

Introduction:

- Funnies:
 - Have you ever considered: Adam and Eve only got clothes after they sinned. Which means laundry is a result of the fall.
 - Have you ever sang the song, Jesus take the Wheel...and suddenly you feel like you are off road-ing?
 - Who is the smartest man in the Bible? Abraham he knew a Lot.
 - Mildred, the church gossip, and self-appointed monitor of the church's morals, kept sticking her nose into other people's business. Several members did not approve of her extra curricular activities, but feared her enough to maintain their silence. She made a mistake, however, when she accused Frank, a new member, of being an alcoholic after she saw his old pickup parked in front of the town's only bar one afternoon. She emphatically told Frank (and several others) that every one seeing it there "WOULD KNOW WHAT HE WAS DOING!" Frank, a man of few words, stared at her for a moment and just turned and walked away. He didn't explain, defend, or deny. He said nothing. Later that evening, Frank quietly parked his pickup in front of Mildred's house... Walked home... and left it there all night.
- Pentecost is the birth of the church! This morning I want us to see the foundation of Pentecost. The Preparation for Pentecost and Receiving the Gift of Pentecost.
- Foundations are critical whether you are building a sand castle, house or multilayer cake.
 - Many times we do not know at the time of learning or doing that we are actually having foundation laid in our lives that will affect us in the future. Can a child learning to read ever grasp his future activity because he learned to read? Does that child realize that in all his learning to read he would one day have access to a whole realm of life that can only be experienced through reading?
 - Those simple tasks of spelling, reading, adding, subtracting, multiplying become critical to later life experience. So it is with so much of what we learn in God's Word. The OT becomes a shadow of the reality of the new. Lets begin by looking at the Foundation of Pentecost.

I. The Foundation of Pentecost

- A. What is Pentecost built upon? That is a good question.
 1. God seems to always build upon that which He has done in the past. The past becomes a shadow/'a type' of the reality of where He is going in redemption's history.
 2. The Passover was a huge event in the life of Israel. A yearly celebration/feast of the deliverance of Israel from the hands of the Egyptians through the blood of the lamb.
 3. The NT Passover celebration is a continuance of what God has done but with a sense of completion in Christ Jesus. Jesus became the Passover Lamb! Jesus delivers all who believe. Passover became a literal picture of what God was doing in the lives of people in its fullest sense.
 4. Pentecost is no different. If you want to know what Pentecost is about we have to also look at the feast or celebration that it is based upon is about. That feast is called Shavuot. Feast of weeks.

- B. Shavuot means weeks and is the celebration of the giving of the law of Moses at Mount Sinai. The law given to empower the people of Israel. We do not always see the law as such but as Christians we are taught the law is bad...and it is if you trust it for your salvation.
1. It celebrates the 7 week counting period of the Omer. It begins each night with the Shema - *“Listen, O Israel! The Lord is our God, the Lord alone. And you must love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your strength.”* (Deuteronomy 6:4-5, NLT)
 - a) This sets the tone for encountering God daily. The law was given that people might love well. Love fulfills the law. Love is the result of faith in God’s promises. It was not about works but about obedience out of faith.
 - b) *“The exodus was a sign that God would take care of Israel in the future. Therefore, the exodus was the foundation of Israel’s faith. And this faith is the basis of the law. The law of Moses simply spells out the way Israelites will live if they genuinely feel their future is secure in God. You don’t steal if your future is secure in God. You can’t abuse others for self-gain by killing or lying or seducing another’s spouse or dishonoring your parents, if you really believe the God is at work to give you the future that is best for you. All these sins come from not believing God. The law is a description of the obedience of faith; it is not a job description for how to earn the wages of God’s blessings.”* John Piper, Why The Law Was Given.
 2. The Omer was presented and a 7 week nightly watching for the giving of the law began. *“From the day after the Sabbath—the day you bring the bundle of grain to be lifted up as a special offering—count off seven full weeks. Keep counting until the day after the seventh Sabbath, fifty days later. Then present an offering of new grain to the Lord.”* (Leviticus 23:15-16, NLT)
 - a) These verses command us to count seven weeks from the time that the omer, the new barley offering.
 - b) We begin our count on the second night of Passover (the night of the second Seder in the Diaspora) and continue until Shavuot, which is the fiftieth day after the offering.
 3. Shavuot is also the celebration of the wheat harvest and the ripening of the first fruits. Feast of weeks or feast of first fruits! Interesting that 3000 are born again on the day of Pentecost! *“The church then had peace ... and it became stronger as the believers lived in the fear of the Lord. And with the encouragement of the Holy Spirit, it also grew in numbers.”* (Acts 9:31, NLT)
 4. Pentecost is the celebration of the giving of the Holy Spirit 50 days after passover.
 5. The book of Ruth is often read. Ruth, Naomi, Boaz. Jew, Gentile and kinsman redeemer.
- C. The significance of 50
1. 50 means fullness and power! Priest were to be ages 30-50. Luke 16:6 Man owed 100 gallons of oil. Made it 50 (completion of the debt.)
 2. Jesus was the first fruits presented to the Father symbolizing that there was a great harvest to follow! *“Don’t cling to me,” Jesus said, “for I haven’t yet ascended to the Father. But go find my brothers and tell them, ‘I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.’”* (John 20:17, NLT) Also Rev 1:5 ‘first born from the dead.’

