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# **5** | LEVITICUS 23:15-22; ACTS 2 The Feast of Pentecost

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**Announcements**

1. Welcome visitors!
2. Child dedication, next week, May 27

Open your Bible if you will to **Leviticus 23:15-22**. We are in a series called “The Feasts of Israel.” Today we are looking at the fourth feast, and our message is entitled: “The Feast of Pentecost.”

##### *Uncle Lew Ahner*

My Uncle Lew was a high school science teacher at Carl Sandburg High in Oak Lawn. He later became a tenor for the Metropolitan Opera in Chicago. But back in World War II, he was called up to be to pilot a B-17 fighter plane as a First Lieutenant. **December 10, 1945**, he got caught in a storm and crashed his plane into the side of a mountain near Lyon, France, south of Geneva Switzerland. Listen to my Uncle’s words:

“I was picked to pilot a B-17 on a mission for a general. The British had taken charge of the field there. It was raining and sleeting so hard, I couldn't see our outboard motors, let alone where their controller was directing me… Suddenly there was multiple confusion in the tower. Somebody was yelling at him that he'd made a mistake. Then another voice broke in and screamed at me, “Pull up and get out of there! Pull up and get out!” But we were already in the trees. I just had time to get the aircraft's nose up so we'd come in belly first. If we crashed head-on it would be the end of the ballgame. Then we hit. The plane was burning when I crawled out. … Both my hips were dislocated and the ancillary tanks were flaming into the sky like rockets. I don't think it was very long before we saw the people of Saint Andre coming up through the storm.”[[1]](#footnote-2)

They transported my Uncle Lew in an ox cart to a barn nearby where they nursed his wounds. **Some of the worst damage was to his face. His forehead was ripped open, and he would later need 72 stiches. The nurse looked at him and did the best she could**. Finally, an ambulance transported him to a local field hospital and they worked on him all night till 8 in the morning.

I wonder if some of us have crashed into a mountain spiritually and we have a much more serious condition than my uncle. There are some here who are spiritually disabled. Perhaps you remember the days when you had the power of the Holy Spirit at work in your life, but somehow, you’ve grieved him. The power of his presence is not what it used to be in your life.

You’ve turned to the world instead of the Holy Spirit. All the world can do is numb you. It cannot give you joy. Let me ask you, are you tired of numbness in your life? Don’t you want to return to your first love? Don’t you want the joy of the Spirit that is “unspeakable and full of glory?

The Lord is ready to take all of us and do radical spiritual surgery on us. Are you ready? How appropriate it is on Pentecost Sunday to celebrate the Feast of Pentecost. We celebrate this day as the birthday of the church.

## The History and Meaning of the OT Feast of Pentecost

There were three pilgrimages every year in Israel. There were seven feasts that were celebrated three times a year.

The first pilgrimage lasted 8 days, and it included the feasts of **Passover, Unleavened Bread and Firstfruits**. This first pilgrimage points to Christ and his work. Through Christ we have **Peace** with God.

The second pilgrimage is **Pentecost**, and it’s a one-day celebration. It points to the work of the Holy Spirit. It speaks of **Power** from God.

Next we’ll talk about the third pilgrimage which begins with the Feast of **Trumpets**, then the Day of **Atonement**, and finally the Feast of **Tabernacles**.

##### *Birthday of Israel and the Church*

The Feast of Pentecost marks the birthday of the church of the New Testament, but also the birthday of Israel in the Old Testament. [[2]](#footnote-3) The Hebrews were God’s people (**Exo 34:22**). On Pentecost the people would rejoice and read Scriptures about when they became a nation at Mount Sinai. They would read those inaugural chapters of God’s Law in Exodus 19 and 20 and following. The people celebrated the wheat harvest, and that they were God’s true wheat. But on the Day of Pentecost, exactly 50 days from that first Easter Sunday, when Jesus was raised from the dead, the Holy Spirit arrived and birthed the church of Jesus Christ. He brought Jew and Gentile together as one Body in Christ.

