**The Feast of Pentecost**

**by Pastor Fee Soliven**

**Exodus 23:14-16**

**Sunday Morning**

**May 16, 2021**

**Sivan 6, 5781**

**Exodus 23:14-16**

14 "Three times you shall keep a feast to Me in the year: 15 You shall keep the Feast of Unleavened Bread (you shall eat unleavened bread seven days, as I commanded you, at the time appointed in the month of Abib, for in it you came out of Egypt; none shall appear before Me empty);

16 and the Feast of Harvest, the firstfruits of your labors which you have sown in the field; and the Feast of Ingathering at the end of the year, when you have gathered in the fruit of your labors from the field.

Saints, Pentecost or Shavuot has many names in the Bible!

**Feast of Weeks, the Feast of Harvest, the Latter Firstfruits**

**The Feast of Pentecost and The Feast of Shavuot**

Celebrated on the fiftieth day after Passover, Shavuot is traditionally a joyous time of giving thanks and presenting offerings for the new grain of the summer wheat harvest in Israel.

**Slide of The Seven Feasts of The Lord>**

**"Feast of Weeks"**

Was another name that was given because God commanded the Jews in Leviticus 23:15-16, to count seven full weeks (or 49 days) beginning on the second day of Passover, and then present offerings of new grain to the Lord as a lasting ordinance.

**Leviticus 23:15-16**

15'And you shall count for yourselves from the day after the Sabbath, from the day that you brought the sheaf of the wave offering: seven Sabbaths shall be completed. 16 Count fifty days to the day after the seventh Sabbath; then you shall offer a new grain offering to the LORD.

[Shavuot](http://judaism.about.com/od/shavuot/a/all_shavuot.htm) was originally a festival for expressing thankfulness to the Lord for the blessing of the harvest. And because it occurred at the conclusion of the Passover, it acquired the name

**"Latter Firstfruits."**

The celebration is also tied to the giving of the [Ten Commandments](http://christianity.about.com/od/biblestorysummaries/qt/tencommandpara.htm) and thus bears the name *Matin Torah* or "giving of the Law." Jews believe that it was exactly at this time that God gave the Torah to the people through [Moses](http://christianity.about.com/od/oldtestamentpeople/a/Moses-Giver-Of-The-Law.htm) on Mount Sinai.

**Slide of Moses delivering the 10 Commandments>**

Saints, the Latter Rain is God's great end-time ministry. This concept as revealed in the Bible, comprises the restitution of the church to its rightful place, the enormous last day revival soon to come and the harvest of souls before the great and terrible [Day of the Lord](http://latter-rain.com/escha/daylor.htm).

It is the outpouring of the Holy Spirit upon all flesh promised to us in the last days and the restoration of apostolic and prophetic gifts.

**Acts 2:14-21**

14 But 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. 15 For these are not drunk, as you suppose, since it is only the third hour of the day. 16 But 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.'

**1. Pentecost serves as a reminder that God grants His Holy Spirit to the FirstFruits of His Spiritual Harvest.**

**Slide of The Seven Feasts of The Lord>**

In the process of revealing His plan of salvation for mankind, God established His annual Holy Days around the harvest seasons in the Middle East.

Saints, just as His people harvested their crops around these three festival seasons, God's Holy Days show us how He is harvesting people for eternal life in His Kingdom.

The Holy Days have meanings that build upon each other. Together they progressively reveal how God works with humanity.

Saints, earlier this year which was 50 days ago, we taught Passover symbolizing Christ's giving of Himself for us so our sins could be forgiven. We also learned how the Days of Unleavened Bread teach us that we must remove and avoid sin, whether in actions or attitudes.

Then the third feast was firstfruits Jesus was raised from the dead! The next festival and Holy Day, Pentecost, builds on this important foundation.

Let's take a closer look at the Feast of Harvest.

**Exodus 23:16**

16 and the Feast of Harvest, the firstfruits of your labors which you have sown in the field; and the Feast of Ingathering at the end of the year, when you have gathered in the fruit of your labors from the field.

**Numbers 28:26**

26'Also on the day of the firstfruits, when you bring a new grain offering to the LORD at your **Feast** of Weeks, you shall have a holy **Convocation**.

The Hebrew word for Feasts is also **MOED** meaning appointed times.

The Hebrew word for convocation is **MIQRA** meaning a dress rehearsal.

Saints, similarly, in the New Testament, which was written in Greek, this festival is known as:

**Pentecost ( Pentekostos in the original), which means "Fiftieth"**

Saints, this was a foreshadow a dress rehearsal of Jesus who sowed and labored in the field for 3.5 years of ministry and then was crucified on The Feast Passover, buried during the Feast of Unleavened Bread and Rose again on The Feast of Firstfruits! 50 days latter Jesus pours out His Holy Spirit on the Feast of Pentecost!

**2. The Gift of Pentecost:** **the Holy Spirit**

God chose the first Pentecost after Jesus Christ's resurrection to pour out His Holy Spirit on 120 believers!

**Acts 1:12-15**

12 Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a Sabbath day's journey. 13 And when they had entered, they went up into the upper room where they were staying: Peter, James, John, and Andrew; Philip and Thomas; Bartholomew and Matthew; James the son of Alphaeus and Simon the Zealot; and Judas the son of James.

