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Holy Spirit

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of different languages as the Spirit prompted them." Acts 2:3-4

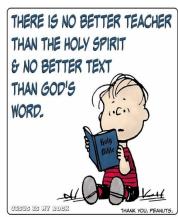


What is Pentecost? Is it important? For most of us, it is a day when we wear something red when we go to church and it has something to do with fire or a flame and wind. That is usually about the extent of it. However it should be much more than that to us. We can choose to think about it on the historical details or think about the overall message of how important the happenings are to us today. This was not just done for those people present at that time, it was done for us today, and we can sometimes ruin the God-given message by getting involved in unimportant details.

Pentecost was an initial harvest feast and the Jews were to offer to the Lord the first fruits of the new grain. The Pentecost we honor today was the beginning of the church. It was the day of a wonderful gift – the Holy Spirit. After the resurrection of Christ he spent forty days with the disciples and others preparing them for the task ahead. At the end of that time he met with the apostles again in the upper room and told them they "must wait for what the Father promised: the promise you heard from me. John baptized in water; you will be baptized in the Holy Spirit. And soon." Acts 1-5.

Then . . . "When the Feast of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. Without warning there was a sound like a strong wind, gale force no one could tell where it came from. It filled the whole building. Then, like a wildfire, the Holy Spirit spread through their ranks, and they started speaking in a number of different languages as the Spirit prompted them." Acts 2:1-4 They were startled to say the least. Many Jews were in Jerusalem at that time and devout pilgrims from all over the known world. Suddenly, they heard people speaking in their native tongues. They questioned how these Galileans could know their various mother tongues. Some said they were drunk, but they weren't just babbling, they were actually speaking a language the people recognized as their mother tongue.

Peter told the people that Joel had spoken of this in the Old Testament and told them that the Spirit would come to all people and great things would happen. He re-enforced that Jesus the Nazarene was part of this whole experience. He quoted David from the Psalms when David knew he was one of God's people.



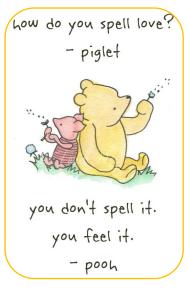
Thousands believed Peter and together they all started meeting together and eating together. They began to sell what they had so the poor could eat. They celebrat-

ed and praised God together. This was the beginning of the church and its mission is still the same today.

In Ezekiel the people are promised "Moreover, I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; and I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh." Ezekiel 36:26 Essentially, the meaning of Pentecost is God's equipping us, His church, with the power of His Spirit so that He will be glorified among the nations. We have been given everything we need. We just need to recognize it and use it to His glory.

Many writers have spoken of this time of miracles. We cannot understand because we do not have the mind of God. We don't have to speak in tongues. Many people today have learned a new tongue so they can go to the mission field and tell people about their Christ. We only have to have the wind, which we cannot see, move our hearts as it does the trees and the fire to purify our hearts as it does fine gold when the dross is burned away. Then we can receive the Holy Spirit and follow in the footsteps of the early church

people who sold their goods to help others as they spread the Word of God to all nations.



We have often heard the expression "If we could only light a fire under them" when we want to get someone to be more active. Pentecost lit a fire under the people who received the Holy Spirit so they would

spread God's Word. Sometimes it seems like we need to light the fire again! We have a wonderful message to tell to the world.

"Pass It On" is a well-known campfire song originally sung in the 1940's but still very popular today among Christian youth.

"In the last days, God says, 'I will pour out my Spirit upon all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy. Your young men will see visions, and your old men will dream dreams. In those days I will pour out my Spirit even on my servants—men and women alike—and they will prophesy."

(Acts 2:17-18; Joel 2:28-29)

## PASS IT ON

by Kurt Kaiser

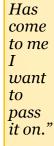
"It only takes a spark to get a fire going And soon all those around can warm up to its glowing
That's how it is with God's love
Once you've experienced it
You spread your love to everyone
You want to pass it on

What a wondrous time is spring when all the trees are budding
The birds begin to sing, the flowers start their blooming
That's how it is with God's love
Once you've experienced it
You want to sing, it's fresh like spring
You want to pass it on

I wish for you my friend, this happiness that I've found You can depend on it, it matters not where you're bound I'll shout it from the mountain tops I want the world to know The joy of friends has come to me I want to pass it on

## Chorus:

I'll shout it from the mountain top
I want the world to know
The Lord of Love





Prayer: Father, You are so awesome and yet we take all your gifts for granted each day. Help us to realize that we have the Holy Spirit in us each day because you sacrificed your life for us. Help us to keep the fire of salvation burning and help spread it to all we know so they may have the same peace and promise that we have. Amen

- 1. What is the "Holy "Spirit"?
- 2. How can we keep the fire burning?
- 3. Do we as Christians who have received God's love have an obligation to tell others? How?
- 4. In the quote from A.A. Milne, there is an exchange between Piglet and Pooh. What does it mean in your words?
- 5. Can you think of other literature that helps spread God's Word?

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