

LESSON #92 – PENTECOST

Acts 2:1-47

Were the disciples brave and strong? Were they smarter than any other men in the world? No! They were weak and afraid. Remember how they had run away when Jesus was arrested and had hid themselves and locked the doors so the Jews would not get them. They were just people like you and like me. But God had some wonderful plans for them. What made them special was going to get them ready to serve Him. He was going to change them from weak and frightened men to strong and brave men with more wisdom than the whole world had. How would He do it?

We have already seen what Jesus had promised to do to make His disciples ready to serve Him and to be His witnesses. He had promised to send His Holy Spirit. The disciples were gathered together into one place and there were a few other believers there with them. They had chosen another man, named Matthias, to take the place of Judas who had killed himself. It had been ten days since Jesus had ascended into heaven. He had told them to stay in Jerusalem until they received power from above. The disciples did not know exactly what He meant but they obeyed Him. Suddenly, as they were all there in one place, a sound like the blowing of a strong wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. Then they saw what seemed to be tongues of fire above each of their heads. And they began to speak in other language which they had not known before.

When some of the Jews heard the sound they came to where the disciples were and they heard them speaking in their own languages. They could not believe what they were hearing. These men were from Galilee but they were speaking all sorts of languages so that everyone could understand what they were saying. Some people made fun of them and said that they must have had too much to drink and they must be drunk. But then Peter stood up; this same Peter who had been so afraid that he had denied Jesus three times; he now stood up and shouted above the noise of the crowd until they became quiet. He explained to them that they were not drunk but that this was what God had promised a long, long time ago. In fact, a prophet named Joel, who had lived more than seven hundred years before Jesus, had predicted that God would pour out His Holy Spirit and that during those days everyone who called on the name of the Lord would be saved! Now was the time of salvation from sin!

Then Peter began to preach to the huge crowd of people who had now gathered. He told them that Jesus of Nazareth was shown by God to be His Son. He did miracles, wonders and signs. And He was crucified by wicked men but it was all according to God's plan. And God raised Him from the dead. Peter told the people that Jesus was now in heaven at the right hand of God, that all power belonged to Him, and that He was now pouring out His Holy Spirit. Yes, Jesus was the Savior and He was also Lord so that everyone must listen to His words if they would be saved from God's anger against sin.

Some of the people were very frightened when they heard Peter speak. They had crucified Jesus. What would God do to them? But now we see how God answered the prayer of Jesus on the cross, "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do." Many of the Jews did not understand who Jesus was when they shouted, "Crucify Him!" They asked now what they must do to be saved? Peter told them to turn from their sins, to be sorry and be baptized and God would forgive them. By being baptized they would show that they believed in Jesus. About three thousand people were baptized that day. These people spent much time together, reading the Bible and praying. They loved Jesus for what He had done for them and they believed in Him!

Memory Verse: "And you will be My witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." – Acts 1:8.

Application: If God's Spirit is in you YOU will be His witness too!

LESSON #92 – PENTECOST

Acts 2:1-47

During the last three years, you have had one of the greatest privileges and honors in the world; you have been able to study God's Word. You have seen how God created man and how man sinned against God. You have seen how God made His covenant of Grace with Abraham, promising to send a Savior and to bring His kingdom to earth. You learned how God chose the people of Israel and how they turned against God time after time and how God punished their sin. All the while God promised that He would keep His Covenant of Grace. The Savior would come who would take away the sins of His people. God would give His people a new heart by pouring out His Holy Spirit. Listen to these words which the prophet Joel spoke some seven hundred years before the birth of Jesus, "I will pour out my Spirit on all people....and everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved."

God had done all of this so that the Gospel of Jesus Christ might be preached all over the world. You have been studying about Jesus, His life, death and resurrection. Now He has ascended into heaven, but that is only the beginning. Now it is the work of the Church to take that wonderful message of forgiveness and eternal life to the world. You are a part of God's plan. You are called to serve Him. Let's learn in the coming lessons how God began the Church which all true believers are a part of.

It had been ten days since Jesus had ascended into heaven. Jesus had told them to stay in Jerusalem until they received the power of the Holy Spirit. They were all gathered together in one place. There were eleven disciples now since Judas had betrayed Jesus and then hung himself. There were about one hundred and twenty people who believed at this time in Jerusalem. God showed them that He wanted them to have another disciple so that there would be twelve again. After they had prayed, God showed them that it should be a man named Matthias, so he became the twelfth disciple. He had also followed Jesus, and had seen Him do many miracles and had heard Him teach.

Now, as they were gathered together, they heard a sound like the blowing of a hard wind. It seemed to fill the whole house where they were sitting. Then they saw what looked like tongues of fire above each of the disciples' heads. At once, they began to speak in other languages. The Holy Spirit had come upon them.

