

The Harvest begins

# Jewish Feasts

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    - Celebrate through first fruits
  - Tabernacles
    - Celebrate the entire harvest - “season of our joy”

# Connection to Christianity

- Passover - Last Supper/Good Friday/Easter
- Pentecost - Birth of the Church
- Tabernacles - Jesus revealing His role as Light to Gentiles and Living Water for all

# Events leading up to

- Resurrection and appearances
- Return to Galilee
- Ascension in Bethany
  - Don't leave Jerusalem without gift
  - Baptism of the Holy Spirit
  - With that baptism comes power

## Acts 1:8

“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you. And you will be my witnesses, telling people about me everywhere —in Jerusalem, throughout Judea, in Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”

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# Waiting is hard, but necessary

- Time must be right
- Circumstances must be right
- We must be right
  - Waiting in faith versus waiting in fear
  - Waiting in belief versus waiting in doubt
  - Waiting in wonder versus waiting in despair

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# Isaiah knew waiting was hard

“Look up into the heavens. Who created all the stars? He brings them out like an army, one after another, calling each by its name. Because of his great power and incomparable strength, not a single one is missing. O Jacob, how can you say the Lord does not see your troubles? O Israel, how can you say God ignores your rights? Have you never heard? Have you never understood? The Lord is the everlasting God, the Creator of all the earth. He never grows weak or weary. No one can measure the depths of his understanding...”

# Isaiah knew waiting was hard

“He gives power to the weak and strength to the powerless. Even youths will become weak and tired, and young men will fall in exhaustion. But those who trust in (wait on) the Lord will find new strength. They will soar high on wings like eagles. They will run and not grow weary. They will walk and not faint.”

*-Isaiah 40: 26-31*

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- They chose to wait and believe
- Those chose to wait and anticipate
- They chose to wait and proceed

And on the day of Pentecost...

- They were ready



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- They were ready to be poured out vessels

# And God shows up...

“On the day of Pentecost all the believers were meeting together in one place. Suddenly, there was a sound from heaven like the roaring of a mighty windstorm, and it filled the house where they were sitting. Then, what looked like flames or tongues of fire appeared and settled on each of them. And everyone present was filled with the Holy Spirit and began speaking in other languages, as the Holy Spirit gave them this ability...” Acts 2:1-4

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  - All knew it was happening to others as well
- It was radical and miraculous
  - And all believed it was from God



# God is on display

- Others rush in to see what caused commotion  
“And we all hear these people speaking in our own languages about the wonderful things God has done!” They stood there amazed and perplexed. “What can this mean?” they asked each other.” Acts 2:11-12

# Spiritual process

- Death
  - Of Christ
  - Of self with Christ
  - Of self to purpose of Christ

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- New Life

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- The Glory of God was not just in the different languages spoken



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- The Glory of God was also in the opportunity to witness of His love and sacrifice
  - Imagine the wonder of that!
- The Glory of God was also in the opportunity for each person who did not understand the gospel to hear it presented in a way they could understand
  - Imagine the wonder of that!

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- The waiting brought about the opportunity to proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ
- The first fruits of my waiting is that I can share in a way that someone who does not know Him will understand

# The result of Pentecost

- Of those who rushed in, many were able to hear the Gospel presented by Peter

“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, and to your children, and even to the Gentiles — all who have been called by the Lord our God.”

The response was tremendous...

“Those who believed what Peter said were baptized and added to the church that day—about 3,000 in all.”

24 believers for each person who witnessed.

Wow!

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- There is Death
- There is a time to wait
- There is an opportunity to testify and give first fruits
- There is a harvest