

# Understanding Pentecost As Seen Through The Feast of Weeks

by Lou Pressman

## *Forward*

I count it a privilege to write these few words of introduction to the pages written here, for a similar message has been written by the Spirit on my own heart. I feel that my good friend of 25 years, Lou Pressman, has captured a vital portion of the heart and mind of God in this writing. Any words that I may write represent but a small echo to his message.

At any given time throughout history, there are two basic messages God sends. One is for the unsaved world and the other is for the Church regarding her condition. To the world, the Lord says, “*Ye must be born again.*” To the Church He says, “*He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith...*”

Without question, the world has lost its way and is in need of the pure gospel message that will bring it back to Christ. But the Church has become shallow, lukewarm, and mixed with the spirit of the world and its ways. God is speaking a word to His Church that will cleanse and purify it, that will cause it to grow and mature and that will bring it to an intimate relationship with God.

The author of this book shows us that the experience of **Pentecost** was not singular in its objective, but designed of God to do all the work mentioned above. Many believers focus on the supernatural gift of “*speaking in tongues*”, (which is very important for individual edification) but fail to include the remainder of the pure and genuine Pentecostal experience.

The remainder? What is the remainder? None of us knows the complete answer to such a question, but my Brother Pressman takes us down the avenue of revelation to greatly broaden our understanding of the Pentecostal experience.

First of all, those things unknown to us are revealed to us by the Holy Spirit (1Co. 2:10). It's no wonder we are exhorted to keep filled.

Also, we have heard from various teachers that Pentecost means “power”, the Greek “*dunamis*”, to heal the sick and perform miracles. This is true and badly needed but have we heard that there are other very important aspects of “power”? Indeed there are, and these are badly needed in the Church. May the Lord grant us “*an ear to hear.*”

Although the word ‘Pentecost’ is not used in the Old Testament, we shall learn in this study that the second major Feast of the Israelites, the Feast of Weeks or Harvest, holds many truths and principles for the believer who wants to reach the completeness of God's purpose. We shall learn the meaning of the various offerings and their application to our lives. Did not even Jesus speak of the Feast of Unleavened Bread in Matthew 16:5-12?

As a lad of 8 years, I had an experience that seemed to fill me with God's Spirit, for I had a deep inner quickening and I “*spoke in tongues*”. In my limited understanding, I thought I now had all of God's power. But years later, each time I read about “...the Holy Ghost **and fire**...” I began to feel there was something lacking in my experience. What was it? What does God mean by the fire? (Mt.3:11) Perhaps many believers have the same questions in their heart today. These and other questions will receive more light in this study book.

In many Christian circles, Pentecost is given the meaning of a final experience for the believer. It is often called “The Full Gospel”. In fact, many churches have such a sign written over their front entrance. But as we follow the study of the Feasts of Israel in this book, our spiritual man will awaken to realize that Pentecost is not the final experience, but a giant, important step toward the Fullness of God. Yes, even we as believers have a need for the renewing of our minds in the knowledge of Him.

So, as we meet, fellow pilgrim, perhaps for the first time, I extend to you an invitation to walk with the author of this book down the pathway of life-giving revelation. As you read, may the light you gain bring you closer to that “perfect day”. (Prov.4:18)

Sergio Valori

## Chapter 1

### The Need For Old Testament Understanding

The purpose of this book is to give an accurate understanding of Pentecost as found in Acts 2. Due to a lack of understanding of the Old Testament, Pentecost is usually taught as a standalone New Testament truth. However, without the Holy Spirit giving insight to the believer, and without the revealing of Old Testament truths, Pentecost is only partially understood, and, often, wrongly taught and perceived. To understand Pentecost let us look to the beginning of Acts.

Acts 1:1 *"The first account I composed, Theophilus, about all that Jesus began to do and teach."*  
Luke is writing to Theophilus and refers to the first account, which is the Gospel according to Luke.

Verses 2&3 *"all that Jesus began to do and teach, until the day when He was taken up."* This is Luke's brief summation of his Gospel of the Messiah when He walked the earth. Along with Luke's account of the Messiah, there were a distinct group of men mentioned in verse 2 called the apostles. He gave them orders that they were not to leave Jerusalem. *"Gathering them together, He commanded them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait for what the Father had promised, "Which," He said, "you heard of from Me;"* (Acts 1:4).

This distinct group of men, these apostles, although unsure and fearful, knew exactly what they were to do; stay in Jerusalem and wait. This marks the early stage for the birthing of the church. This is the pattern that God uses; imperfect men who become obedient to the divine will.

### Things Concerning The Kingdom Of God

Next, we see that there is a period of forty days (Acts 1:3) where Jesus, after His resurrection, appeared to a variety of people speaking of the Kingdom of God. The actual reading is *"speaking of the things concerning the kingdom of God."* The word "speaking" also means teaching and affirming.

What was most on the heart of the Risen Savior? The things concerning the Kingdom of God. Then He says something inconceivable to these disciples He tells them, *"for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now"* (Acts 1:5).

