

HOLY SPIRIT COMES AT PENTECOST

Acts 2:1-47



BIBLE VERSE
COMMITTING TO MEMORY

Ms

main street

February 26, 2012

Acts 2:4

And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues...



STORY LESSON
BIBLE STORY

The purpose of the book of Acts is to teach/affirm the new Jew/Gentile community of believers (the church) that God's promise to fulfill His plan (kingdom of God) has been accomplished through Jesus and is being accomplished in spite of opposition and through persecution as God's people, by God's Spirit, through God's Word, grows unhindered.



Jesus left. The disciples could not understand it. Why would Jesus—after the crucifixion and the resurrection—leave? It did not make sense. Here was the Messiah, the Savior of Israel and the world, and he was going away? Why?

The disciples asked Jesus this important question: “Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?” (Acts 1:6). In other words, are you (we) going to destroy the enemies of the people of God (Israel) and set up the eternally righteous Jewish nation and you are going to protect us? You are the Messiah! Let’s go take down the Roman Empire! But the disciples did not yet understand the true nature of the kingdom of God. They soon would.



Jesus responds to this all-too important question: “It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth” (Acts 1:7-8).

In other words, Jesus is saying that he must leave the disciples in order that the Holy Spirit would come. The Spirit would dispense the power—though not the kind of power they initially thought—to display the kingdom of God in and through the disciples as witnesses of the life and death and resurrection of Jesus—first to their world, then spreading out beyond it, then eventually, to the entire world. Then Jesus leaves.

Not too much later, something amazing happens—something the disciples of Jesus did not expect (I don’t think they had any idea what to expect!).

“When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them” (Acts 2:1-4).



There was a crowd of people “from every nation under heaven” (Acts 2:5) outside who heard this sound and saw these men speaking in a language that each could understand. The crowd was amazed and perplexed. Some said that the men were drunk.

Peter stood up, addressed the crowd, and preached a really awesome sermon. He explained that they were not drunk because it was still morning. He quoted the prophet Joel (Joel 2:28-32) and related the life and death and resurrection of Jesus. He gave a little background on the nation of Israel (the people of God, called to be a light to the

world). And then he called for a decision:

“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. The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off—for all whom the Lord our God will call.”

Acts 2:38-39

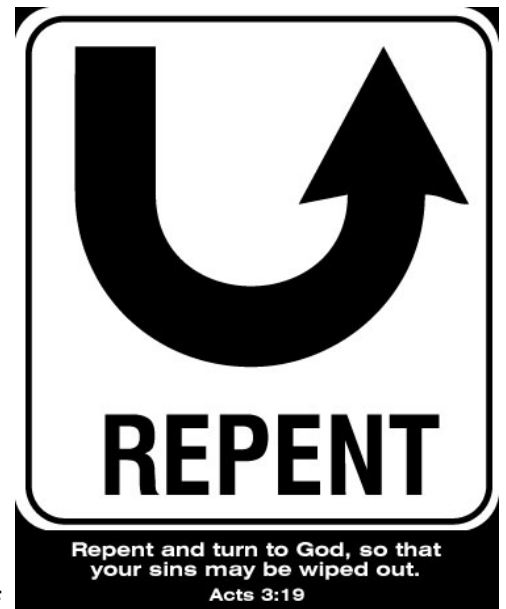
Three thousand people accepted what Peter said and were baptized. Amazing! The Holy Spirit had come and would indeed dispense power to further the kingdom of God on earth as it is in heaven. Not through violent revolution and the overthrow of the Roman government. However, the kingdom of God would influence the world through acts of mercy, kindness, justice, forgiveness, and deep communion in community. The kingdom would be a quiet and peaceful revolution of the heart, not through force.

The followers of Jesus began to grow rapidly. This what they did:

“They devoted themselves to the apostle’s teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. Everyone was filled with awe, and many wonders and miraculous signs were done by the apostles. All the believers were together and had everything in common. Selling their possessions and goods, they gave to anyone as he had need. Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.”

Acts 2:42-47

A special unique community was established by Jesus and fed through the Holy Spirit. This community of God’s people would model to the world what God was really like—not through religious acts, but through life-changing and behavior-altering actions which would bring a sort of healing balm first to the human heart, then to the community, and then (eventually) to the ends of the earth.





LIFE APPLICATION

MAKING IT REAL

The Spirit Life

"My counsel is this: **Live freely, animated and motivated by God's Spirit.** Then you won't feed the compulsions of selfishness. For there is a root of sinful self-interest in us that is at odds with a free spirit, just as the free spirit is **incompatible with selfishness.** These two ways of life are antithetical, so that you cannot live at times one way and at times another way according to how you feel on any given day. Why don't you choose to be led by the Spirit and so escape the erratic compulsions of a law-dominated existence?

"It is obvious what kind of life develops out of trying to get your own way all the time: repetitive, loveless, cheap sex; a stinking accumulation of mental and emotional garbage; frenzied and joyless grabs for happiness; trinket gods; magic-show religion; paranoid loneliness; cutthroat competition; all-consuming-yet-never-satisfied wants; a brutal temper; an impotence to love or be loved; divided homes and divided lives; small-minded and lopsided pursuits; the vicious habit of depersonalizing everyone into a rival; uncontrolled and uncontrollable addictions; ugly parodies of community. I could go on. This isn't the first time I have warned you, you know. If you use your freedom this way, you will not inherit God's kingdom.

