

GOD Sent His Spirit to His Church

Acts 2:1-13

Ephesians 2:11-22

Ephesians 3:1-13



8 June 2025

Feasts of the LORD (Leviticus 23)

- See Handout "The Feast of the Lord - 2025"
- God gave His people **His** feasts *after He* redeemed them from Egypt.
- God gave His people **His** feasts to *His* people in order to share **His** joy with *His* people.
- One cannot share in God's joy unless he/she is a child of God.
- One cannot share in God's joy unless he/she is *born-again*. (John 3:3, 5)
- God's joy is centered on His Son, Jesus Christ.
- All of **His** feasts point to and speak about His Son.
- God was/is the host. The people are *only* guests.
- All arrangements, the time, the place, the ordering of the feasts were under taken by GOD.
- NOTHING was left to the people. There was NO vote!
- *True happiness* comes from enjoying God, not what we believe is better!
- Three times a year God demanded/commanded that all male gather together with Him in Jerusalem to celebrate HIS feasts. (Exodus 23:14-17; 34:23-24; Deuteronomy 16:15-16) MEDITATE: Luke 14:12-24)

Feast of Weeks – Pentecost (Leviticus 23:15-22; Ephesians 3:1-13)

- Two loaves of bread – **with yeast/leaven!** (1 Cor. 12:13; Rom. 11:17; Col 3:10-11)
- Jews and Gentiles *supernaturally* brought together to make one Church. And yet, God recognizes that there is no difference in their sin. (Eph 2:11-3:13)
 - (Ephesians 3:6) THE MYSTERY: JEWS and GENTILES ONE! THERE IS NO DIFFERENCE BETWEEN JEWISH and GENTILE SINNERS! THERE IS NO DIFFERENCE BETWEEN JEWISH and GENTILE BELIEVERS.
 - ★ Jewish and Gentile believers are NOW "in Christ" - ONE BODY.
 - ★ Jewish and Gentile believers are NOW "fellow citizens" in the Kingdom of God.
 - ★ Jewish and Gentile believers are NOW "partakers of His promise in Christ."
 - ★ Jewish and Gentile believers are NOW "called to ONE hope."
 - ★ Jewish and Gentile believers are NOW God's "special people."
 - ★ Jewish and Gentile believers are NOW members of God's family.
 - ★ Jewish and Gentile believers are NOW "fellow heirs".

- ★ Jewish and Gentile believers NOW are partakers of the “unsearchable riches of Christ.”
- ★ Jewish and Gentile believers NOW have EQUAL rights, privileges and responsibilities. They are **THE CHURCH of GOD!**
- A **new** grain offering. (Leviticus 23:16)
 - We, the Church, are a NEW CREATION. (2 Corinthians 5:17)
 - We, the Church, are RE-CREATED by God for GOD for WORKS. (Eph 2:10)
- It was a **firstfruit** offering. It was closely connected to the *firstfruit* of the Feast of Firstfruits. (1 Corinthians 15:20-23; Hebrews 2:11; Romans 8:23; 11:16)
- The New Testament Church was born at Pentecost!
 - By an act of God.
 - Man cannot mar or mutilate it.
 - The gates of Hades shall never prevail. (Matthew 16:18)
- This offering COULD NOT be offered to God BY ITSELF – it had to be offered with the other offerings. The Church is ONLY acceptable (sweet) to God by the works of Christ. (Leviticus 23:18-19; 2:12; Ephesians 5:2)
- At the request of His beloved Son, God “shared” His own Spirit with His people - His Church. (John 14:16-18) This is what we celebrate today!!

God Sent His Spirit to His Church!

- Pentecost is JUST AS important as the crucifixion, resurrection and ascension.
- The Church belongs to God! He purchased it with His blood. (Acts 20:28)
- God is SERIOUS about His Church.
- God’s Word defines what Church is!
- Christianity is NOT personal. It is CORPORATE.
- One cannot say, “Christ is number one in my life (Luke 14:26-33)” without His Body being number one in your life. (Ephesians 1:22-23; 5:30)
- **Christ laid down His life for THE CHURCH. (Ephesians 5:2, 25; Matt 20:28)**
- **Christ sent His Spirit to the THE CHURCH. (Acts 2:1-13)**
- **The Church is the BODY of Christ.** A body has ONE HEAD. A body has many members BUT they are ONE BODY. (Rom 12:4-5; 1 Cor 12:12-27)
- **By definition, a body does everything together!** (Romans 12:4-5)
- Each and every member is given grace/gifts for the profit and growth of the entire body. It takes every member serving the body for the body to grow. (Ephesians 4:1-16; 1 Corinthians 12:1-11; Romans 12:4-6; **1 Peter 4:10-11**)

The Work of the Spirit - a gift of God (Galatians 4:6)

1. Conviction of sin. (John 16:7-11; Hebrews 4:12)
2. Regeneration. (John 3:1-8; 6:63; Ephesians 2:1, 5-6; Ezekiel 37:9)
 - To **raise** her from the dead!
 - The Spirit, and the Spirit alone, gives life. (John 6:63; 2 Cor. 3:6; Galatians 6:8; John 3:5; Eph 2:1-9; Ezekiel 37:1-14)