What was going through the minds of these men and women? Nothing could have prepared them for what was about to happen. Later on, we see in Acts 1:9, Jesus ascends to heaven. But before this happens, we see in Acts 1:6, *So when they had come together, they were asking Him, saying, "Lord, is it at this time You are restoring the kingdom to Israel?"* They were men and women using natural reasoning, locked into natural thinking. They were thinking of an earthly kingdom, a natural kingdom. Notice Jesus does not answer them. *He said to them, "It is not for you to know times or epochs which the Father has fixed by His own authority; but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth"* (Acts 1:7,8).

### Power To Know

It is not for them to know, it is not for us to know. *"But you will receive power* (the word for power is *dunamis*, it means miraculous power) *when the Holy Spirit has come upon you."* Power to be witnesses, power to know the will of God, power to know the things concerning the Kingdom of God.

Acts 1:9 *"And after He had said these things, He was lifted up while they were looking on, and a cloud received Him out of their sight."*

## Chapter 2

### A Sabbath Days Journey

*"Then they returned to Jerusalem...a Sabbath's day journey"* (Acts 1:12). What is a Sabbath's day journey? Under the law, you could not work on the Sabbath and there was a prescribed length, a maximum distance, you could walk on the Sabbath. You could not travel beyond a certain point or you would be breaking the Sabbath. This is an important fact that we shall explore later.

*"When they had entered the city, they went up to the upper room where they were staying...."* (Acts 1:13). To their credit, these disciples were listening and you see obedience is setting in. *"These all with one mind were continually devoting themselves to prayer"* (Acts 1:14). They had no idea what was going to happen. Jesus was not specific, just wait. They are praying, we do not even know what they were praying. All that matters here is that they were being obedient to the Lord.

### All Together In One Place

Then we see in Acts 2:1, *“When the day of Pentecost had come they were all together in one place.”* Pentecost means fifty. We see in Acts 1:3 that Jesus appeared to them for a period of forty days so there had to be a ten day period where they waited and gave themselves to prayer in the upper room. Remember, Jesus did not give them any time frame. They were being obedient and ten days later Pentecost came and they were *“all together in one place.”* However afraid, however unknowing and unsure, they are determined to be obedient.

As stated previously, Pentecost is a Greek word meaning fifty or fiftieth. In Exodus 23:16, what we refer to as Pentecost in the New Testament is called *“Feast of the Harvest of the first fruits”* in the Old Testament. In Exodus 34:22 it is referred to as, *“Feast of Weeks, the first fruit of the wheat harvest.”* In Numbers 28:26, *“the day of first fruits.”* What is the first fruits? It is the very beginning of the harvest. It is the beginning of a harvest with a promise of a fullness to come! For purposes of clarity, I will refer to Pentecost in the Old Testament as *“Feast of Weeks.”*

Unfortunately for many Christians, for many churches, Pentecost is brought forth only as a New Testament standalone. However, it is not meant to standalone, it is impossible, absolutely impossible to have a spiritual understanding of what proceeds in Acts chapter 2 without Old Testament insight. It has led to wrong teaching, poor teaching, false teaching, and sometimes even spiritual abuses in the Charismatic/Pentecostal church which unfortunately has produced an avoidance by our fundamentalist brethren. Let me state here that I believe in the Pentecostal experience. I believe that the gifts of the Holy Spirit are still operational today but we need to proceed carefully with sound Biblical and spiritual understanding, allowing the Holy Spirit to reveal truths to our hearts.

Let us trust in the Lord to give us understanding, to help us to better comprehend what the Feast of Weeks and Pentecost truly represent.

### **Chapter 3**

#### **The Feasts Of Israel**

Leviticus 23 is a chapter so rich and important it should capture our attention. It covers the Sabbath, the Passover, Feast of Unleavened Bread, Feast of Weeks, Feast of Trumpets, Day of Atonement, and lastly Feast of Booths or Tabernacles.

Let us look together at Leviticus 23:5&6, *“In the first month, on the fourteenth day of the month at twilight is the LORD’S Passover. Then on the fifteenth day of the same month there is the Feast of Unleavened Bread to the LORD; for seven days you shall eat unleavened bread.”*

Both the Passover and the Feast of Unleavened Bread occur on the fourteenth and fifteenth day of the first month and are celebrated concurrently.

#### **The Passover**

In the book of Exodus chapter 12, the Passover was inaugurated. The Passover protected God’s people from the final judgment toward the Egyptians. The people of God were in bondage to Egypt and God sent a series of plagues. The last plague was to kill the firstborn of everything. The only way to escape this judgment was to take a spotless lamb, slay the lamb, and put the blood on the two doorposts and on the lintel. Verses 12&13, *“For I will go through the land of Egypt on that night, and will strike down all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, both man and beast; and against all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgments, I am the LORD. The blood shall be a sign for you on the houses where you live; and when I see the blood I will pass over you, and no plague will befall you to destroy you when I strike the land of Egypt.”*

We see how God wanted to set His covenant people free. In fact that theme is throughout the entire Bible. God always wants to set His covenant people free. As important as that theme is, setting His covenant people free, the centrality of the Passover is the Lamb. It is all about the Lamb.

#### **A New Beginning**

It is because of the Passover Lamb that God gives the Hebrew slaves a new beginning. *“This month shall be the beginning of months for you; it is to be the first month of the year to you”* (Exodus 12:2).

