



## Pentecost Robert Morris

**Focus** Many people are afraid of the word Pentecost because of past experiences or someone else's behavior. The word simply means 50. Pentecost was the celebration of the giving of the Law, and it occurred 50 days after Passover. Now Pentecost is the giving of the Spirit that brings life, not the giving of the Law that brought death. We don't have to be afraid of the Holy Spirit!

**Fun** What is the silliest or most embarrassing way you've ever been injured?

**Review** Key Scriptures: Zephaniah 3:9; Genesis 11:6–8; Acts 2:1–6

### 1. What is Pentecost?

The word Pentecost means 50. In the Old Testament, it was the celebration of the giving of the Law, and it occurred 50 days after Passover. Pentecost in the New Testament (Acts 2) occurred 50 days after the resurrection. When the Law was given, there was a sound from heaven and God wrote the Law on tablets of stone and 3,000 people died. When the Spirit was given, there was a sound from heaven and God wrote His law on tablets of flesh—our hearts—and 3,000 people were saved.

### 2. What happened at Pentecost?

Pentecost is the giving of the Spirit that brings life, not the giving of the Law that brought death. At the Tower of Babel, the people were in one place, were in one accord, and spoke one language. And the Lord came down and confused and scattered them. Pentecost is the blessed reversal of the Tower of Babel experience. God is going to restore to His people a pure language so we can serve Him in one accord. Because of Pentecost, we can understand one another and be in unity through the Holy Spirit.

### 3. Can I experience Pentecost?

In Acts 19, Paul asked the people if they received the Holy Spirit when they believed. They responded that they hadn't heard about the Holy Spirit, so Paul prayed with them to receive the Holy Spirit. Pentecost was fulfilled 2,000 years ago, and we can still experience Pentecost today. When we are saved, we have the Holy Spirit. But when we *receive* the Holy Spirit and invite Him into our lives, we can experience Pentecost and receive His perfect language from heaven.

**\*Group Dynamics Idea\*** Your group has varying experiences related to the Holy Spirit. Don't let anyone miss out on receiving the Holy Spirit because they feel embarrassed or uncomfortable praying in a group setting. Offer a time after group for anyone who wants to remain to receive prayer from you and other leaders in your group. In advance, choose another trusted leader who will pray with you for anyone who needs prayer to receive the Holy Spirit. Having a prayer partner will give you support and strength. Read Matthew 18:20 for encouragement about the principle of praying with a prayer partner.

#### Discuss

1. What did you think the word Pentecost meant before you heard the message from Pastor Robert? What is your understanding of the word Pentecost since his message?
2. Read Acts 19:2. What were you taught about the Holy Spirit up until now?
3. Why do you think people are afraid of the Holy Spirit?
4. What has been your experience with the Holy Spirit?
5. What does it mean to *receive* the Holy Spirit? How do we receive the Holy Spirit?
6. Have you received the Holy Spirit since you believed?
7. What is the Holy Spirit saying to you through this message?

#### Take Home

As we conclude, remember the following:

- Pentecost represents God writing His law on our hearts.
- Pentecost represents unity in Christ.
- Pentecost happens when we receive the Holy Spirit.

## Prayer

Dear Jesus, we ask You to baptize us today with the Holy Spirit. Holy Spirit, I ask You to forgive me for having preconceived thoughts and attitudes about You that were incorrect. As an act of my will and in faith, I receive You, Holy Spirit, fully in my life. In Jesus' name, Amen.

**\*New Leader Tip\*** Read Acts 1:8. The Bible says the Holy Spirit will empower us to do God's work. Even though you are a leader, you may not have yet received the Holy Spirit. Honestly assess if you have received the Holy Spirit and the power He offers. If you haven't, take a moment to call your section leader or a mentor and ask them to pray with you. Receive the Holy Spirit and experience the promised Pentecost today!