Isn’t God so good to call unworthy people to himself? He chose Israel, not because they were more numerous or stronger than the other nations. In fact they were so small and so weak. That’s who God calls. He calls the weak and the foolish to confound the mighty and the wise, so that no human being would glory in his presence (1 Cor 1:24).

##### *The Two Loaves and the Giving of the Spirit*

The Feast of Pentecost is not only a celebration of the birth of Israel at **Sinai**, but also the birth of the New Testament Church at **Jerusalem**. Beginning at Sinai, for almost 1500 years, God’s people were to bring two loaves of bread made from wheat. These were leavened loaves, and according to the rabbis one represented Israel and the other represented the nations. Prophetically, the two loaves are a picture of the “one new man” composed of both Jew and Gentile (**Eph 2:14**) that the Spirit would create on the day of Pentecost.

##### *Wave Offering*

The priests would wave the lambs and the loaves in all four directions and up and down, and then place the lambs on the altar. My professor at Trinity Divinity School, Richard Averbeck is a Semitic scholar, and he said that they would wave the Lamb and the loaves in the shape of a cross. Oh, how Jesus is the bread of life and the Lamb of God. He’s the true bread. In Jesus we are one!

Let’s stand and read **Leviticus 23:15-22**, “You shall count seven full weeks from the day after the Sabbath, from the day that you brought the sheaf of the wave offering. 16 You shall count fifty days to the day after the seventh Sabbath. Then you shall present a grain offering of new grain to the Lord. 17 You shall bring from your dwelling places two loaves of bread to be waved, made of two tenths of an ephah. They shall be of fine flour, and they shall be baked with leaven, as firstfruits to the Lord. 18 And you shall present with the bread seven lambs a year old without blemish, and one bull from the herd and two rams. They shall be a burnt offering to the Lord, with their grain offering and their drink offerings, a food offering with a pleasing aroma to the Lord. 19 And you shall offer one male goat for a sin offering, and two male lambs a year old as a sacrifice of peace offerings. 20 And the priest shall wave them with the bread of the firstfruits as a wave offering before the Lord, with the two lambs. They shall be holy to the Lord for the priest. 21 And you shall make a proclamation on the same day. You shall hold a holy convocation. You shall not do any ordinary work. It is a statute forever in all your dwelling places throughout your generations.

22 “And when you reap the harvest of your land, you shall not reap your field right up to its edge, nor shall you gather the gleanings after your harvest. You shall leave them for the poor and for the sojourner: I am the Lord your God.”

*This is God’s Word*

##### *The Prophetic Meaning of Pentecost*

Since we live now in the New Covenant times, I want to focus today on the prophetic meaning of Pentecost.

Pentecost was the celebration of the beginning of wheat harvest. It took place 50 days to the day from Feast of Firstfruits, or what we would call Easter Sunday. It’s called the **Feast of Weeks** because there were 7 weeks (49 days) between Firstfruits and Pentecost. It’s called the **Feast of Harvest** because it’s the celebration of the wheat harvest. It’s called Pentecost because Pentecost means 50.

The centerpiece of the Feast of Firstfruits is the offering of **two loaves of wheat bread** that are baked with leaven (yeast). Of course, lambs and a goat are to be offered as well. But let’s ask ourselves, what does this mean prophetically? The rabbis in Israel believed that the loaves represented all the people of the world. The one loaf represented Israel and the other loaf represented the nations. It was appropriate that God should send the Holy Spirit to unite Jew and Gentile on the day of Pentecost to make one new loaf.

The prophecy of Joel 2 comes true on Pentecost. All who are added to the church by the church become a nation of kings and priests, a nation where young and old, rich and poor prophesy the glories of our God in Christ!

My call to you brothers and sisters is to live in the bounty and overflow of the Spirit as one new loaf in Christ. This is the meaning of the Feast of Pentecost. Let me say before we begin, this is going to be costly. If you take seriously what God is telling us today. It’s going to cost you everything.

The giving of the Spirit is God’s mark of ownership on you (Eph 3:14). God owns you. Don’t say you are a Spirit-filled believer today unless you are ready to surrender all to the Spirit. We are his one new loaf (1 Cor 10:17). We are the one new man (Eph 2:15).

