

The Day of Pentecost

The Holy Spirit descends on the disciples with the sound of rushing wind and tongues of fire. Peter preaches, and three thousand believe.

Acts 2:1-41

CHARACTERS: Peter, The Apostles, Holy Spirit, The Crowd

THEMES: Holy Spirit, Power, Birth of the Church, Preaching

WHEN THE DAY of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. Suddenly a sound like the blowing of 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.

Now there were staying in Jerusalem God-fearing Jews from every nation under heaven. When they heard this sound, a crowd came together in bewilderment, because each one heard their own language being spoken. Amazed, they asked, 'Aren't all these who are speaking Galileans? How is it that each of us hears them in our native language?'

Some, however, made fun of them and said, 'They have had too much wine.'

Then Peter stood up with the Eleven, raised his voice and addressed the crowd: 'Fellow Jews, these people are not drunk, as you suppose. It's only nine in the morning! No, this is what was spoken by the prophet Joel: "In the last days, God says, I will pour out my Spirit on all people."'

Peter proclaimed Jesus—His miracles, His death on the cross, His resurrection. 'God has raised this Jesus to life, and we are all witnesses of it.'

When the people heard this, they were cut to the heart and said, 'Brothers, what shall we do?'

Peter replied, 'Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.'

Those who accepted his message were baptized, and about three thousand were added to their number that day.

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