A new beginning corresponding to our being born again. No longer to be slaves to Egypt, no longer to be slaves to this world system. But now because of the blood of the Passover Lamb, a brand new start, a brand new beginning, a brand new life!

Next, we have the Feast of Weeks, as it is referred to in the Old Testament, or as it is called in the New Testament, Pentecost.

## Chapter 4

### Fifty Days

*"You shall count fifty days to the day after the seventh sabbath; then you shall present a new grain offering to the LORD" (Leviticus 23:16).*

The number fifty, as in the above verse, is the Greek word Pentecost. So, after the Passover and the Feast of Unleavened Bread, fifty days later we find the Feast of Weeks or Pentecost. *"you shall present a new grain offering to the LORD."*

### New, Different

A new grain offering because it is unlike the feast that preceded the Passover. The Passover pertains to what the Lord had done. The Passover Lamb represents the Lord who shed His blood. However, this is new, this is different. Passover refers to the Lamb, Pentecost refers to the beginning of harvest, the beginning of the church and the harvest of souls that was about to commence in Acts chapter 2. It is new and it is different from the Passover.

### The Offerings

#### The Bread

*"You shall bring in from your dwelling places two loaves of bread for a wave offering, made of two-tenths of an ephah; they shall be of a fine flour, baked with leaven as first fruits to the LORD" (Leviticus 23:17).*

Two loaves, identical, no difference between them; representing the church to come, Jew and Gentile. Two identical loaves of bread being presented to the Lord. *"Made of...fine flour,"* fine flour, sifted flour, the church being sifted, impurities being removed, what we would refer to as the refining of the Lord. But, unlike the Feast of Unleavened Bread which is baked without leaven, we see in verse 17 *"...baked with leaven as first fruits to the Lord."* Leaven represents sin, corruption. The church still has its problems; we are not yet in that place of perfection. But leaven is also yeast, with the ability to rise, the ability to expand, it denotes resurrection/ascension power. Each individual believer is seen here with the potential of growing and expanding in the knowledge of God. Each individual believer is seen here with the potential of arising and breaking free from these earthly chains leading to the corporate arising and expansion of the Kingdom of God.

*"Along with the bread you shall present seven one year old male lambs without defect, and a bull of the herd and two rams; they are to be a burnt offering to the LORD, with their grain offering and their drink offerings, an offering by fire of a soothing aroma to the LORD" (Leviticus 23:18).*

### Five Offerings By Fire

#### Burnt Offering

*"...they are to be burnt offerings to the Lord."* A burnt offering is when the entire offering with all its parts was sacrificed on the altar to the Lord. Nothing was left off the altar. The altar is where the consuming fire of God consumes and purifies. We, God's people, being fully consumed by God and purified. Like John the Baptist, *"He must increase, but I must decrease"* (John 3:30).

#### Grain Offering

A recognition from God's people that He is the God of our provision, all our needs are supplied from Him. He is our daily bread. He is our true bread out of heaven and we trust in Him for all that we have need of.

#### Drink Offering

*"In the same way He took the cup also after supper, saying, 'This cup is the new covenant in My blood; do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me'" (1 Corinthians 11:25).*

Celebrating the Lord's Supper or Communion is not partaking in a ritual. It is having an understanding that the wine or grape juice is an affirmation of the new covenant which the Lord inaugurated for us by His own blood and that He is the head of the church (Colossians 1:18). We do this in remembrance of Him. Remembering that He is *"...the author and perfecter of faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God"* (Hebrews 12:2).

Leviticus 17:11 *"For the life of the flesh is in the blood, and I have given it to you on the altar to make atonement for your souls."*

### **Sin Offering**

Leviticus 23:19 the “*sin offering*” is what Jesus did for us. He took away our sins. There is no sin too large for the Lord. He forgives all who demonstrate true repentance.

### **Peace Offering**

The last offering, the “*peace offerings*” (Leviticus 23:19). Now because of all the offerings that had preceded, all He has done for us, we now have peace with God and can have peace within ourselves.

### **Fulfilling The Law**

*“The priest shall then wave them with the bread of the first fruits for a wave offering with two lambs before the LORD; they are to be holy to the LORD for the priest”* (Leviticus 23:20).

A wave offering was when the priest would take the various offerings and he would lift them up and wave them to the north, and to the south, and to the east, and to the west. To the four corners of the earth as a proclamation as to what the Lord has done. The “*two lambs*” both representing Jesus. One symbolizing the fulfillment of the Old Testament requirements of the law. The second, as it states in John 1:29, “*The Lamb of God Who takes away the sins of the world.*” Not just fulfilling the Old Testament law, but making redemption available to all who will put their trust in Him.

### **For the Priest**

The end of Leviticus 23:20, “*for the priest.*”

What is the function of the priest? The priest ministers to God then minister to the people. We as Christians, are all New Testament priests.

*“But you are A CHOSEN RACE, A royal PRIESTHOOD, A HOLY NATION, A PEOPLE FOR GOD’S OWN POSSESSION, so that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light”* (1Peter 2:9).

*“and you shall be to Me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation. These are the words that you shall speak to the sons of Israel”* (Exodus 19:6).