3. Fifty also symbolizes deliverance or freedom from a burden. God commanded ancient Israel that every 50th year, on the Day of Atonement, that a Jubilee was to be declared with the sound of a trumpet (Leviticus 25).
4. During the Jubilee year ALL debts were settled in favor of the debtor and inheritances were returned to their rightful owners. Also, those who worked as slave laborers in order to repay a debt were granted their freedom to return home to their families and land.

D. Implications

1. Pentecost is God's intervention in a wonderful and powerful way regarding our relationship with Him. Faith expressing itself through love! Gal 5:6
2. Shavuot was a celebration of the giving of the law. The law revealed God heart for His people. The law was not bad! It was God given to the people in written word. Jesus did not abolish the law. It was meant to give life, prosperity, healing and protection to a nation.
3. Pentecost is the giving of the Spirit! God living in every part of our lives.
4. Jesus was the first fruits from the dead. Rev 1:5
5. We are that harvest of souls delivered from darkness and now filled with the presence of God
6. Pentecost is the giving of the Spirit! God living in every part of our lives.
7. The Kingdom was given to man through the law. The Spirit put that law in our hearts.

II. The Preparation for Pentecost

- A. Jesus lead in preparation of the Feast of Weeks. *"In my first book I told you, Theophilus, about **everything Jesus began to do and teach until the day he was taken up to heaven** after giving his chosen apostles further instructions through the Holy Spirit. During the forty days after he suffered and died, he appeared to the apostles from time to time, and he proved to them in many ways that he was actually alive. And he talked to them about the Kingdom of God." (Acts 1:1-3, NLT) Jesus was with them 40 days.*
 1. From the time Jesus appeared to the 12 and others he continued to teach and to do. Remember, during the feast people were to highly study the law (first 5 books of Bible) in preparation of the Feast of Weeks. Sometimes that meant study all night long.
 2. Jesus would start with the Shema - *"**Listen, O Israel! The Lord is our God, the Lord alone. And you must love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your strength.**" (Deuteronomy 6:4-5, NLT) It was preparing their hearts for encounter with God. What would change in our lives if we declared every day the Shema with a One God understanding in a culture of many gods wanting us to co-exist.*
 3. He appeared to them from time to time. Again, it was to prove He was real, that He was alive and that He was the fulfillment of scripture.
 4. He proved to them in many ways that he was alive. Τεκμηριον - "In a number of languages 'convincing proof' is rendered as 'that which causes one to know for sure' or '... with certainty.'" Louw, J. P., & Nida, E. A. (1996). *Greek-English lexicon of the New Testament: based on semantic domains* (electronic ed. of the 2nd edition., Vol. 1, p. 339). New York: United Bible Societies.

