

Pentecost / Shavuot 2019 – Ray Haynes

7:00 Intro - What Was Forbidden Becomes Permissible

Teach Us To Number Our Days

The glory of the Lord will cover the earth as the waters cover the sea – completely

There are 7 Biblical Feasts that God created for us to encounter Him throughout the year. Three in the Spring, one in the Summer, and three more in the Fall. For years I have been coming in to teach about their significance for Christians.

Today we are looking at Shavuot (the Hebrew word for weeks). You may know it as Pentecost.

“So teach us to number our days, that we may gain a heart of wisdom...establish the work of our hands.” Psalm 90:12,17

“Blessed are those whose strength is in you, whose hearts are set on pilgrimage.” Psalm 84:5

Every year is a journey or pilgrimage. God has given us a Biblical Calendar that helps us **pursue** Him in unique ways every season of the year, and it gives us some basic principles to **reach** Him in all seasons.

4 Things happened About 50 days ago:

1. We celebrated Passover

God delivered Israel from slavery in Egypt 3,500 years ago

It's when Jesus was Crucified 2,000 years ago

2. It the 1st day of the week-long Feast of Unleavened Bread

The 1st day remembers the Exodus from Egypt

The 7th day remembers the crossing of the Red Sea

For Christians it's a picture of our lives or journey with Jesus

3. It was The Feast of First Fruits

The Jews gathered the *First Fruits* of their barley harvest to wave in the air to thank God for His provision. **Nothing from that year's barley harvest could be eaten until after the wave offering was made.**

It's when Jesus rose from the grave – as the first fruits of salvation

4. The day after Passover begins the seven-week Counting of the Omer

It's when the Jews start counting the days till the Feast of Pentecost or Shavuot

The Feast included another Wave offering. This time it was for the wheat harvest.

The Counting of the Omer remembers the days between the Exodus from Egypt and the revelation of the Word of God on stone tablets at Mount Sinai 3,500 years ago

It was when the Holy Spirit was poured onto the Apostles and the new church fifty days after Jesus rose from the dead 2,000 years ago

Hearts of stone were turned to hearts of flesh.

The *Counting of the Omer* was a countdown of sorts. Remember the barley harvest at First Fruits? You had to wait to eat it until you gave a wave offering to thank God.

Same thing at Pentecost. **Nothing from that year's wheat harvest could be eaten until after the wave offering was made. Why?**

God established these festivals as times of Divine renewal or newness - **what was forbidden becomes permissible**. When Jesus came out of the grave, He presented to His Father the wave offering of all the souls who had been locked away in Hades.

He opened the door into eternity with God for all mankind who had been trapped in sin and death. We who were forbidden to approach God became acceptable and part of the Divine harvest.

When He poured out the Holy Spirit, He enabled us to go from redeemed to empowered, from indwelt to overflowing. He is always taking us from glory to glory. We are not done when we are saved and we are not done when we are empowered.

There was no salvation or infilling of the Holy Spirit without the cross.
There is no power apart from the Baptism of the Holy Spirit.

There is always more of Him to pour out and He wants us to live our lives counting the days till our next encounter, waiting expectedly for another promise to come, confident in faith that we will pass right through the trials of life because our hearts are set on pilgrimage.

7:15 The Giving of First Fruits

How Do You Celebrate Pentecost?

*“Three times a year all your men must appear before the Lord your God at the place he will choose: at the Festival of Unleavened Bread, the Festival of Weeks and the Festival of Tabernacles. **No one should appear before the Lord empty-handed: Each of you must bring a gift in proportion to the way the Lord your God has blessed you.**” Deuteronomy 16:16-17*

*“Count off seven weeks from the time you begin to put the sickle to the standing grain. Then **celebrate** the Festival of Weeks to the Lord your God **by giving a freewill offering in proportion to the blessings the Lord your God has given you.**” Deuteronomy 16:9-10*

In Israel the firstfruits applied only to the seven species of the land of Israel: barley, grapes, figs, pomegranates, olives, dates, and wheat.

