



## Repentance Tabernacle Church

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### The Day of Pentecost!

**Lesson Text:** Acts 2:1-18, 38-39

**Focus Verses:** Acts 2:37-39 - <sup>37</sup> Now when they heard this, they were pricked in their heart, and said unto Peter and to the rest of the apostles, Men and brethren, what shall we do? <sup>38</sup> Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost. <sup>39</sup> For the promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, even as many as the Lord our God shall call.

**Truth About Covenant:** Jesus inaugurated the new covenant when He poured out His Spirit.

**Covenant Context:** After Jesus' promise to empower His people, He took another step closer in His covenant relationship with humanity when He filled His followers with His Holy Spirit. Upon preaching the gospel, a newly Spirit-filled apostle Peter preached to the crowd how they too could be in covenant relationship with Jesus: repentance, baptism in Jesus' name, and the infilling of His Spirit.

According to Deuteronomy 16:16-17, the Jews were expected to attend three major feasts in Jerusalem. The Feast of Passover (Feast of Unleavened bread), Feast of Booths (Feast of Tabernacles), Feast of Pentecost (Feast of Weeks), which occurred fifty days after the Feast of Passover. On this particular celebration (Feast of Pentecost), Jesus' followers would celebrate a new firstfruit—the initial outpouring of the Holy Ghost upon humanity.

Before His ascension, Jesus instructed His disciples to wait in Jerusalem for the outpouring of the Holy Ghost (Acts 1:4-5). The apostle Paul stated that Jesus had appeared to over 500 individuals after His resurrection (1 Corinthians 15:6), yet only 120 were present in the upper room (Acts 1:15). While some of the larger crowd undoubtedly had reasons why they could not wait, they missed out on the initial outpouring of the Holy Ghost. Possibly they were not fully convinced of Jesus' message, even after witnessing Him resurrect and ascend. One might speculate that only after the number had decreased to 120 were they truly able to be "*with one accord*" (Acts 2:1).

A visible sign of fire accompanied this initial outpouring as well as the audible supernatural sign of speaking with other tongues, or languages. While the sign of fire was not repeated, the sign of tongues was, making speaking in tongues the normative sign for receiving the Holy Ghost (Acts 8:17; 10:46; 19:6). The demonstration was so spectacular that thousands of people outside the upper room heard and were amazed.

As believers who desire to experience God in the same way the New Testament church did, the upper-room experience provides a helpful template for us to follow. Just as those believers gathered together regularly in unified prayer, we can expect God's Spirit to be poured out when we seek Him in the same way. In following their example, we must continue daily in prayer, gathering together with fellow believers with an unwavering expectation that God will pour out the Holy Ghost upon all who desire Him.

For those of us living in the twenty-first century, we can be comforted knowing that not only was Acts 2:38 recorded in God's Word, but verse 39 was as well. Peter prophesied that this promise was not for that day only, but for all believers around the world and for generations to come.

If we choose to respond positively to the gospel, we must begin with repentance. We must abandon our sinful lifestyles and make an ongoing and concerted effort to flee from sin. While repentance can occur in a moment, repentance is also a lifestyle. We wake every day and choose to turn away from sin and toward Christ. We must also be baptized by immersion in water with the name of Jesus called over us. This is the only way believers were baptized in the Book of Acts (Acts 8:16; 10:48; 19:5). When we are baptized, our sins are washed away, and we become new creations in Jesus Christ (Romans 6:3-4).

Finally, we have an assurance that when we respond in faith to the gospel, God will fill us with His Holy Spirit with the sign of speaking in tongues. Some have been filled before they were baptized, such as Cornelius and his household (Acts 10:44-48), showing speaking in tongues as the normative sign of receiving the Holy Ghost seen all throughout the Book of Acts. **Speaking in tongues cannot be taught nor should it be intimidating for a new believer.** The Holy Ghost is God's free gift to us and every hungry heart for God should be experiencing the outpouring of His wonderful, life-changing gift.