"But what happens when we live God's way? He brings gifts into our lives, much the same way that fruit appears in an orchard—things like **affection for others, exuberance about life, serenity.** We develop **a willingness to stick with things, a sense of compassion in the heart, and a conviction that a basic holiness permeates things and people.** We find ourselves **involved in loyal commitments, not needing to force our way in life, able to marshal and direct our energies wisely.**

"Legalism is helpless in bringing this about; it only gets in the way. Among those who belong to Christ, everything connected with getting our own way and mindlessly responding to what everyone else calls necessities is killed off for good—crucified.

"Since this is the kind of life we have chosen, the life of the Spirit, let us make sure that we do not just hold it as an idea in our heads or a sentiment in our hearts, but **work out its implications in every detail of our lives.** That means **we will not compare ourselves with each other as if one of us were better and another worse.** We have far more interesting things to do with our lives. Each of us is an original."

— Paul in Galatians (5:16-26 MSG)



QUESTIONS

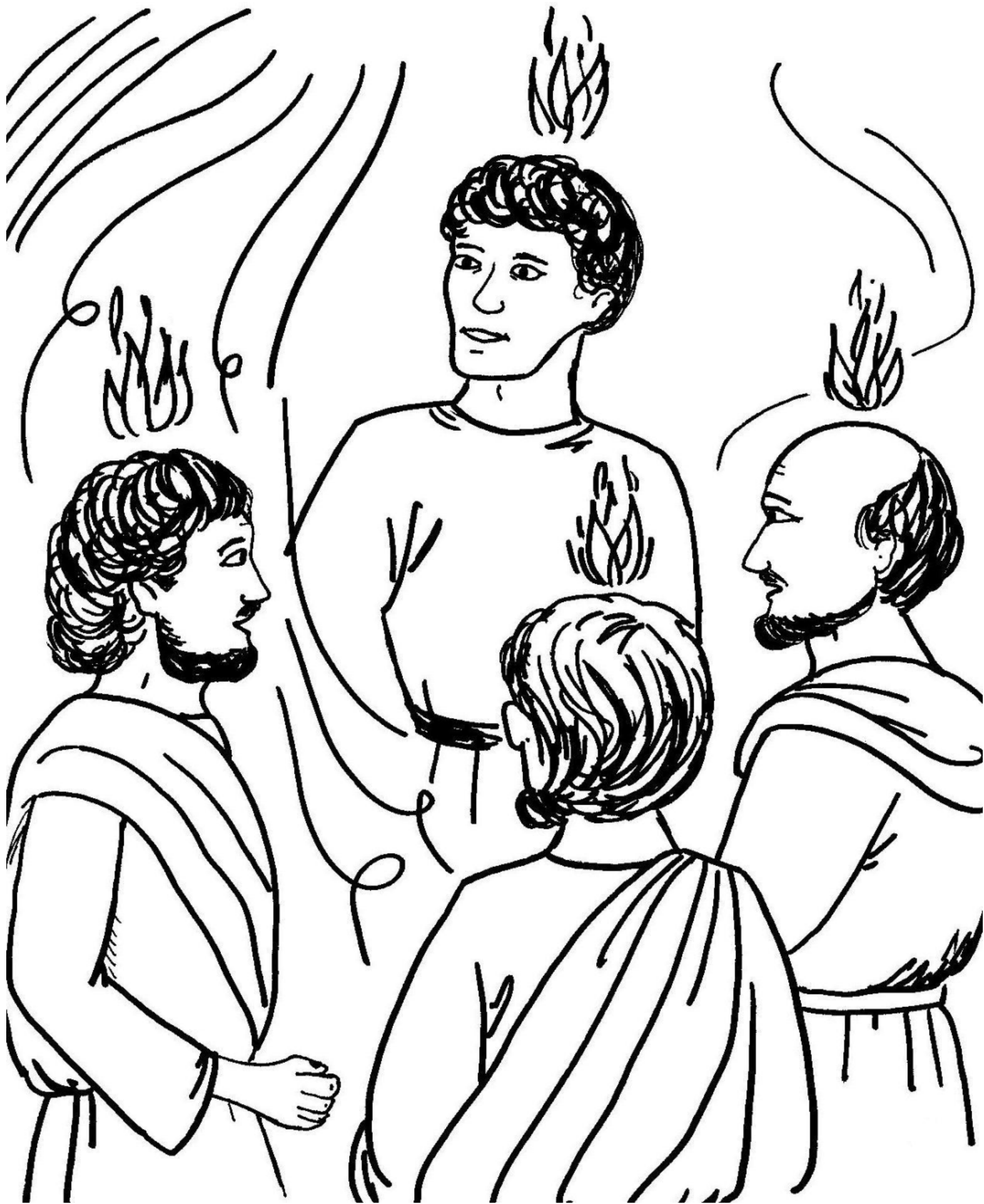
REMEMBERING

- 1. What did Jesus do after he was resurrected and spoke with his disciples?** Jesus left. He ascended to the right hand of the Father in heaven.
- 2. Who was going to provide the power to disciple all nations?** The Holy Spirit
- 3. Where would the disciples be WITNESSES?** In Jerusalem, Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth
- 4. What happened on the day of Pentecost? What came like a violent wind and looked like tongues of fire on the disciples?** The Holy Spirit came
- 5. What did the Holy Spirit's power look like in a disciple?** Speak in another language; perform miraculous signs
- 6. When Peter spoke to the crowd who saw the disciples' Spirit power, how many people believed and were baptized?** 3,000 people



COLORING SHEET

ON THE NEXT PAGE



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