Today, we give financial offerings.

What I want you to see here is: God is asking you to give, not randomly, but specifically.

He wants you to give your first fruit. They couldn't eat any of the harvest until they gave it.

The barley harvest at Passover was a picture of our salvation. Jesus was the first born son.

For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters. Romans 8:29

When you give your first fruits, it is a picture of Jesus giving His life for you. You're not thankful for your church or pastor or blessings. You are thankful for Jesus. It's first fruits.

The wheat harvest at Pentecost was a picture of the giving of the Word of God and the Baptism of the Holy Spirit. God chose Israel to be his chosen people, and He made them caretakers of His Word. Why, so He could become flesh and blood through them and die for all people.

For through him we both have access to the Father by one Spirit. So now you Gentiles are no longer strangers and foreigners. You are citizens along with all of God's holy people. You are members of God's family. Ephesians 2:18-19

So, this weekend when you give your first fruits, it is a picture of Jesus giving His life for you and the Holy Spirit empowering you. Again, you're not thankful for your church or pastor or blessings. You are thankful for the gift of Jesus and the Holy Spirit. It's first fruits.

So you don't give whatever you want. You don't give your leftovers. When you give during the feasts you give first fruits.

Don't Approach God Unprepared - Take three days to prepare:

“And the Lord said to Moses, “Go to the people and consecrate them today and tomorrow. Have them wash their clothes and be ready by the third day, because on that day the Lord will come down on Mount Sinai in the sight of all the people.” Exodus 19:10-11

The Israelites had three days to prepare to receive the Torah at Mount Sinai. They were told to wash their clothes and to stay ritually pure.

Pentecost is the time to intentionally prepare yourself to receive the Holy Spirit.

All night study:

Customarily, a study of the Torah would start at dusk and carry on throughout the night, as a remembrance of those 3-day of preparation so they could receive God's Word at Mount Sinai.

Pentecost Foods:

Passover has a Seder with Lamb, wine and unleavened bread
At Pentecost You Eat Dairy-Based Foods And Wheat

He brought us to this place and gave us this land, a land flowing with milk and honey; and now I bring the firstfruits of the soil that you, Lord, have given me." Deuteronomy 26:9-10

Because both the Law and the promised land that God was giving them was compared to nourishment and sweetness, it became one of the customs of Shavuot to serve foods that included milk and honey during the feast. It is common for cheese plates, cheesecake, and quiche to be served at Shavuot feasts.

And it's the wheat harvest so breads and pastas and pizza works great.

7:30 Leaven Is Now Good

The Feast of Unleavened Bread, Passover, and First Fruits were when Jesus died and rose so He could come and dwell in us to save us

This event is very different than Pentecost when the Holy Spirit baptizes us, writes the Word on our hearts, and gives us a new language

At Passover the things that represent Jesus include the Passover Lamb, wine, unleavened bread, and barley was harvested and waived.

Here are the commands for the Feast of Weeks / Pentecost / Sha-vou-us.

Leviticus 23:15-23 “From the day after the Sabbath, the day you brought the sheaf of the wave offering, count off seven full weeks. Count off fifty days up to the day after the seventh Sabbath, and then **present an offering of new grain to the Lord.**

*From wherever you live, **bring two loaves made of two-tenths of an ephah of the finest flour, baked with yeast, as a wave offering** of firstfruits to the Lord.*

First – there is yeast in the bread

This is the only service in which priests use leavened bread.

Just six weeks earlier, Israel had spent a week eating unleavened bread, which is a picture of the Passover Lamb and the removal of sin from our lives. Now the two loaves for the grain offering contains yeast. Why?

1. The harvest will be people who will not live entirely sin free (unleavened speaks of God). The church will rely on God's righteousness to make them blameless.

Leaven (yeast) is a symbol of decay.

While we are in these bodies, we are dying or decaying daily.

