

Wednesday, May 26

Pentecost was a festival celebrated in the Old Testament to honor the grain harvest. Bringing thousands of Jewish families to worship at the temple fifty days after Passover (and Jesus' death and resurrection), this festival created a great audience to witness the sign of the new relationship God would have with humanity. No longer was the Spirit limited to specific individuals; the promised power of God through the Holy Spirit was unmistakably poured out on all who were in a relationship with Jesus! This event marked the beginning of the vital community of Spirit-filled individuals (the church) that stretches through the centuries to today.

Acts 2:1-21

- Peter explained that the prophecy from Joel 2 was being fulfilled. What did Joel say would happen as a result of the coming?
- When did you first become aware of the power of God's spirit in your life? What happened?

Thursday, May 27

Having the Holy Spirit living within you does not automatically mean you are filled with the Spirit. To be "filled" means you are controlled and empowered by the Spirit. As expressed by Paul in Ephesians 5, being filled with the Spirit is more than a suggestion; it's a command you are expected to obey. Filling involves confession of any known sin, repentance, and total surrender to God. Notice the Spirit-filled responses of Peter and John to the threats of the religious leaders in this Acts passage.

Acts 4:1-37 and

Ephesians 5:17-18

- What results of being filled with the Spirit were apparent in the New Testament community (Acts 4:23-27)?
- When you are faced with a crisis like Peter, John, and the entire New Testament community faced, what kind of prayer can you utilize from their example (Acts 4:23-30)?

Friday, May 28

As you read through the Bible, the presence of the Holy Spirit is evident from Genesis 1, when the Spirit was actively involved in Creation, all the way through Revelation 22, the last chapter in the Bible. In the Old Testament, the Holy Spirit was given to specific persons at certain times for particular tasks. Today's verses describe the anointing of David to be king of Israel and the involvement of the Holy Spirit with David's call and responsibility.

1 Samuel 16:1-23

- What important quality was the Holy Spirit prompting Samuel to look for in the next king of Israel (16:7)?
- God is looking for persons today who will influence others for God's purpose. To whom is the Holy Spirit calling you to reach out?

Saturday, May 29

When you approach the Bible, you bring your way of thinking with you. As a product of the culture in which you were born, the family that raised you, and all of your life experiences, you have developed a human perspective that influences your thinking. God's way of thinking is very different. Today's passages will challenge you to surrender your own perspective and seek God's instead. Through the Holy Spirit you gain "the mind of Christ" and the potential to understand the deep thoughts of God.

1 Corinthians 2:1-16 and Isaiah 55:6-11

- From today's verses, list the differences the Holy Spirit makes in understanding the things of God.
- What could you apply from these verses to move you further in your spiritual maturity?