*“You have made them to be a kingdom and priests to our God; and they will reign upon the earth”* (Revelation 5:10).

This is all for us, God’s New Testament priests. There is no limit to what God can do in and through the believer’s life. This is what was started at Pentecost.

### **Proclaim**

*“On this same day you shall make a proclamation as well; you are to have a holy convocation. You shall do no laborious work. It is to be a perpetual statute in all your dwelling places throughout your generations”* (Leviticus 23:21).

*“a proclamation,”* means we need to speak to others. We need to proclaim to others, even to powers and principalities, that the beginning of the harvest is coming. Now there may be different interpretations of what that harvest is, but there is a harvest coming.

*“you are to have a holy convocation.”* A convocation is a gathering. There is going to be a gathering together of the true saints of God.

### **Rest**

*“...You shall do no laborious work. It is to be a perpetual statute in all your dwelling places throughout your generations”* (Leviticus 23:21).

No laborious work, true rest. Striving should not be found in the believer’s life. There is a temptation in the building up of God’s church to try this or try that. Let us remember that it is the Lord’s church and for us some things are going to be impossible to try and figure out. Even the great apostle Paul states, “*Oh, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments and unfathomable His ways!*” (Romans 11:33).

It is not man’s thoughts, nor man’s ideas, nor man’s programs, nor man’s church. It is the Lord’s church. He desires us to be in a place of rest, trusting that He is the Master builder and resting in the Holy Spirit’s ability to guide and lead. The grace of God will be active in our lives. All the striving will be gone. We will be a people who realize kingdom things cannot be accomplished by the arm of flesh.

Now that we have a greater understanding of the sacred writings of the Old Testament in regard to the Feast of Weeks. Let us read Acts chapter 2 and allow the Holy Spirit to interpret the text. It may vary from what you may have been taught or different from your denomination's view, but be open to what the Holy Spirit, the Spirit of Truth, is wanting to speak to you.

## Chapter 5

### The Day of Pentecost

Let us apply what we have gleaned from the Old Testament Feast of Weeks and look to the Holy Spirit to accurately reveal Pentecost in the book of Acts.

Acts 2:1 *"When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place."*

#### Prayer

There is something to be said about serious prayer, about setting your mind on things above, focusing in on the Lord. As important as that is in any believer's life, we all know the difficulty of prayer because there are so many things that beg for our attention. So many things that want to distract us and bring our minds somewhere else. Earthly rather than heavenly. What are we seeking for in our prayer time? Direction? Answers from God? Help in time of need? All of these are necessary and valid. However, the foremost thing about prayer is to be able to focus on God. Getting the mind of God and finding true agreement with Him. In the upper room, it was not just a group of people that believed the same way or who had similar experiences. Being likeminded with one another may lead to a level of earthly agreement, but what we should always be seeking is agreement with the heavenly throne.

#### True Agreement

As we focus on the Lord and we are in agreement with the Lord, those who are in that same spiritual place will find themselves agreeing with the Lord and consequently with one another. Once again, not because we are a part of some religious/social organization, but because we will be a people that are focused on God and hear from God and know the heart of God. How could God not move on your behalf when that happens? Don't you think God wants to move on your behalf? On behalf of His church? As stated in Hebrews 12:2, *"fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith"*.

Here we have this group of people, who have heard from the Lord. Acts 1:4 *"He commanded them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait."* What does that mean? How long do I wait? Do I wait a day, a week, a month, a year? Yet there is, praise God, something now working within these disciples that they are now obedient, waiting.

Where would we be in this? Would we wait? Some of us would jump ship, "Well Lord you're just not coming. Obviously this isn't working. I'll try something else." But the disciples were waiting in that one place. They are not focused on one another; they are focused on the Lord. Obedient to what God had said.

As had been stated previously, Pentecost is fifty. Fifty days after the Passover and they were all together in one place, waiting and praying. Something new and different was about to take place.

#### Suddenly

Then in Acts 2:2, *"And suddenly"* without any warning, the sovereign move of God. We could assume when they woke up that day they thought it was going to be just like the previous day.

*"And suddenly there came from heaven."* Beyond the control of man. Man had nothing to do with Pentecost. It was a sovereign, independent move of God. If the church is going to succeed, which it will, because God will have a remnant, it will be through a people who understand that we serve a sovereign God. The programs, the religious programs, the well thought out programs, are useless and are filled with man's vanity and natural thinking. They are never going to fulfill God's ultimate purpose.

*"a noise like a violent rushing wind."* It was not the wind; it was the power of God's Holy Spirit. We hear a lot in our day about hurricanes and tornadoes. The power and the noise. Winds like that capture our attention. On that day of Pentecost, there was a powerful noise and the only way to describe it was to compare it to the sound of a violent rushing wind.

The English word *"rushing"* is translated from a Greek word, phero<sup>1</sup>; it means to bring forth, to carry some burden. The word *"wind"* is pne<sup>2</sup> in Greek, is from the same family as pneuma which is also translated as wind or spirit<sup>3</sup>.

