

Study: PENTECOST - Equipped to be and make disciples.

Reading: Acts 2:1 - 13
1Corinthians 12

Pentecost is a significant event in the life of the church. Here the promise of the New Covenant is fulfilled as God promises to give his Spirit to all who believe. This is no special elite but the equipping of God's people. Not just the twelve but all present receive the Spirit and the Word is proclaimed.

What difference do you think it would make if the Holy Spirit were withdrawn from your life and your Christian community?

Read Acts 2:1 - 13:

Describe in detail, as if you were a reporter covering an important story, what happened on the day of Pentecost.

What were the different reactions to these events?

Why does Luke record the different places people had come from to be in Jerusalem at this festival?

How was speaking in 'tongues' experienced by the crowd that had gathered?

Read Acts 2:14 - 41:

What do you observe about Peter as he addresses the crowd?

How does Peter explain the amazing events that have taken place at Pentecost?

Having pointed to the Old Testament (Joel) and the promises of God, what does Peter see as the important events that have led up to this time?

On what basis does Peter announce that God has made this Jesus both Lord and Christ (vv29 – 36)?

How did the people respond to Peter's clear proclamation of the truth about Jesus and the truth about themselves (vv37 – 41)?

Read 1Corinthians 12:1 - 31:

What words and phrases are repeated throughout the passage?

What danger does Paul see in the church at Corinth that requires the test in v3?

What do v4 to 6 reveal about the unity and diversity of spiritual gifts?

For what purpose are gifts given in v7? Why do you think it was important to particularly remind the Corinthians this?

How does the list of gifts that follows emphasize the single source of these gifts? What are the gifts listed? How would these benefit the whole church?

What do we have in common in vv12 - 13?

What might make some members of a church feel useless or envious of other parts of the body? Have you ever felt this way?

How does Paul illustrate the need for a diversity of gifts in v17 - 20?

What might make some members feel self-sufficient or superior (v21)?

According to Paul, how can we make every part of the body feel special (vv21 - 26)?

How could we apply these principles to our church?

Paul does not give us a complete list of gifts in v27 - 31. What might be the significance of the words first, second, third and then?

What can we do to help people in our church to realize their giftedness?