

# PENTECOST

Pentecost is a feast day which is celebrated 50 days after Easter Day and commemorates the descent of the Holy Spirit upon the followers of Jesus, whilst they were waiting in Jerusalem after Jesus' crucifixion and Ascension...see Acts 2 : 1-21

It is celebrated as a feast day across the whole of the Believing world. Many denominations provide a special liturgy to celebrate it, and, as it is a "movable feast" depending on the lunar calendar... it varies as to the exact dates, but always 50 days after Easter.

It also goes back to the Shavuot, which is the Judaistic harvest festival mentioned in Leviticus 23:16 which is celebrated 50 days after Passover.



What exactly happened at Pentecost?

It states in Acts that on the day of Pentecost, ie, 50 days after Jesus had ascended into Heaven, the disciples were all gathered in one place. Locked in the Upper Room, as they were afraid of the Jews and what might happen to them, as they were followers of Jesus. When suddenly they heard a rushing mighty wind, which filled the place, and then they saw tongues of fire appearing over everyones heads!

They must have all rushed outside and were filled with the Spirit and began to speak in languages that they had not learnt... and the crowds around were astonished as each person heard what was being said in their own language! As the crowds were made up of a diverse range of people from multiple regions, all with different languages, this was a remarkable phenomenon! In fact some in the crowds accused them of being drunk, then Peter began to explain to every one what was happening!

Jesus had informed the disciples that this would happen, so that the Spirit can be a guide and comforter to all who believe. Jesus also told his disciples that the Holy Spirit would be like a comforter, encouraging and upholding believers. Therefore, although Jesus was ascending into Heaven, He was not abandoning His disciples , but providing for them in a different way! This new way of being with His disciples was for His followers then and now. We can all be filled with His Spirit... John 14:17 "He abides with you and will be in you."