### **The Importance Of It All**

*"And it filled the whole house where they were sitting"* (Acts 2:2). Here are these people in the upper room that are in obedience to the Lord, waiting on the Lord. All of a sudden, there came from heaven *"a noise like a violent rushing wind,"* a powerful move of God. It was not the wind but the Holy Spirit carrying the burden of the Lord. *"and it filled the whole house where they were sitting."* He filled all who were obedient. Everyone who was in that place of agreement was filled with God's Holy Spirit. Nothing of the natural mattered. They were obedient, they were doing what the Lord wanted them to do, and God moved by His Holy Spirit filling them with the burden of the Lord. This is what Pentecost is about; a people filled with the Holy Spirit who carry the burden of the Lord!

## **Chapter 6**

### **Tongues of Fire**

Acts 2:3 *"And there appeared to them tongues as of fire."* What do tongues of fire represent? Unless one understands the Feast of Weeks and the sacrifices that were done by fire, especially the burnt offering, tongues of fire becomes meaningless. It has no meaning without understanding that fire represents the consuming and purifying properties of God. In other words, a people that were going to go through the purifying, consuming fire of God. Fire consumes the wood, hay, and stubble. It takes the power of God to subdue our flesh, our natural soulish man. As with the burnt offering, all is consumed so that the only thing left is Jesus. The tongues of fire thus represent the burnt offering.

We are a people being consumed, a people being purified, a people being changed. Look at the example of Peter, what happens directly after that Pentecostal experience.

### **The Effect Upon Peter**

*"But Peter, taking his stand with the eleven, raised his voice and declared..."* (Acts 2:14).

Peter, no longer that emotionally entangled impetuous person, but now a person filled with God's Holy Spirit ready to proclaim and declare God's intent.

Peter changed to such a degree that at the end of his life embraces what the Lord had said to him in John 21:18,19. *"Truly, truly, I say to you, when you were younger, you used to gird yourself and walk wherever you wished; but when you grow old, you will stretch out your hands and someone else will gird you, and bring you where you do not wish to go." Now this He said, signifying by what kind of death he would glorify God*". As church tradition has recorded, Peter was crucified. Yet he insisted on being hung upside down to show his unworthiness. The cross was burnt out of Peter's life.

Acts 2:3 *"And there appeared to them tongues as of fire distributing themselves, and they rested on each one of them."* The word *rested* means to settled down on or to be in each one of them. And the result, verse 4, *"And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues"*. Many give preference to the disciples speaking in tongues, or possibly our attention is drawn to the fire that rested on each of them but miss the most important aspect.

### **Speaking the Utterances of God**

It is the latter part of that verse (Acts 2:4) that we need to pay attention to, *"as the Spirit was giving them utterance."* Now, a purified, consumed people that speak the utterances of God. Are you seeing the depth and wisdom of God in Feast of Weeks/Pentecost? A people filled with God's Holy Spirit and speaking the utterances of God.

Let us not focus on the speaking in tongues. Do I believe in tongues for today? Absolutely, and they have their rightful place in the church today. However, it is not just the speaking in tongues, it is speaking the utterances of God on a day-to-day basis.

Greater than speaking in tongues on Sunday is speaking the utterances of God every day. This is in part what Pentecost represents. There are most likely some of you who have received poor teaching, erroneous teaching, false teaching on Acts chapter 2 Pentecost. Open up your hearts and minds to the precious Word of God and let the truth of God flood you.

Acts 2:5 *"Now there were Jews living in Jerusalem, devout men from every nation under heaven."* It was Pentecost, one of the national feasts of Israel, and so there were people from all the known nations that made a pilgrimage to Jerusalem. Many may have been there for the Passover and stayed on through Pentecost.

In the first part of Acts 2:6 *“And when this sound occurred, the crowd came together...”*

### **A Sabbath Day’s Journey**

Now here is the interesting thing about the above verse. If we look back to Acts chapter 1 verse 12 and part of 13, *“Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a Sabbath day’s journey away. When they had entered the city, they went up to the upper room where they were staying.”* What makes this verse so interesting is this: Remember a Sabbath day’s journey was a prescribed limit as to how far and long you could walk because you were to do no work on the Sabbath. You could only walk a certain distance or it would be considered work and you would be breaking the Sabbath. So there were specific distances they knew they could walk and go no further.

### **The Gates**

Look at your Bible atlas. Look at where the Mount of Olives or Olivet is and notice the closest gates. It was either the Golden Gate or Gate Beautiful. Either one leads right into the city, right next to the Temple. Therefore, the Upper Room had to be very close to the Temple because the people in the Temple are hearing this noise like a violent rushing wind.

*“And when this sound occurred, the crowd came together, and were bewildered because each one of them was hearing them speak in his own language”* (Acts 2:6).

### **The Temple**

The crowd, most likely, came right out of the Temple. Why is that so important? Because there were people in the Temple that came from all the known nations. Many travelled great distances, at great expense, and great hardship. These were people who were serious with God. Most had to be seekers of truth. So here they are, in the Temple, which the Lord said was desolate. *“Jerusalem, Jerusalem, who kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to her! How often I wanted to gather your children together, the way a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, and you were unwilling. Behold, your house is being left to you desolate!”* (Matthew 23:37&38).

But praise God a new Temple was about to arise. A Temple not desolate, but a Temple filled with the life of God, the burden of God, the Holy Spirit of God!