**Outline**

1. A New **Empowerment** by the Spirit (2:1-4)
2. A New **Fruitfulness** in the Spirit (2:5-41)
3. A New **Fellowship** in the Spirit (2:42-47)

##### A New Empowerment by the Spirit (Acts 2:1-4)

Luke depicts the events of Acts 2 as a kind of second “Mount Sinai experience.” When the Law was given, there was smoke and fire and the mountain trembled as God descended on Mount Sinai (Exo 19:18-20). When the Spirit was given there was fire and the sound of rushing wind as the Spirit of the Lord filled the room.

The one thing the law was weak to do was to give us power. God gave his people the law, but they had no power to keep it.

But God prophesies of a day (Eze 36-37) when the Spirit will raise up an army of dry bones. And by God’s grace, if you have trusted in Christ’s atoning blood, you are part of the Spirit’s army.

## The Wait for Empowerment

Just imagine you are there in Jerusalem, in that upper room. You are waiting for the gift of the Holy Spirit. Remember the Lord’s command to remain in Jerusalem. Look over at Acts 1.

**Acts 1:3-5**, “He presented himself alive to them after his suffering by many proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God. **4**And while staying with them he ordered them [his disciples] not to depart from Jerusalem, but to **wait for the promise of the Father**, which, he said, “you heard from me; **5**for John baptized with water, but you will be **baptized with the Holy Spirit** not many days from now.”

I know you might say, Pastor Matt, we are born again believers. We’ve received the promise of the Spirit. What do we have to wait for? Ok, you have been baptized in the Spirit, but let me ask you, do you have the fullness of the Holy Spirit?

The Bible teaches that we can **grief** and even **quench** the Holy Spirit. Have you grieved him? Have you even quenched him? Are there known sins in your life that you have not fully repented of? I’m not talking about saying, “I’m sorry.” Confession also requires a **forsaking** of the sin.

**Proverbs 28:13**, “Whoever conceals his transgressions will not prosper, but he who confesses and forsakes them will obtain mercy.”

Jesus’ followers were regenerate. But they were about to receive the fullness of the Spirit. What did they do when they waited? They prayed.

Don’t you want to participate in this? Martyn Lloyd-Jones said, that in a way this is a unique event. This is the birth of the Church. But in a way, this is something we should all seek. We received the same baptism when we were born again. But what can we as Christians wait for? We can wait for his filling, his fullness.

Confess all sin. “Search me, O God, and know my heart: try me, and know my thoughts: **24**And see if there be any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting” (**Psa 139:23-24**).

Seek the Lord with your whole heart. If there is anything doubtful in your life, get rid of it. Go through everything in your life and let it be as if it were the Day of Christ when we see our Savior face to face.

Look at your music, your media, the way you treat people. Jesus said “every idle word” would be taken into account in the day of judgment (**Mt 12:36**). Jesus’ point is that the person who has a transformed heart is going to produce godly fruit out of his life. You are going to care about every word being honoring to God.

So listen, what I am saying, is though we already have the blessing and promise of the Father, let me ask you, is your life surrendered to the Spirit? Is the Spirit of the living God directing your every step?

Seek that fullness. Wait for that fullness. Give up whatever you have to for that fullness.

Sin will dull you. It will make you numb. God doesn’t want you to be numb. He wants you to be filled with the joy of the Holy Spirit. Stop seeking the world’s numbness. Seek the Spirit’s fullness. Seek it. Wait for it. That’s what they were doing while they were waiting. They were seeking the Lord. They were surrendering to the Lord. That’s what we need today. We need it just as much today as on the day of Pentecost.

## The Question of Empowerment

Now we come to the question of empowerment. What is this empowerment? We read about it in Acts 1:6-8. Let’s read it.

So when they had come together, they asked him, “Lord, will you at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?” **7**He said to them, “It is not for you to know times or seasons that the Father has fixed by his own authority. **8**But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth (Acts 1:6-8).

These were Jesus’ final earthly words. What is this empowerment? It is empowerment to fulfill Jesus’ mission. This is what Pentecost is all about. Remember the two loaves offered at the Temple represent the Jews and the nations. Jesus wants us to be one loaf for him. We are his “one new man.”