Some of the Jews heard the sound too, and they came running to where the disciples were. There was soon a great crowd there, people from many different places. These people spoke different languages because they were from different countries. Many people visited the city of Jerusalem to buy and sell things or to visit the temple. When they heard the disciples, some people thought that they were drunk, but Peter spoke up and told them that this was what the prophet Joel had predicted. It was the Holy Spirit!

Then Peter began to preach about Jesus to the crowd. All of the people could understand what Peter was saying. He told them that Jesus, the man who had been crucified, had been the Son of God. Peter said that evil and wicked men had crucified Jesus; but that it was all part of God's plan to save His chosen people from their sins. He told them that Jesus had risen from the dead and God had made Him Lord over all things.

The people were frightened. They had seen Jesus. They had known Him. They had shouted to crucify Him! They said to Peter and the others, "Brothers, what must we do?" Peter replied, "Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ so that your sins may be forgiven. You will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit." This was the message of the Gospel. You must be sorry for your sins, and you must want to be forgiven and to stop sinning by now believing in Jesus. You must start living for Him. By being baptized they would show that they believed that God had chosen them to be His people, and that their sins were forgiven because of what Jesus had done. About three thousand people believed that day and were baptized.

Pentecost (Continued)

Name: _____ Date: _____

MEMORY VERSE

“This is what was spoken by the prophet Joel: ‘In the last days, God said, I will pour out my Spirit on all people!’”
– Acts 2:16-17

APPLICATION

Even before the disciples received the Holy Spirit, they were gathered together praying to God. You have seen how Jesus used the power of prayer to resist temptation and to receive strength from God. You must do the same. The message of the Gospel calls you to be sorry for your sins. Are you sorry when you hear how Jesus suffered for sinners; for you?! If you believe in Him, you can know that your sins are forgiven, and then you are free to serve Jesus out of love and thankfulness and by the power of His Holy Spirit for, lo, He is with you!

QUESTIONS

Fill in the blanks with the words at the bottom.

1. The greatest privilege and honor that anyone can ever have is to be able to read and study the _____.
2. All through the Old Testament and in the life of Jesus, we have seen God working to keep the promises which He made to Abraham in the _____.
3. The work of Jesus did not end when He ascended into heaven. He had promised that He would build His _____, and the gates of hell would not be able to destroy it!
4. There were about _____ believers in Jerusalem before the day of Pentecost.
5. God showed the disciples that they should choose another man to be the twelfth disciple, and his name was _____.
6. When the Holy Spirit came upon the disciples, it sounded as though a strong _____ had filled the house where they were gathered.
7. Jews and people from many different countries came to see what the noise was. When they heard the disciples speaking, they could all hear them in their different _____.
8. The Jews made fun of them and said that they were drunk, but Peter told them that this is what the prophet _____ had predicted.
9. After a large crowd had gathered, Peter began to preach to them about _____.
10. God worked in the hearts of many of the people, and they became sorry for their sins, and _____ and were baptized in the name of the Jesus.

Covenant of Grace
repented
church
Joel

wind
120
languages

Jesus
Bible
Matthias

LESSON #92 – THE RESURRECTION OF JESUS

Read Matt. 28:1-15; Mark 16:1-9; Luke 24:1-12; John 20:1-9

“Your sadness will be turned to joy!” That is what Jesus had told the disciples. How many times had Jesus told them that He must suffer and die but that he would rise again the third day?! Without the resurrection Jesus would have been a liar. He would not have been our Savior. By His resurrection Jesus assures us of His power over death and therefore assures us that we, too, will be raised up. By His resurrection Jesus truly becomes the Head of the Church for He is the “first-born” of those who will be raised to new life. For the Christian this promise does not even have to wait for death. We can already see in our hearts the new life which comes by the work of the Holy Spirit. It is not our own efforts which make us different than other people who do not believe, but the work of God’s Spirit. The Bible says that those who share in this first, spiritual resurrection are blessed because they will also rise again as Jesus did to live in the presence of God forever!

QUESTIONS

1. What day is the first day of the week? _____
2. Who were the first ones to go to the tomb? _____
 Why did they go there? _____
3. According to Matthew, what happened before they got there? _____
4. What did the women find when they got to the tomb? _____
5. Who spoke to them? _____
 What did he say? _____
6. According to Luke what did the angel remind them of? _____
7. Where did the women go after they left the tomb? _____
 What was their reaction? _____
8. Who got up and ran to the tomb? _____
9. What did Peter and John believe after entering the tomb and seeing that the body of Jesus was gone? _____

10. What did they not understand? _____
11. Whom did the guards tell about what had happened? _____
12. What did they decide to do? _____
13. Did anyone believe their story? _____
 Does anybody believe it today? _____
 Why? (Read Romans 11:25) _____

QUESTION TO THINK ABOUT

Was the stone moved so Jesus could rise from the dead?