14 These all continued with one accord in prayer and supplication, with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with His brothers. 15 And in those days Peter stood up in the midst of the disciples (altogether the number of names was about a hundred and twenty)...

**Acts 2:1-4**

1 "Now 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"

Saints, these astounding events demonstrated the presence of the Holy Spirit. At first the people of Jerusalem who witnessed this miraculous phenomenon were astonished, with some attributing the actions of the Christians to drunkenness.

Saints, the apostle Peter, now filled with the Holy Spirit, boldly explained the event to the crowd as a fulfillment of Joel's prophecy:

**Acts 2:17; Joel 2:28**

"And it shall come to pass in the last days, says God, that I will pour out of My Spirit on all flesh".

Peter explained how his listeners could also receive this Spirit:

**Acts 2:38-39**

"Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is to you and to your children, and to all who are afar off, as many as the Lord our God will call".

**The Law and God’s Grace!**

**Exodus 32:25-29**

25 Now when Moses saw that the people were unrestrained (for Aaron had not restrained them, to their shame among their enemies), 26 then Moses stood in the entrance of the camp, and said, "Whoever is on the LORD's side, come to me." And all the sons of Levi gathered themselves together to him.

27 And he said to them, "Thus says the LORD God of Israel: 'Let every man put his sword on his side, and go in and out from entrance to entrance throughout the camp, and let every man kill his brother, every man his companion, and every man his neighbor.' "

28 So the sons of Levi did according to the word of Moses. And about three thousand men of the people fell that day. 29 Then Moses said, "Consecrate yourselves today to the LORD, that He may bestow on you a blessing this day, for every man has opposed his son and his brother."

Saints, God used these miracles and Peter's preaching to add 3,000 people to His Church in one day. These converts were all baptized and received the Holy Spirit.

**Acts 2:40-42**

40 And with many other words he testified and exhorted them, saying, "Be saved from this perverse generation." 41 Then those who gladly received his word were baptized; and that day about three thousand souls were added to them. 42 And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers.

From this pivotal point, God's Spirit has been available to all who truly repent and are properly baptized. The Day or Feast of Pentecost is an annual reminder that God poured out His Spirit to establish His Church, the group of believers who are led by His Spirit.

**3. Why we Need God's Spirit**

Humanly speaking, no matter how hard we try not to, we still sin

**1 Kings 8:46**

"When they sin against You (for there is no one who does not sin)...

**John 16:8-9**

8 And when He has come, He will convict the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment: 9 of sin, because they do not believe in Me;

**Romans 3:23**

"for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God"...

Saints, acknowledging this inherent weakness of humanity, God lamented in:

**Deuteronomy 5:29**

"Oh, that they had such a heart in them that they would fear Me and always keep all My commandments that it might be well with them and with their children forever!"

Saints, here God explains that humankind has a heart problem. Academic knowledge of the law does not enable us to think like God. Becoming godly in our thoughts, attitudes and actions is beyond the comprehension and ability of men and women without an additional ingredient— God's Spirit.

**Jeremiah 17:9-10**

9 "The heart is deceitful above all things, And desperately wicked; Who can know it? 10 I, the LORD, search the heart, I test the mind, Even to give every man according to his ways, According to the fruit of his doings.

God's way of thinking produces peace, happiness and concern for others. Jesus complimented a lawyer who correctly quoted the essence of God's law:

**Luke 10:27**

"You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength, and with all your mind" and "[love] your neighbor as yourself."

**The Holy Ghost is The Power To Raise Us From The Dead!**

**Romans 8:10-11**

10 And if Christ is in you, the body is dead because of sin, but the Spirit is life because of righteousness. 11 But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you.

**4. The Holy Spirit at work in Our Lives**

**Acts 1:8**

"But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."

Saints, the coming of the Holy Spirit dramatically changed the lives of these early Christians. The book of Acts is filled with accounts of the early Church's remarkable spiritual impact on the surrounding society. A transformation was so evident that nonbelievers accused the Christians of:

**Acts 17:6**

"turning the world upside down"

Such was the dynamic, miraculous power of the Holy Spirit. To fully grasp how God's Spirit can work with us, we must comprehend what the Holy Spirit is.

In Scripture the Holy Spirit is described as the power of God at work in our lives:

**Romans 15:13**

"Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit"

**In Closing:**

Pentecost serves as an annual reminder that our Creator still works miracles, granting His Spirit to those called to be the firstfruits of His spiritual harvest, empowering them to carry out His work in this world.

Slide 1 Philippine Crusade

Slide 2 Uganda Crusade

Slide 3 China Crusade

Slide 4 USA Harvest Crusade

Saints, Soon and Very soon, Jesus is about to appear, we are almost out of here!

**1 Thessalonians 4:13-18**

13 But I do not want you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning those who have fallen asleep, lest you sorrow as others who have no hope. 14 For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who sleep in Jesus.

15 For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord will by no means precede those who are asleep. 16 For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first.

17 Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord. 18 Therefore comfort one another with these words.

**Acts 2:38-39**

38 Then Peter said to them, "Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. 39 For the promise is to you and to your children, and to all who are afar off, as many as the Lord our God will call."

**Let's Pray!**

**Benediction**

**"May The LORD bless you and keep you, May The LORD make His face shine upon you, May The LORD be gracious to you, May The LORD lift up His countenance upon you, and give you His (Shalom) peace." '**