We need this empowerment to reveal God’s person and presence and message to a lost world. Lost people need to be transformed. They need to meet God. You are now God’s temple. You are empowered with his presence, his purpose, his mission, his Word. His powerful word will convert the hardest of sinners.

Think of the most desperate, lost person you know right now. Jesus wants to use you to bring that person to him. God wants you to pray, to witness, to live a transformed life so that person can come to Jesus. Jesus inhabits you. He is the vine, we are the branches (Jn. 15:1). He says, “Without Me you can do nothing” (Jn 15:5). Empowerment means without Jesus’ Spirit I can do nothing. I need the Holy Spirit. I can do nothing meaningful for eternity. My flesh is worthless and powerless. I want to see God move mountains. I want to see him transform me, my family, my neighborhood, my workplace. I need God’s power.

## The Purpose of Empowerment

What about the purpose of empowerment? Why do we need to be empowered? Look at Acts 1:8.

But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth (Acts 1:8).

The purpose for us being clothed with power is to essentially change the entire culture of the world. Jesus wants to save his elect which are from “every tribe and language and people and nation” (**Rev 5:9**).

God loves the world. He loves people in places you can’t pronounce and have never heard of.

1. God loves China, 1.4 billion

2. God loves India, 1.3 billion

3. God loves the USA, 329 million

4. God loves Indonesia, 263 million

Are you tracking with me? God is calling the **1.8 billion Muslim population** to himself. This is what Pentecost is all about. God is empowering us for an impossible task. It’s impossible to us, but nothing is impossible for God.

God is calling the **1 billion Hindu population** to come to Jesus! We need power to go to the uttermost parts of the earth.

So the purpose of the empowerment is not just to “Go into all the world and preach the Gospel.” We ourselves need to be living out the life of power and holiness that shows the world they need something they’ve never seen before. They need something that the world cannot offer: a life of true sacrificial love and holiness.

## The Arrival of Empowerment

They waited. They prayed. Look at Acts 2 if you would.

When the day of Pentecost arrived, they were all together in one place. **2**And suddenly there came from heaven a sound like a mighty rushing wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting.**3**And divided tongues as of fire appeared to them and rested on each one of them. **4**And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance (Acts 2:1-4).

There they were, 120 followers of Jesus, in the upper room, likely the same upper room they had celebrated the Passover with the Lord over 50 days before. He told them to wait for the Holy Spirit.

For the early believers, it was clear who was filled. There were “divided tongues…of fire” resting above their heads.

Over at the Temple, there were Jews who were living as foreigners in the nations around Israel and Asia Minor, even all the way to Rome and Africa. And they heard the rushing wind, this powerful, heavenly sound from the Holy Spirit. And the 120 began speaking, and were understood by all who were around them. Some spoke Greek or Arabic or other languages. They all understood what was being said in their own language.

Christians are baptized with the Holy Spirit at conversion, but we are called to be filled to overflowing every day.

**1 Corinthians 12:13**, “For in one Spirit we were all **baptized** into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and all were made to drink of one Spirit.”

In **Galatians 3:27-28** we read, “‘For as many of you as were **baptized** into Christ have put on Christ. **28**There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slavenor free, there is no male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.”

And in **Ephesians 4:5**: there is “One Lord, one faith, one baptism,” which is undoubtedly a reference to the baptism by the Holy Spirit, our baptism into Christ.

## The Pathway to Empowerment

What did the 120 believers in the upper room experience? Baptism in the Holy Spirit does not merely happen at regeneration. It does happen there, but afterward there is a daily filling available, very much like when we were first saved.

The baptism of the Holy Spirit after salvation is simply called “the filling of the Spirit.” “And do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery, but be filled with the Spirit” (**Eph 5:18**). The idea is “*be being filled with the Spirit*.” It ought to be a constant experience.

The baptism of the Holy Spirit certainly occurs at regeneration, but there are many fillings.[[3]](#footnote-4) What should we say then?