*“Do you not know that you are a temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you?”* (1 Corinthians 3:16).

## **Chapter 7**

### **Pentecost Enables Us To Hear**

*“And when this sound occurred, the crowd came together, and were bewildered because each one of them was hearing them speak in his own language”* (Acts 2:6).

Please take note: the amazing part about this scripture is that they are hearing. Then we look at Acts 2:9-11; what are they hearing? *“...of the mighty deeds of God.”* Brothers and sisters, this is Pentecost, this is it, *“We hear them speaking of the mighty deeds of God.”* Pentecost enables us to hear from God in a greater way.

### **Peter An Example Of The Grain Offering**

Acts 2:13 *“but others were mocking.”* There will always be the others. Verse 14, *“But Peter, taking a stand...”* What do we see here? John 12:24 *“Unless a grain of wheat falls into the ground and dies it abides alone.”* Peter becomes just like that grain offering. Remember in the Feast of Weeks, the grain offering? It is new, it is different, it is not like before, it is not like the Passover. That is what we see in Peter. All of the sudden Peter is new and different. He is unlike the Peter of old, here is a man who has now been filled with God’s Holy Spirit. And what does he do? He is not speaking in tongues, he is not walking around with fire on top of his head. Peter proclaims *“For these men are not drunk, as you suppose, for it is only the third hour of the day; but this is what was spoken of through the prophet Joel”* (Acts 2:15&16).

Peter now speaks by the revelation of the Holy Spirit and receives understanding into the writings of the minor prophet Joel. The scriptures are brought to Peter’s remembrance and brought to life. This hidden Old Testament minor prophet becomes alive to Peter. The scriptures becomes clear as never before because he is now filled with the Holy Spirit.



## **The Two Loaves**

Acts 2:21 *“And it shall be that Everyone Who Calls On The Name Of The Lord Will Be Saved.”* Everyone! The two loaves of Feast of Weeks. Not just Jew, but Jew and Gentile like the two identical loaves in Feast of Weeks. *“For He Himself is our peace, who made both groups into one and broke down the barrier of the dividing wall”* (Ephesians 2:14).

Let us look at Acts 1:8 This is the Lord speaking, *“But you will receive power,”* miraculous power, power to do what you would not think is possible, power to go through situations you would not have thought possible before the Holy Spirit came upon you. You shall be My witnesses.

### **Witnesses**

*“but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses....”* (Acts 1:8). The word ‘witnesses’ is in the legal, historical and spiritual sense. It is what you have seen, what you have heard, and what you have experienced; and also what you have been empowered to receive by the Holy Spirit. The word ‘witness’ is a Greek word, *martus*, which also means martyr. What it means is having that intensity of the faith that will carry you to the very end, whatever and whenever your end is going to be.

### **Feast of Weeks**

Pentecost is the Old Testament Feast of Weeks. *“You shall celebrate the Feast of Weeks, that is, the first fruits of the wheat harvest....”* (Exodus 34:22). It is the beginning of the harvest, the beginning of the ingathering. It is not a revival. It is the beginning of the ingathering into the Kingdom of God. An ingathering of a people that are going to be walking with a passion of purpose, that are witnesses who have an intensity of faith even to the very end.

With the fruit of Pentecost, we will no longer think as the world thinks. There is a better alternative than thinking with the natural mind. Let us be a people who think with the fullness of the Holy Spirit. Let us think and reason with a redeemed mind.

*“Peter said to them, ‘Repent, and each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit’”* (Acts 2:38).

What kind of baptism is this? Was Peter by a lake? A river? Was Peter near a huge baptismal tank that could hold three thousand people? What was happening was the baptism of the Holy Spirit. Why do we put so much emphasis on that one gift, tongues? I have seen people supposedly speak in tongues and yet by their day to day conduct I’m wondering if they’re even saved. There is nothing that takes the place of integrity, character, morality, and an intensity of faith. These are the things people need to see. Repent of your evil ways. Repent of your wrongdoing. Repent of your wrong thinking. *“Repent and each one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit”* (Acts 2:38).

What is the gift of the Holy Spirit? It is certainly salvation but it is more than that. It is an empowerment for a people to think in a heavenly way, to conduct themselves in a heavenly manner, to carry the burden of the Lord and have the ability to possess and speak the utterances of God. A people so filled with God that nothing of themselves is left. That is the Feast of Weeks’ burnt offering. When you speak, it will be as God is speaking.

This is what Pentecost represents; this is what God is looking for. Do not settle for anything less. If it is not of the Holy Spirit, it is not from the heavenly realm. Anything other than this is of the flesh or worse. Brothers and sisters, we were destined to be a people that carry the burden of the Lord, a people who speak the utterances of God.

### **Scriptural Integrity**

What is your main topic of conversation? What is your character like? Are you a man or woman of integrity? In Matthew 7:22&23, Jesus talks about people that prophecy and cast out demons, which we associate with the gifts of the Holy Spirit.

However, He says, *“I never knew you,”* you are a stranger to me. We need to get back to scriptural integrity. God’s Holy Word is the final authority. Let us be aware that the gifts of the Holy Spirit emanate from God. Carnal man may try to control it, or try to modify it for their own gains and selfish purposes, but spiritual men and women will see it for what it is, corruption.