5. He taught them about the Kingdom. They had to understand the 'invasion of God' that was about to occur in their lives.
- B. The 120 prepare. Jesus had been with them 40 day. And 10 days later (50) we have Pentecost. In those 10 days the disciples prepare.
 1. *"They all met together and were constantly united in prayer, along with Mary the mother of Jesus, several other women, and the brothers of Jesus. During this time, when about 120 believers were together in one place, Peter stood up and addressed them."* (Acts 1:14-15, NLT)
 - a) They were obedient to what Jesus instructed. They returned and went to their room.
 - b) They met together.
 - c) They were constantly united in prayer.
 - d) They studied the law and prophets - this is where Peter got his message about Judas and the addition of the 12th disciple. Acts 1:15-26.
- C. Scriptural example: believe on the Lord Jesus, seeking God in prayer, hungering for more...
 1. 120 were praying and believing for what Jesus promised.
 2. Acts 8, Samaria hears the Word of God, receives the Word of God, and are hungry for more. Peter and John lay hands on them and they receive the Holy Spirit.
 3. Acts 9, Paul has encounter with Jesus. Wants to know more. Ananias comes...
 4. Acts 10 Cornelius was a devout man, gave to poor and was a man of prayer. He communion with God.
 5. The feast of Weeks was about 49 days to seeking God, studying the Word and believing for more in celebration of the giving of the law.

III. The Receiving of Pentecost

- A. Every thing that we receive from God comes via...by faith.
 1. *"But when you ask him, be sure that your faith is in God alone. Do not waver, for a person with divided loyalty is as unsettled as a wave of the sea that is blown and tossed by the wind."* (James 1:6, NLT)
 2. Read Hebrews 11. The constant in that chapter is *"By Faith..."*
 3. *"God saved you by his grace when you believed. And you can't take credit for this; it is a gift from God."* (Ephesians 2:8, NLT)
- B. You should ask to receive the Holy Spirit.
 1. James the apostle was the one who said, *"You have not because you ask not."*
 2. Asking is basic to receiving.
- C. Know that the Holy Spirit is a Gift given to the believer. Father wants us to have His gift!
 1. *"So if you sinful people know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him."* (Luke 11:13, NLT)
 2. *"Peter replied, "Each of you must repent of your sins and turn to God, and be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. Then you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. This promise is to you, to your children, and to those far away—all who have been called by the Lord our God."* (Acts 2:38-39, NLT)

3. "Even as Peter was saying these things, the Holy Spirit fell upon all who were listening to the message. The Jewish believers who came with Peter were amazed that the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out on the Gentiles, too." (Acts 10:44-45, NLT)
 4. "And since God gave these Gentiles the same gift he gave us when we believed in the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I to stand in God's way?" (Acts 11:17, NLT)
 5. "Through Christ Jesus, God has blessed the Gentiles with the same blessing he promised to Abraham, so that we who are believers might receive the promised Holy Spirit through faith." (Galatians 3:14, NLT)
- D. Because you receive you experience the Holy Spirit.
1. "The Holy Spirit is a fact of experience not a fact of doctrine." John Piper. It is so clear in scripture that the early church received something that made them way different from the rest!
 2. The very term "baptized in the Holy Spirit" (1:5; 11:16) implies an immersion into the life of the Spirit. John the Baptist was clear: "John immersed in water; you will be immersed in the Spirit."
 3. The resulting experience was power to witness and power to live the christian life.
 4. Every where in Acts you see the Holy Spirit there is nothing quiet or subconscious about it. Things are being stirred up!

Conclusion:

- Don't be afraid to receive.
 - I find it strange that people are so fearful of receiving from God.
 - Explain receiving.
- Pray for people to receive the Holy Spirit and be release to pray in tongues.