##### *Seek the Filling of the Holy Spirit*

**A Daily Surrender**. Seek the filling of the Spirit daily. Are you being filled with the Holy Spirit. Martyn Lloyd-Jones asked, “How can you know you are filled with the Holy Spirit?” He says (I’m paraphrasing), “It’s like those who are at Pentecost. There is a conscious awareness of the Spirit’s presence… Their whole spirit was kindled. The Lord Jesus Christ became real to them in a way that he had never been before. The Lord Jesus Christ manifested himself to them spiritually, and the result was a great love for Christ, shed abroad in their hearts by the Holy Spirit.”[[4]](#footnote-5) Do you want this? Do you want the cross of Christ and the love of Christ to be manifested and revealed to you like never before? Do you want to the love of God poured out in your heart anew and afresh?

It’s not a formula. You must seek the Lord’s filling until you are consciously aware of his presence. Like the 120 praying in the room. In one way Pentecost is a unique experience: it is the birth and baptism of the church. But in another way, it should be the constant experience of every believer.

**No holding back!** Are you surrendered to Christ as Lord? Have you surrendered every area of your life? You cannot be filled if you hold anything back. If you are holding anything back, you need to pray right now and ask God to release you from any hold sin has over you. “Sin shall not have dominion over you” (**Rom 6:14**).

Jesus says, Wait for the promise of the Father!” They waited at Jerusalem. And did God answer? Yes!

Do you think he has the same blessing for every one of his blood bought children? Yes. Let us wait as well for the same promise. Listen, Peter was regenerated, but he wasn’t filled with the Spirit. He was cowering in fear, denying the Lord.

Return to your first love and be filled with the Holy Spirit. How? How can I be filled with the Spirit? You have to be in a state of full surrender to Christ, like those in the upper room. Paul says it this way: “And do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery, but be filled with the Spirit” (**Eph 5:18**). The idea is “*be being filled with the Spirit*.” Be fully under the control of the Holy Spirit. Those in the upper room – they received the blessing. What do we see with them?

* They were living in **obedience** to Christ.
* They were **surrendered** in prayer.
* They were **deeply aware of the great cost of the Cross** of Christ. They were chiefly aware of it as we will see in Peter’s preaching.

While they were seeking the Lord, the Holy Spirit suddenly filled them and filled the room. There was a manifestation of the presence of God. In one sense this is a one time experience, because it is the birth of the church of God. In another sense, this is the blessing that the Father always wants us to seek.

##### *How Can I Be Filled with the Spirit?*

Wayne Grudem, who wrote a wonderful book on Systematic Theology says, it takes three ingredients to seek the filling of the Holy Spirit.

1. **Repentance**. You should confess all known sins, and repent of any remaining sin in their lives, trusting Christ to forgive those sins.
2. **Surrender**. Commit every area of your life to the Lord’s service, yourself fully to him, and believe that Christ is going to empower them in a new way and equip them with new gifts for ministry.
3. **Trust** the blood of Christ to cleanse you and the Spirit to overtake you completely. Ask Jesus in prayer to fill you and baptize you afresh in the Holy Spirit. What does this new filling of the Spirit do for you?

It is a guaranteed prescription for significant growth in the Christian life.[[5]](#footnote-6)

##### A New Fruitfulness in the Spirit (Acts 2:5-41)

Now notice, just as suddenly as these people were filled with joy and clothed with the power of the Holy Spirit, they didn’t keep it to themselves. They were brought to a new level of fruitfulness.

## A Surprising Fruitfulness (2:5-13)

Over at the Temple, the there were Jews who were living as foreigners in the nations around Israel and Asia Minor, even all the way to Rome and Africa. And they heard the rushing wind, this powerful, heavenly sound from the Holy Spirit. And the 120 began speaking, and were understood by all who were around them. Some spoke Greek or Arabic or other languages. They all understood what was being said in their own language. They were brought to new level of fruitfulness. Let’s read it, beginning in Acts 2:5.