Some ask the question why we are not seeing true miracles today. We certainly hear of the hype, the manipulation of weak and soulish people to have them falsely think they have been healed. May I even go so far as to say fraudulent miracles? You go to various countries and there are many testimonies of miracles. What is the difference between

there and here? It is pure, it is clean, and it is the legitimate work of the Holy Spirit. That is the difference. We have the head knowledge, they have the heart knowledge. We do not live like we believe it, but they do, and they see it. So much of our learning is just in our minds; it is not in our hearts. But God wants to bring back the passion. God wants to bring back the intensity. Do you think one is saved because they said a prayer? Do you think a prayer saves you? It does not. Just like water baptism, it is a matter of faith. With water baptism, if you do not believe, all you are going to do is get wet. But, if you believe, it will have a deep spiritual, everlasting impact on your life.

Acts 2:33 *"...having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, He has poured forth this which you both see and hear."*

A people who have been apprehended by the Lord, and who in return, apprehend the things of God. They will be a people that not only witness, but their very lives will be a witness. They will demonstrate the power of God to change lives and become more like Him; people will see and hear that which is being poured forth.

*"But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as from the Lord, the Spirit"* (2 Corinthians 3:18).

## Chapter 8

### The Promise

*"For the promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off, as many as the Lord our God will call to Himself"* (Acts 2:39).

The promise of salvation. The promise of knowing God in a deep and intimate way. It is God who calls you to Himself. As it says in scripture, *"We love, because He first loved us"* (1 John 4:19). Our calling is an absolute, sovereign, independent work of God. If man could somehow reach God on his own, it would not be the grace of God. But it is the grace of God!

Go back now to the people in the upper room. They were obedient to what God had spoken to them they waited, and they were focused on the Lord. That is all you have to do. Stay sensitive and be obedient to what God is speaking to you. In the book of Samuel, we find Samuel as a young boy saying *"Speak, Lord, Your servant is listening"* (1 Samuel 3:10). Let this be our confession; as He speak, we His servants, listen. Are you listening? Are your ears attuned?

Matthew 3:11 *"He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire."*

You will be purified; you will be made into a vessel of God. You will be consumed by God and you will eat, drink, and sleep God. You will always carry the burden of the Lord. That is the true Pentecostal experience. This will become the most important thing in your life. Then, as God apprehends your life and has His way, you are not going to be focusing on the tongues of fire. You are not going to see or imagine all the things that the immature or spiritually stunted look for. But, in a quiet fashion that is pleasing to your God, you will carry the burden of the Lord wherever you go. Because of what was started at Pentecost, you will be a person who speaks the utterances of God! Because God will be in you and you will be filled with Him.

*"and to know the love of Christ which surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled up to all the fullness of God"* (Ephesians 3:19).

Imagine that; filled with the fullness of God. There will be nothing left of you for anything else. This is what Pentecost is, the beginning, the first fruits of something that is going to come. The maturing of the fruit, the maturing of the saints. When you are filled with the fullness of God, you will have spiritual discernment in all things. You need not fear anything because God will speak to you. God will confirm. You will know. The scriptures will become alive and you will be the ones who know that the steps of a good man or woman are ordered by the Lord. There is no substitute for the true baptism in the Holy Spirit. There is none.

Unless we get back to the Biblical roots of our faith, we are prone to vain imaginations and we will be, *"...tossed here and there by waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, by craftiness in deceitful scheming"* (Ephesians 4:14).

There must be an absolute intensity of faith that is birthed forth in the church today. The same that was birthed in the early church at Pentecost. Let us reject things that are lesser and live for God's highest and best.

I want us to be a fully functioning part of God's church where we are consumed by the fire of God (the burnt offering). Let us go forth and say, "Lord, baptize me afresh. Fill me with your Holy Spirit, consume me God, that I may speak the utterances of God, let me carry your burden." This is the fulfillment of Feast of Weeks, Acts chapter 2, Pentecost.

## Chapter 9

### Being Filled With The Holy Spirit Leads To Boldness

Let us explore these two sections of scripture.

*"When they had placed them in the center, they began to inquire, 'By what power, or in what name, have you done this?' Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them...." (Acts 4:7&8).*

*"He is the STONE WHICH WAS REJECTED by you, THE BUILDERS, but WHICH BECAME THE CHIEF CORNER stone. "And there is salvation in no one else; for there is no other name under heaven that has been given among men by which we must be saved" (Acts 4:11&12).*

Peter and John were before Annas and Caiaphas and others of the high priestly descent. They could have been intimidated as when Peter denied the Lord. But this is a new Peter, a different Peter, once again just like the grain offering in the Feast of Weeks.

Look at the boldness of Peter. He quotes the essence of Psalm 118:22, *"He is the STONE WHICH WAS REJECTED by you, THE BUILDERS, but WHICH BECAME THE CHIEF CORNER stone."* Peter cites them as the ones who have rejected their Messiah. Being filled with the Holy Spirit leads to a boldness. There are times when boldness is needed. There are times when things need to be said plainly and addressed in an unvarnished, direct way. This boldness rises up within our spirit. It is beyond ourselves, it is the boldness of the Holy Spirit.

