of Jesus Christ, His death and resurrection, by which sinners are called to repentance and faith in Christ. Through the message of the Gospel sinners are not only converted to faith in Christ, but they are also given the glorious hope that flows from the forgiveness of sins, namely the hope of the resurrection of the body and the life everlasting. Because of the gift of the Holy Spirit to the apostles, they were able to preach the Gospel faithfully to the world and to record in the New Testament the authoritative Word of Jesus for us and for the Church. The Church and her ministers are bound to the apostolic and prophetic Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments in the preaching of the Gospel and in the administration of the sacraments. The Holy Spirit continues to be poured out in the world today through this same preaching and in the Sacrament of Holy Baptism. The work of the Holy Spirit is to proclaim Christ, His death and resurrection, in the preaching of repentance and the forgiveness of sins in Jesus' name (Luke 24:44-49). This preaching converts the sinful heart, creates faith in Christ, and always draws the repentant sinner to the Sacrament of Holy Baptism for the certainty of salvation and the gift of the Holy Spirit. By the Word of forgiveness, the Holy Spirit unites us with God and one another by faith in Christ Jesus.

Prayer on the Bible Story

Almighty and ever-living God, You fulfilled Your promise by sending the gift of the Holy Spirit to unite disciples of all nations in the cross and resurrection of Your Son, Jesus Christ. By the preaching of the Gospel spread the gift of faith and salvation to the ends of the earth; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.



Pentecost

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