Now there were dwelling in Jerusalem Jews, devout men from every nation under heaven. **6**And at this sound the multitude came together, and they were bewildered, because each one was hearing them speak in his own language. **7**And they were amazed and astonished, saying, “Are not all these who are speaking Galileans? **8**And how is it that we hear, each of us in his own native language? **9**Parthians and Medes and Elamites and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, **10**Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, **11**both Jews and proselytes, Cretans and Arabians—we hear them telling in our own tongues the mighty works of God.” **12**And all were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, “What does this mean?” **13**But others mocking said, “They are filled with new wine” (Acts 2:5-13).

Not all are brought under conviction of the Holy Spirit. Something begins to happen. The people are “amazed and astonished.” There is a miracle that is going on. God’s got their attention. There is somewhere between 30 and 60,000 people here on the Temple mount. There are baptismals (mikvehs) right there on the southern steps of the Temple. Those mikvehs are still there today. This is one of the reasons I believe in believers’ baptism by immersion. This is how they baptized in the time of Christ.

##### *The Undoing of Babel*

But what is this surprising fruitfulness? It is the undoing of Babel. Babel is the story of the nations of the earth that wanted to build an ancient ziggurat to heaven. Because of their pride, God divided their languages.

But now at Pentecost, God is undoing Babel. He’s bringing all the cultures of humanity together in Christ. We may not have anything else in common, but we have Christ in common. There is but one holy catholic church, and if you have trusted Christ, you are part of it!

## A Convicting Fruitfulness (2:14-36)

Now we see a convicting fruitfulness. The good news is going forth. Peter is preaching. But before the good news can be comprehended, the bad news must be proclaimed.

Here we have the sermon of Peter that took place traditionally on the southern steps of the Temple. He stands up among the eleven, and he begins to show from the Scriptures that Jesus of Nazareth is the promised Messiah, and that they have crucified him. He helps them understand the great cost of the cross. He who once was so fearful, is now boldly proclaiming the power of the cross of Jesus. Listen to him in **Acts 2:36**, “Let all the house of Israel therefore know for certain that God has made him both Lord and Christ, this Jesus whom you crucified.”

This is the pathway to fruitfulness. Peter knew the great cost of the cross of Jesus. He had seen the Lord suffer in the Garden of Gethsemane. He had seen his Lord be arrested. He saw him beaten. Our Lord was hung upon that tree.

He suffered the full wrath of God upon him for our sins. Your sin put him there. My sin put him there. The great Son of God by whom all things are created was hanging there on the cross. His unrelenting love poured out of him: “Father forgive them” he cried. Forgive them. Forgive them. Forgive them.

The Spirit answers to the blood of Christ. He sees the great cost of the cross and if you are willing and waiting, he will come in power and clothe you. He’ll control you. He’ll empower you for a new level of fruitfulness.

Why don’t we hear more preaching on this? Why don’t we seek this blessing of being filled with the Holy Spirit? Because it is so powerful. It’s like an Atom bomb on the fortresses of hell. It will absolutely destroy the devil’s strongholds in your life.

Peter lifts up the Cross of Christ at Pentecost. “You crucified the Lord of glory.” “You are guilty,” he says.

##### *The Great Cost of the Cross*

Dear friends, we must cherish the cross of Christ. We who know Christ cherish his costly sacrifice.

## A Transforming Fruitfulness (2:37-40)

Three thousand of the people who hear Peter are broken. They can never be the same again. Sure there are between 30 and 60,000 who hear Peter, but 3000 are brought into the Kingdom. Peter has a new level of fruitfulness that was impossible before.

Now when they heard this they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, “Brothers, what shall we do?”**38**And Peter said to them, “Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. **39**For the promise is for you and for your children and for all who are far off, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to himself.” **40**And with many other words he bore witness and continued to exhort them, saying, “Save yourselves from this crooked generation.” **41**So those who received his word were baptized, and there were added that day about three thousand souls (2:37-41).

It’s a plain historical fact that Christianity spread explosively in the early Roman Empire. There were probably 30 to 60 thousand people there at the Temple, and lets imagine that 10 or 20 thousand heard him preach. 3000 of those hearers were cut to heart. They started going through the Mikvehs which are still in front of the entrance to the Temple at the southern steps today. There was a bathhouse.

