

# Pentecost Sunday

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Pentecost Sunday

2 Corinthians 3.4-18

Pentecost Sunday is the date set apart by the church to celebrate the coming of the Holy Spirit upon the church. It occurs 50 days after Easter. Pentecost began as a Jewish festival known by multiple names including the Feast of the Harvest, the Feast of Weeks and the Feast of First Fruits. Faithful Jews brought a tithe of the first fruits of their harvest to the Temple in Jerusalem 50 days after Passover. If the first fruits were good the harvest promised to be even better. The first Christians combined these two things: the coming of the Spirit and the celebration of first fruits almost from the start (see Rom. 8.22-23; 2 Thess. 2.13).

The greatest promise of the Hebrew prophets was that God will one day visit His people and pour His Spirit out on them.

- If you've ever sensed faith stirring in you, you've encountered the Holy Spirit
- If you've ever heard God speak to you, you've heard the Holy Spirit
- If you've ever had that sense, maybe during worship or communion or a baptism, of a presence, it was the Holy Spirit
  
- The Holy Spirit is God with us
- The Holy Spirit IS THE EXPERIENCE OF GOD
- The Holy Spirit guides us, answers our prayers, speaks to us, kneads character into our souls and spiritually empowers us
- The Holy Spirit lives in the church, the people of God.

Verses 4-6:

- Paul's competence came from the Spirit.
- He is the minister of the New Covenant built on faith.
- Faith is jumping into grace and encountering the Holy Spirit.

Verses 7-8:

- The Israelites hid from the glory of God / the presence of God / the

Holy Spirit by means of a veil on Moses's face.

- If that ministry had glory, won't the ministry of the Spirit have even more?

Verses 9-11:

- The ministry of the Spirit is more glorious because it brings God's righteousness.

Verses 12-18:

- When you turn to the Lord, the Spirit of God gives you full access to God and the freedom to obey.
- As we "jump" by faith we are transformed into the image of Christ.

"For through the Spirit we eagerly await by faith the righteousness for which we hope." Galatians 5:5