

# **The Fulfillment of Pentecost**

Insights from Acts 2:1-13

Rabbi Barney Kasdan, June 5th, 2022, GPC

## **I. The Amazing Shavuot Service (Acts 2:1-13)**

- **Pentecost            50 Days**
- **Shavuot             7 Weeks**
- **First Fruits         Torah + Spirit**
- **Haftarah Reading = Ezekiel 1**
- **Wind + Fire + A Man?!**

## **II. The Blessing of the Spirit**

- **Sealing for Redemption  
(Ephesians 4:29-32)**
- **Filling For Our Walk  
(Ephesians 5:18)**

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## **This Week's Discussion Guide**

Welcome to our sixth week of our current nine week small group season at GPC before we take a summer break in July and August.

For the past two Sundays, Pastor Bob invited Rabbi Barney Kasdan to return to GPC and share from God's Word.

We are pausing our study through the Gospel of Mark for two weeks to read and reflect on what the Bible says about Pentecost.

It is our prayer at GPC for our Sundays and small groups to provide the encouragement we all need to support each other as we desire to grow closer to God and build friendships as part of our vision at GPC to raise up committed Christ followers in a healthy church community.

### **Getting Started:**

Each week, we typically start out with a few questions to get us warmed up :).

Summer is officially here :). Looking back where you grew up, what fun summer memories or activities do you have? Back then ... and today, when it is really hot, what was your favorite drink or snack? What is your favorite nice, cold beverage today?

What is something you are looking forward to do in the next few summer months?

From the first two chapters of the book of Acts, we have an example of 'where God guides He provides'. Jesus commissioned his early disciples to be witnesses for him not only in Judea (their Jewish county) but to those living outside fo their cultural norm and even to those who spoke different languages throughout the Roman empire. When Jesus described this mission in Acts 1:8, they were not equipped to carry it out. It wasn't until God empowered them in Acts 2 with the ability to speak in the languages of those who attended the Pentecost festival that they were able to fulfill God's calling. God promises to provide what we need (in his timing) to fulfill his purposes for our lives.

When have you seen God call you to something and then provide the means either in your character and/or ability to fulfill it to bring Him glory?

What happens to our faith when we see God provide for us in ways that is beyond our human ability?

### **Reviewing and Reflecting on the Passage:**

Let's read the passage from last Sunday. (Acts 2:1-13)

After reading this passage and looking back on our notes from Sunday, was there a particular thought, verse or comment that caught your attention, challenged you or raised a question for you?

## **Digging Deeper:**

1. Why were so many Jews gathered in Jerusalem for Shavuot (Pentecost)?
2. What was the significance of the Temple reading that day?
3. Why is the Holy Spirit compared to wind in Scripture?
4. What is the Holy Spirit compared to fire in Scripture?
5. Back when what we read in Acts 2 actually happened, and today, as followers of Christ there should be evidence of the Holy Spirit working in our lives. But for many today, truths related to the Holy Spirit can be more confusing than clear.

Have you ever been confused regarding the work and ministry of the Holy Spirit?  
How does Ephesians 4:17-32 help us answer these questions?

What does it mean to be sealed with the Holy Spirit in v30?

6. Along with empowering the early disciples and us today with Spiritual gifts for ministry, as we read 1 Corinthians 2:9-15, what other roles does the Holy Spirit play in the lives of those who are committed to following Christ?

Have you found what this passage describes to be true in your life?

7. One of the ways God's Spirit is seen at work is giving boldness to represent Christ and not be consumed with fear and timidity. For the early disciples, what a difference from 50 days before Pentecost (when they ran and denied Christ) to standing and proclaiming Christ in Acts 2.

Peter is a great example of the difference the power of the Holy Spirit can make. From being intimidated by a servant girl around a charcoal fire when asked about his relationship with Jesus (when Jesus was arrested at the Passover Festival 50 days earlier) to sharing with thousands about his relationship with Jesus in Acts 2. Peter's boldness and confidence in sharing about Christ grew as He grew. Since your acceptance of Jesus as your Lord and Savior, how has God begun to make some positive changes in your life?

8. The last verse Rabbi Barney shared last Sunday was Ephesians 5:18. From this verse and what Barney shared, how can we catch the Holy Spirit in our sails as we live out our daily lives?

## **Wrapping Up:**

What is an application from what we read or discussed together that you would like to practice in the coming days?

Is there anything that came up from this week's sermon or discussion that you would like prayer for?

Is there anything else on your heart that you would like to express prayer for?