

The Day of Pentecost

Acts 2:1-41

Read through Acts 2:1-41 and pray that God would give you spiritual insight in understanding.

1. The world is very interested in being “spiritual”. What do you think it means to be “spiritual” from the Biblical perspective?
2. In applying this passage to ourselves the central question that many ask is whether “Pentecost” is something that happened only once or whether it is something we expect to happen regularly in the life of the church. As you answer these questions, see which perspective emerges from the text.
3. What is the significance of “Pentecost” according to the Old Testament? Take a look at Leviticus 25:15-16.
4. v.2 the disciples heard “a sound like the blowing of a violent wind”. One Hebrew word for spirit or wind is “*ruach*”. Apart from this reference, why is there such a close relationship between “wind” and “Spirit” in Ezekiel 37:9, 14 and John 3:8?
5. What are the similarities between the consecration of Israel in Exodus 19:16-18 and the outpouring of the Holy Spirit in this chapter?
6. Many people refer to Pentecost as the reversal of the tower of Babel. Can you see why when you look at Genesis 11:1-9? Would you say that the Tower of Babel has been completely reversed by this event? For a fuller perspective take a look at Revelation 7:9.
7. What do verses 5 to 12 tell us about the nature of tongues? Paul gives his take on the gift of tongues in 1 Corinthians 14:1-25. Why do you think there is not another reference to tongues outside of Acts and 1 Corinthians?
8. In explaining the event, Peter says that this is in fulfilment of the prophecy described in Joel 2:28-32. Why is it astounding that the Spirit of God is poured out on “all flesh”? You might need to take a look at Numbers 11:24-29 and Deuteronomy 29:4.
9. What is the implication that Paul draws out about the Christian identity in light of Pentecost in 1 Corinthians 3:18, 6:19? How might this affect the way we live?
10. The outpouring of the Holy Spirit is specifically connected with what is called the “New Covenant.” What is the “new covenant” according to Ezekiel 36:26-27 and Jeremiah 31:31-34? Why does the Holy Spirit play such a central role in the New Covenant? What is new about the *new* covenant?

11. What does the outpouring of the Holy Spirit teach us about God? You might have to look at Matthew 3:16-17, Matthew 28:19, and 2 Corinthians 13:14.
12. What did Jesus teach concerning the Spirit he would send on his disciples in John 14:16-26?
13. Why do we believe that the Holy Spirit is God according to Hebrews 9:14, 1 Corinthians 2:10-11, Psalm 139:7?
14. Why do we believe that the Holy Spirit is a distinct person from the Father and the Son (see question 11)? Why do we say that the Holy Spirit is *person* as opposed to a force?
15. What does vv.22-34 teach us about the central aspects of the Gospel? How do these relate to the outpouring of the Holy Spirit?

Close in prayer and pray that God would soften your heart that you might put these things into practice.