

¹ When the Day of Pentecost had fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. ² And suddenly there came a sound from heaven, as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. ³ Then there appeared to them divided tongues, as of fire, and one sat upon each of them. ⁴ And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance. ⁵ And there were dwelling in Jerusalem Jews, devout men, from every nation under heaven. ⁶ And when this sound occurred, the multitude came together, and were confused, because everyone heard them speak in his own language. ⁷ Then they were all amazed and marveled, saying to one another, "Look, are not all these who speak Galileans?" ⁸ And how is it that we hear, each in our own language in which we were born? ... ¹¹ – we hear them speaking in our own tongues the wonderful works of God." ... ¹⁴ Peter, standing up with the eleven, raised his voice and said to them, "Men of Judea and all who dwell in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and heed my words. ... ¹⁶ This is what was spoken by the prophet Joel: ¹⁷ 'And it shall come to pass in the last days, says God, that I will pour out of My Spirit on all flesh; your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your young men shall see visions, your old men shall dream dreams. ¹⁸ And on My menservants and on My maidservants I will pour out My Spirit in those days; and they shall prophesy. ¹⁹ I will show wonders in heaven above and signs in the earth beneath: blood and fire and vapor of smoke. ²⁰ The sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood, before the coming of the great and awesome day of the LORD. ²¹ And it shall come to pass that whoever calls on the name of the LORD shall be saved.' " ... Then those who gladly received his word were baptized; and that day about three thousand souls were added to them.

Text: Acts 2:1-8, 11, 14, 16-21, 41 A Pentecost 2026 Gen. 11:1-9 Jn. 16:1-7 Ps. 143 Resp. Ps.: 104
Hymns: 227, 229, 235 (1, 5, 6, 8), 234

THE HOLY SPIRIT HELPS US TO TELL PEOPLE ABOUT JESUS

Dear fellow believers in Christ,

Who are you and I that we should be Jesus' witnesses? We all have weaknesses and failings. Not everyone wants to hear about Jesus. Some people become angry with someone who talks about Jesus. It's easier to keep our mouths shut and not say anything....

Jesus had promised His disciples to pour out the Holy spirit on them (Jn. 14:26). 1 Corinthians 12:3 says, "No one can say that Jesus is Lord but by the Holy Spirit." The disciples already had the Holy Spirit in them. That's how they could believe in Jesus as their Savior. The Holy Spirit has worked faith in our hearts, too Thanks to the Holy Spirit, we believe in Jesus as our Savior.

On Pentecost Jesus sent the Holy Spirit on His disciples in a special way. We're told, "Suddenly there came a sound from heaven, as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting." Small flames appeared above the disciples' heads. The sound of wind when there was no actual wind, and the little flames, certainly got the disciples' attention. They knew that something special was happening. Before His death, resurrection, and ascension,

Jesus had promised His disciples, *“I will not leave you orphans; I will come to you”* (See Jn. 14:16-18). The disciples couldn’t see Jesus anymore by the time Pentecost came. But Jesus was still with them. And He sent them the Holy Spirit to strengthen their faith. We can’t see Jesus yet. But He sends us the Holy Spirit, too. The same Holy Spirit who brought us to faith strengthens our faith.

There were thousands of Jews visiting Jerusalem at the time of Pentecost. Pentecost was an annual harvest celebration of the Jews. God told them to bring Him the *“firstfruits of the wheat harvest”* (Ex. 34:22). How fitting that it was on Pentecost that such an ingathering of souls took place. Jesus says, *“This Gospel of the kingdom will be preached in all the world as a witness to all the nations, and then the end will come”* (Mt. 24:14). People will continually be brought to faith in Jesus until the Judgment Day comes.

We’re told, *“When this sound occurred, the multitude came together.”* People were attracted by the sound of the *“rushing mighty wind”* and came to find out what was going on. The disciples got out of the house where they were and went to talk to the people. We Christians can’t just stay among ourselves. People need us to get out among them so we can witness to them.

We’re told that the disciples *“began to speak with other tongues.”* The Holy Spirit miraculously enabled them to speak in languages they hadn’t known before. That way the people, who were from other countries all around that region, could understand what the disciples were saying. (By the way, as God had prophesied in the Old Testament, the New Testament Church is made up of believers from all nations.)

We need to speak about Jesus using words that people can understand. We hear words such as “sanctification” and “redemption,” and we know what they’re referring to. But people who don’t know much about God and the Bible aren’t familiar with those words. Present Bible teachings using words people can understand. Explain Bible passages to them. We want people to understand what we’re saying about Jesus and come to believe in Him as their Savior.

