

Introduction and Background

I. God's Perfect Timing – He sends the Spirit at just the right time.

A. At Pentecost

1. One of 3 feasts proscribed in Exodus 23 (Pentecost described in 15,16)
2. 50 days -from offering of the first cutting of the barley crop.
Leviticus 23:15,16
3. Significance?

B. The People are from all over the known World!

1. Great gathering – Good time to travel
2. Jews, Devout men (Jews and proselytes) from every land
 - a. All those of the diaspora
 - b. came with regional languages (now a “native” tongue)

Here is the World at your doorstep – and the perfect gift is given to fulfill the mission. Isaiah 44:8; Acts 1:8

II. His Perfect Gift – The Holy Spirit

A. The Presence of God

1. Old Testament pictures
 - a. Wind - sign of breath/spirit of God Ezekiel 37:9-10
 - b. Fire! - Indicated the Presence of God!
2. Tongues of Fire - Matthew 3:11 - Marks God's presence with the individual, not just with “the people”

B. The Power of God

1. Declaring His Glory
2. Gift of speech – not of hearing! Revelation 14:6
3. They are given words to speak. (Testimony requires words!)

III. The Perfect Question – “*What does this mean?*” Peter turns to the book of Joel to answer:

A. For the World?

1. God has poured out his Spirit!
2. What God promised over 400 years ago is happening/ being fulfilled!
3. Every child of God is given/filled with the Spirit.
4. His Presence with them always!! With every one who calls upon his name!
5. Spirit gives power to proclaim!

*What does this mean?? Why has he poured out the spirit? **To take his salvation to the ends of the earth! To declare the glory of His grace and power in the fullness of the Spirit!!** What does this mean...*

B. For Us – Personally

1. New life for those who believe
2. Fire of the Spirit
 - a. His presence Colossians 1:27; Romans 8:9
 - b. His holiness
3. Equipped for serving

Ultimately this means that -

C. Christ’s mission continues through us

1. Israel’s Mission? Declare God’s glory to the world.
2. The Servant’s Mission? Isaiah 42:1,6,7,12; Isaiah 49:5,6
3. Is Now Our Mission!

What does this mean?? God is revealing His glory more perfectly, more fully in/through His People- by the work of the Holy Spirit in them!!

Application:

A. Believers

B. Children

C. Seeker/Skeptic