3. Access to the Father - Ephesians 2:18
4. Unites us (each believer) to/in Christ. (1 Cor 12:13; John 17:11, 21-22; Col 3:3)
5. Equips us to do the work that God prepared beforehand for us to do. (Eph 2:10)
 - 1 Corinthians 12:11; **1 Corinthians 12:7**; Galatians 5:22-23
6. Seal us and become our **guarantee** of our inheritance. (Ephesians 1:13-14; 4:30; 2 Corinthians 1:22; 5:5; 2 Timothy 2:19)
7. Empower us. (Acts 1:8)
 - To **witness** of Christ and His work (Ephesians 2:10).
 - Through what we **say and do**.
 - To **fight** the battle of sin.
 - The **filling** of the Holy Spirit allows us to do this. (Eph 5:18; 6:10-20; Gal 5:16-25; 1 Cor 9:6; 1 Tim 6:12; 2 Tim 4:7)
 - To enable her to **serve** God. (1 Thess 1:9; Rom 7:6; 12:1, 11; 14:18; 16:18; Col 3:23-24; Hebrews 12:28; Matt 20:27-28)
8. Gifts us (uniquely) for use in a local body of believers. (Eph 4:1-16; 1 Cor 12:1-7)
9. Guide us into all truth and with the truth.
 - (Romans 8:14) "For as many as are **led** by the Spirit, these are the sons of God." (Romans 8:5, 9; Galatians 5:18; John 16:13; consider Acts 16:6-7)
10. Help and Strengthen us. (Eph 3:16; 6:10; Isaiah 40:29-31; 41:10; Col 1:11)
11. Teach us. (John 14:26; Luke 12:12)
12. Intercede for us. (Romans 8:26)
13. Comfort us. (John 14:16, 18, 26; 16:7)
14. Unite us (the Church). (Ephesians 4:1-7)
15. Flow OUT of us to minister to others. (John 7:37-38; Galatians 5:22-23)

What Did the Church Do When She Was Born? (Acts 2:42-47)

- She, the Body, **continued steadfastly** in studying doctrine together.
- She, the Body, **continued steadfastly** in Christian fellowship together..
- She, the Body, **continued steadfastly** in breaking bread together.
- She, the Body, **continued steadfastly** in praying together.
- She, the Body was **in one accord** in meeting together.

Command: Be Filled with the Holy Spirit (Ephesians 5:18)

What Is It "to be filled with Holy Spirit"?

• BE CONTROLLED by the Spirit

- "do not be drunk with wine" ALCOHOL affects our MINDS.
 - The State has determined that one beer/one glass of wine affects the way one can control an automobile. See Proverbs 31:4-5
 - WARNING labels on medicines warn that people are not to drive or operate heavy machinery when taking it.

- ★ ALL this because SCIENCE has determined that these people are not in full control of themselves!
- **BUT** - the Holy Spirit moved Paul to give us yet another command:
 - “be **filled** with the Spirit”
 - ★ To be “filled” with the Spirit is to be completely under the control of the Spirit and not self.

What “Filling of the Spirit” is NOT

- It is not an experience.
- It is not a second blessing from God that makes us super-spiritual Christians.
- It is not the baptism of the Holy Spirit.
 - ★ ALL Christians receive the baptism of the Holy Spirit at conversion. (1 Corinthians 12:13)
- It is not the indwelling of the Holy Spirit. (1 Cor 6:19; 2 Cor 6:16)
- It is not a process of progressing in degrees of power.
- It is not the same thing as being sealed with the Holy Spirit. (Eph 1:13)
- It is not something that comes to us by only prayer.
- God NEVER commands us to be indwelt; baptized with; sealed with; or seek the baptism of the Holy Spirit.
- He has given us one and only one command: BE FILLED.

How to Obey this Command

- BUT the command is in the PASSIVE VOICE!!!! (Present tense; plural)
- We cannot control the Spirit like we cannot control the wind.
- ★ BUT . . . **WE CAN RAISE THE SAILS**
- ① Examine, Confess, Repent. (2 Cor 3:15; 1 John 1:9; Luke 13:1-5)
 - Putting to death (mortifying) sin. (Col 3:5, 8; Rom 8:12-13; Gal 5:24)
- ② DEATH to SELF. (Luke 9:23)
 - Be a SLAVE to God and OTHERS. (Philip 2:5-8; Matt 20:28; Romans 6:22)
- ③ Complete SURRENDER of will, intellect, body, time, talents, possessions, and desires to God. (Luke 14:33)
- ④ PRAY! (Luke 11:13 in contrast to James 4:3) God gives perfect gifts.
- ⑤ Let the Word of God dwell in you richly. (Eph 5:19-20; Col 3:16; John 8:31)
 - ☆ As we fill ourselves with the **written** Word of God it controls our thinking and actions. (Psalm 1:1-3)
 - ☆ God's thoughts become our thoughts.
 - ☆ God's standard (holiness) becomes our standard.
 - ☆ God's work becomes our work. (John 5:19)
 - ☆ God's will becomes our will.
- ★ Being filled with the Holy Spirit is “walking thought by thought, decision by decision, act by act, word by word under the control of the Holy Spirit.”