What a change in Peter and the other disciples! Peter had been so afraid of what Jesus’ enemies might do to Him that he denied even knowing Jesus (Mt. 26:69-75). The Bible says that all the disciples ran away in fear when Jesus’ enemies captured Him (Mt. 26:56). But the Holy Spirit greatly strengthened the disciples’ faith. On Pentecost Peter and the other disciples boldly stood up and confessed Jesus to the people

We’re tempted to keep our mouths shut and not talk about Jesus: “What will people think of me if I tell them about Jesus?” “How will people react?” “What might they do to me?” Shame on us when we listen to such thoughts and don’t witness as we should. As the hymnwriter says, “The souls of men are dying, and the Master calls for you” (TLH #496:4). The same Holy Spirit who strengthened the disciples is here to strengthen us. Ask the Holy Spirit to make your faith stronger and help you tell people what they need to hear. As He did for the disciples, the Holy Spirit takes away our fears and helps us to tell others about Jesus.

Peter reminded the people about a prophecy from Joel: *“And it shall come to pass in the last days.... “The last days” isn’t only a prophecy about the time the Judgment Day comes. “The last days” refers to the time back then all the way up to the Judgment Day: our whole New Testament era.*

Joel prophesied, *“And it shall come to pass in the last days, says God, that I will pour out of My Spirit on all flesh; your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your young men shall see visions, your old men shall dream dreams. And on My menservants and on My maidservants I will pour out My Spirit in those days; and they shall prophesy.”* The people were to compare what they were hearing and seeing to what God said would happen, and believe and know that this was all from God. The Holy Spirit would do what He was doing that day with the disciples. The Holy Spirit helps every believer to speak God’s Word. The Holy Spirit gives visions and special dreams to some believers. What an encouragement to the believers back then! What an encouragement to you and me now!

Joel prophesied, *“[God says,] I will show wonders in heaven above and signs in the earth beneath: blood and fire and vapor of smoke. The sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood, before the coming of the great and awesome day of the LORD.”* God is speaking of things such as earthquakes and forest fires and tsunamis. These kinds of things will increase as the Judgment Day comes nearer. God can literally turn the moon into blood. Or, He can make the moon turn blood red, and stay that way. “Natural disasters” (and ‘unnatural disasters’) remind us that the Judgment Day is coming. This world and this life aren’t what’s most important. God is going to end all this. We need to be turning our hearts and minds to Jesus and His Word. Hearing about the Judgment Day can be frightening. Don’t be afraid. Jesus says about the frightening things that will take place when the Judgment Day comes, *“Look up and lift up your heads, for your redemption draws near”* (Lk. 21:28). On the Judgment Day we’ll see Jesus coming to take us to heaven! Keep believing in Jesus. Keep hearing and studying His Word. Doing that, whenever Jesus comes again, you’re ready.

Peter told the people, *“Whoever calls on the name of the LORD shall be saved.”* Who is saved? Everyone who believes in Jesus. That’s what Peter is saying. We’re told that on that Pentecost, *“There were dwelling in Jerusalem Jews, devout men, from every nation under heaven.”* Many people had come to Jerusalem who sincerely believed in the promised Messiah – the promised Savior. Peter and the other disciples told the people that the promised Messiah is Jesus Christ - that Jesus is the promised Savior. The people were used to hearing the Pharisees and what they taught. Now they were hearing the truth from Peter and Jesus’ other disciples. They weren’t saved by how good they were. They were saved by faith in Jesus, the perfect Savior. They weren’t saved by all their sacrifices. They were saved by faith in Jesus and His sacrifice on the cross.

We learn from the witness of Peter and the other disciples how to witness to others. We tell people that we’re not saved by trying to be good enough. We’re saved by faith in Jesus, the

sinless Son of God. We're not saved by sacrifices we make for God. We're saved by faith in Jesus and His sacrifice for us sinners on the cross. Salvation is found in God's Son, Jesus Christ.

Not everyone we tell about Jesus is going to believe in Him. God doesn't call us to make people believe in Jesus. God calls us to simply tell people about Jesus. Bringing them to believe in Jesus is God's work. We hope and pray that they come to believe in Jesus. We haven't failed if they don't. Many of the people hearing Peter and the other disciples remarked, "*We hear them speaking ... the wonderful works of God.*" God made many of the people receptive to His Word. There will be those whom God makes receptive to His Word that we tell them.

Who are you and I that we should be Jesus' witnesses? We can tell people that Jesus died for sinners. How will people react to our witness? We don't know. People need to hear about Jesus. **THE HOLY SPIRIT HELPS US TO TELL PEOPLE ABOUT JESUS.** After Peter and the other disciples witnessed about Jesus, we're told, "*About three thousand souls were added to them.*" There will be those we witness to who'll come to believe in Jesus and be saved! Amen.