2. In the same way that the Israelites lifted up the serpent in the desert and it represented Jesus on the cross, this leaven represents the Holy Spirit

Matthew 13:33 Another parable He spoke to them: “The kingdom of heaven is like leaven, which a woman took and hid in three measures of meal till it was all leavened.”

In this case, the Holy Spirit in us is causing a change in us, changing our nature and character into a sweet smelling fragrance (fresh yeasty bread smells awesome).

Read the Book of Ruth – the Gentile harvested into Israel

The Torah reading for the Sabbath immediately preceding Shavuot is usually *BaMidbar* (“In the wilderness”). Rabbinic tradition asserts that the Torah was given in the wilderness to demonstrate that it was not the property of a tribe but rather was available to anyone who chose to claim it as theirs.

“...Ruth said: ‘Entreat me not to leave you, or to turn back from following after you; for wherever you go, I will go; and wherever you lodge, I will lodge; your people shall be my people, and your God, my God. Where you die, I will die, and there will I be buried. The Lord do so to me, and more also, if anything but death parts you and me.’”—Ruth 1:16-17

Ruth is often considered to be the pioneer of all who “choose” or convert to follow the Living God, just as Jews accepted the Torah at Mount Sinai—and this passage traditionally has been understood as her conversion statement.

A tradition is to share what we have, in keeping with the commands to feed the stranger, the orphan, the widow and other poor and unfortunate people as Boaz did for Ruth.

And since Ruth was the ancestor of King David, and according to the Talmud, David was born and died on Pentecost, we can look at David’s life as an example of our life journey. We follow him from boyhood to death, from sheep field to the throne, from worship to sin to repentance.

7:45 There Is More Than Just Leavened Bread:

Present with this bread seven male lambs, each a year old and without defect, one young bull and two rams.

They will be a burnt offering to the Lord, together with their grain offerings and drink offerings—a food offering, an aroma pleasing to the Lord.

Then sacrifice one male goat for a sin offering and two lambs, each a year old, for a fellowship offering (or peace offering)...

There are 4 offerings:

The Meal Offering of leavened bread that's waved - flour, frankincense, oil, salt –

This represents an unblemished life,

not from salvation, but from the indwelling Holy Spirit leading you to repentance –

you are made from the finest flour – you are holy from the blood of Jesus

but you are leavened – you are overcoming sin daily

The Burnt Offering- it's all burned –

the life and death of Jesus perfectly accomplished the will of God.

The Sin Offering – for the remission of sin –

Lost people can not receive the Baptism of the Holy Spirit

The Fellowship or Peace Offering - He became our peace or substitute

The focus is on wheat, but they brought the first fruits all their crops.

There were 7 common crops at Pentecost (wheat, barley, grapes, figs, pomegranates, olives, and dates).

verse 23: “When you reap the harvest of your land, do not reap to the very edges of your field or gather the gleanings of your harvest. Leave them for the poor and for the foreigner residing among you. I am the Lord your God.”

Pentecost is the day the Holy Spirit came upon the believers gathered together.

What happens when the Holy Spirit comes into your life? You manifest the Fruit of the Spirit.

The Feast of Weeks is fulfilled in the empowering of the Church to bring the harvest of the Gospel.

8:00 A Countdown to a Wedding

Counting the Omer for seven weeks is literally a countdown or preparation for something – What?

Keep in mind the Passover season (50 days ago) was our betrothal or engagement to God. Jesus dies, rises from the grave and stays for 40 days and then leaves promising He will return.

In a Jewish marriage, before the wedding the groom leaves for an unspecified amount of time (It's not known exactly when he will return). He goes to prepare a place for his bride to live.

Pentecost/Weeks (Is a picture of our Wedding Day) when the Holy Spirit came to dwell within man as a deposit (wedding ring) of what is to come.

So Jesus ascends into heaven from Mount Zion promising to return for the disciples, and in Revelation we learn that He will in fact return to Mount Zion. Why there? To get His bride.