### Being Filled With The Holy Spirit Leads To Joy

*"But the Jews incited the devout women of prominence and the leading men of the city, and instigated a persecution against Paul and Barnabas, and drove them out of their district. But they shook off the dust of their feet in protest against them and went to Iconium. And the disciples were continually filled with joy and with the Holy Spirit" (Acts 13:50-52).*

First, let us understand that when scriptures like this refer to *"the Jews"* the scriptures are not referring to a race, but to an example of religious people unaccepting of the Christ. This would be equivalent to people today who may be church attendees but have never been born again. These people can even be antagonistic to the cross. *"holding to a form of godliness, although they have denied its power; Avoid such men as these" (2 Timothy 3:5).*

Secondly, despite the persecution and being driven out, all the disciples including Paul and Barnabas, were *"filled with joy and with the Holy Spirit."* This type of joy is not earthly or temporal. This type of joy is not derived from pleasant events to the natural man. This is altogether different; this joy is based on knowing you are doing the will of God regardless of what the earthly outcome may be.

### Being Filled With The Holy Spirit Affects Others

*"And do not get drunk with wine, for that is dissipation, but be filled with the Spirit," (Ephesians 5:18).*

Wine symbolizes the intoxicants of the world. However, we are to be a pure people sold out to God. Wine is used as a means of escape. Many people use the intoxicants of the world to drown out sorrows and try to escape from their aimless spiritually bankrupt lives.

*"dissipation"* is a physical and, in this case, a spiritual gradual loss of energy not noticed immediately. Think of your car battery. Slowly diminishing until one day it will not be able to start your car. A slight and almost imperceptible loss until the power is gone.

*"...but be filled with the Spirit."* Thayer's Lexicon states it like this: to fill to the top, so that nothing shall be wanting. Continually immersed, continuously filled with the Holy Spirit.

The intoxicants of this world, for there are many things out there that can cause dissipation. To counteract this we need to allow ourselves and place ourselves in the rightful position so that we are filled with God's Holy Spirit each day.

The results of being filled? We speak *"to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody with your heart to the Lord; always giving thanks for all things in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to God, even the Father; and be subject to one another in the fear of Christ"* (Ephesians 5:19-21).

Our soulish man begins to align itself to the way God intends for us to live. We start speaking differently, acting differently, thinking differently. There is a greater awareness of God in our midst and God in our life. We are affected in every area of our life and we affect others as well. Being continuously filled with the Holy Spirit means:

### **The Holy Spirit Makes Us Better Husbands And Wives**

*“Wives, be subject to your own husbands, as to the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife, as Christ also is the head of the church, He Himself being the Savior of the body. But as the church is subject to Christ, so also the wives ought to be to their husbands in everything. Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself up for her, so that He might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, that He might present to Himself the church in all her glory, having no spot or wrinkle or any such thing; but that she would be holy and blameless. So husbands ought also to love their own wives as their own bodies. He who loves his own wife loves himself; for no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as Christ also does the church, because we are members of His body. FOR THIS REASON A MAN SHALL LEAVE HIS FATHER AND MOTHER AND SHALL BE JOINED TO HIS WIFE, AND THE TWO SHALL BECOME ONE FLESH”* (Ephesians 5:22-31).

Look at what else is positively affected from Feast of Weeks/Pentecost. The relationships between parents and children as found in Ephesians 6:1-4. The relationships between workers and employers as found in Ephesians 6:5-9.

### **According To The Proportion Of His Faith**

*“Since we have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, each of us is to exercise them accordingly: if prophecy, according to the proportion of his faith”* (Romans 12:6).

*“proportion”* the Greek word is used only here in the New Testament. It is a math ratio. This scripture makes it clear we all have gifts and they vary. Therefore, the releasing of your gift is in direct proportion to your faith. Are you persuaded that God has more for you?

*“gifts”* it is the Greek word charisma from the root charis- grace. In other words they are gifts of grace. *“Since we have gifts that differ.”* Pentecost enables us to possess these grace gifts as the Holy Spirit desires. *“But to each one is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good”* (1 Corinthians 12:7).

*“the common good”* From the Greek sumphero- means to bear or bring together. To bring the church together. Far from the earthly, motivated, ecumenical movement where there may have limited agreement with one another. Now, because we can be a people filled with and sensitive to the Holy

Spirit, our agreement is with the throne of God. Each individual is in agreement with the throne which means we are in agreement with each other. The true church is strengthened and others are harvested. Feast of Weeks/Pentecost.

*“but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth”* (Acts 1:8).

Feast of Weeks/Pentecost leads to the final ingathering found in the Feast of Booths, also referred to as Tabernacles. As we have been harvested, so let us be part of the harvest as well.

*“...This is the word of the LORD to Zerubbabel saying, ‘Not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit,’ says the LORD of hosts”* (Zechariah 4:6).

Feast of Weeks (Old Testament), Pentecost (New Testament), the birthing of the church, the infilling of God’s people with the Holy Spirit giving them the ability to hear and speak forth the utterances of God and empowered to do His will.

That is our portion. Let us not settle for anything less than God’s highest and best. Praise God and glorify His name!

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*“From everyone who has been given much, much will be required.”* (Luke 12:48)