##### A New Fellowship in the Spirit (Acts 2:42-47)

Very briefly, let me say that what we need more than anything is not more media and movies and music. We need Christ. We don’t need more money and comfort. We need the fellowship that the Spirit has created. We need the joy that comes from sharing in the presence of God. Let’s read about it.

And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. 43And awe came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. 44And all who believed were together and had all things in common. 45And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need. 46And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts, 47praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved (2:42-47).

Look at the fullness of the Spirit being manifested here. This is the manifest presence of God. It’s Pentecost, and now God’s presence has been transferred from the Temple to the God’s people who is the true Temple of God.

You are his Temple. You are his dwelling place. Day by day, they met in the temple, but that temple of stone was really nothing now. God’s focus is no longer on the stone building, but on the people of God.

##### *You’ll Never Find Joy Dumpster Diving*

So let me challenge you today. Dive into the Spirit of God. Dive into his fellowship with one another. Dive into the Word. We have so much time that we waste. So many hours that are wasted in **dumpster diving**. Oh you can sometimes find a decent piece of chicken in a dumpster, but why would you go dumpster diving when you have the 5 star feast of the Holy Spirit?

We like to justify our media selections because every once in a while you can find something good in the world’s media. Don’t dive into the dumpster to find something good. God to God’s rich storehouse of blessings of the Holy Spirit. Drink deeply of the Spirit and of the Word!

##### *Back at Lyon, France*

My Uncle Lew returned back to that little village near Lyon France in July 1972. He wondered if anyone would remember him after all those years since that fateful day in 1945. He got an interpreter and said he was the pilot of that plane, and the whole town erupted. Word spread and they gathered around him as they shared stories of that fiery plane crash. They went to the town café. **The woman who owned it happened to be the nurse from that night. She ran over to my uncle in the café and ran her hand over my Uncle’s forehead. “The surgery on your face worked miracles,” she said.**

The townspeople celebrated and rejoiced that my Uncle had returned. Dear saint, do you need to return to the Lord? This Day of Pentecost is a wonderful time to seek the Lord and ask him to search you and try you. Remember the surgery that was done to you. The blood of Jesus cleanses you from all sin dear saint. Don’t stay away from God’s presence. By his grace he invites you to a new level of **fellowship** and **fruitfulness** and **empowerment**.

Come back to the Lord who died for you. Be filled anew and afresh with the Spirit who empowers you. Feel the embrace of the Father who loves you.

##### *The World Can Only Numb You*

Listen, the world is not going to give you joy. The world can’t offer you joy. The world can only numb you. Get rid of the numbing agents in your life whatever they are. Get rid of them. Be filled with the Holy Spirit. Only touching Jesus’ garment will bring you joy. Only hearing his voice will bring you joy.

It’s Pentecost Sunday dear saints. For the born-again Christian, Pentecost Sunday should be every day. Fill me Lord! Let me know your love to the fullest.

I’m your wheat Lord. I belong to you. The Holy Spirit has taken possession of me, and now you own me Lord. Fill this church with your manifest presence. Fill us to the uttermost. Amen.

1. Lew Ahner, "An Experience I'll Never Forget" (Chicago: Suburbanite Economist newspaper, July 19, 1972), p. 20. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
2. Sam Nadler, *Messiah in the Feasts of Israel* (Charlotte, NC: Word of Messiah Ministries, 2011), 83. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
3. David Martyn Lloyd-Jones, *Great Doctrines of the Bible, Volume 2:* [*God the Holy Spirit*](https://ref.ly/logosres/grtdctbibv2?ref=Page.p+236&off=2158&ctx=eople+when+they+are+~regenerated+and+inco) (Wheaton, IL: Crossways Books, 1997), 236. [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
4. Ibid, 239. [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
5. Wayne A. Grudem, [*Systematic Theology: An Introduction to Biblical Doctrine*](https://ref.ly/logosres/grudemest?ref=Page.p+779&off=302&ctx=in+the+Holy+Spirit.+~Very+often+people+wi) (Leicester, England; Grand Rapids, MI: Inter-Varsity Press; Zondervan Pub. House, 2004), 779. [↑](#footnote-ref-6)