Each year since the time of Moses, Shavu'ot was when Israel would stand before God on their wedding day, complete with a canopy (Mt Sinai), a ketubah (marriage contract - the Torah), and stipulations of the covenant which included a homeland and a Temple which would serve to maintain the covenant.

Passover was when God promised to marry us; Shavu'ot is the marriage itself. The seven weeks in between, are like the 7 days that a bride-to-be counts in preparation for her wedding, when she purifies and readies herself. "Weeks" is a name that speaks of the road which must be traveled to accomplish our goal.

Biblical Hebrew is very different from our English language. One of the big difference is the verb tenses. In English we have past, present, and future (God gave, God is giving, God will give).

Biblical Hebrew, has only two tenses: **perfect and imperfect**.

The imperfect tense is **that which is not yet, not done, or not completed**.

The perfect is **that which is done, complete and finished**.

If you have ever struggled with faith, it's probably because you are thinking in English.

The Bible describes **things that are yet to come in the perfect tense, (as if they are already completed)**. Some call this the prophetic past.

God can have a finished work that hasn't happened yet - like our salvation.

We are becoming what we already are in Him.

Being born again is to be born from above from the finished, perfect work of God.

We look at our problems differently from the heavenly point of view because they are already resolved!

So, when we watch or listen to Jesus, He is thinking and speaking from this Perfect Tense.

Matthew 6:30-34 Now if God so clothes the grass of the field, which today is, and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will He not much more clothe you, O you of little faith? "Therefore do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' For after

all these things the Gentiles seek. For your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you. Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about its own things. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble.

8:15 40 Days & 10 Days

The first Pentecost 3,500 years ago with Moses was intended to be their commissioning to go and live a new life of freedom (with the written Word) in the Promised Land – but that didn't happen

The Pentecost with Jesus 2,000 years ago took place 10 days after the Great commission when Jesus sent them off to be the church (with the Holy Spirit in them writing the Word on their hearts).

The 50 days of Pentecost (Feast of Weeks) has 2 Parts.

40 Days & 10 Days = 50 Days

After His resurrection, Jesus stayed on the earth for another 40 days, before He ascends into heaven.

10 more Days pass and it is Pentecost when he sends the Holy Spirit.
So 40 days and 10 days.

40 days means a complete period, season, age, or cycle.
10 also represents completeness, order.

The Bible was written by forty different people. (that was the age of the word)

40 years after Jesus rose, the Romans burned Jerusalem and destroyed the temple.

40 days of fasting, 40 days spying the Promised Land, 40 years in the wilderness (the time it takes for a new generation to arise).

The 40 days Jesus remains on the earth after he is resurrected and the 10 days He is in heaven before He sends the Holy Spirit both mean something

On His last day with them before His crucifixion: John 14:3 And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am.

Before He ascended, Matthew 28:18-20 "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

It's not as obvious in English, but His words were not random; Jesus spent 40 days with them on earth, then ascended, because He was saying, this is me being with you, not just now, but to the end of the age. It's a visual picture.

Jesus has been in heaven for the last 2,000+ years just doing that 40-day cycle over and over, being with us, being faithful, giving grace, interceding, etc.

After He ascends, then comes the 10 days and BOOM, the Holy Spirit comes.

So, we know that one day the Father will say, Son, go get your bride.

Then comes our wedding, which is the end of this world.

So the Holy Spirit represents everything about the wedding, or eternity.

So, think of the verb tenses again, why does the Holy Spirit come 10 days after Jesus ascends? He said:

- And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.
- And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am.

He was speaking in the perfect tense, so He is saying “pay attention to what I do during the 10 days (because it represents eternity).

We can be confident that He will return for us, why, because it is as certain as what He did during the 40 days.

8:30 What He Begins...

Leviticus 23:15 “From the day after the Sabbath, the day you brought the sheaf of the wave offering, count off seven full weeks. Count off fifty days up to the day after the seventh Sabbath, and then present an offering of new grain to the Lord.”

Passover was the crucifixion - on a Thursday.

The Friday night to Saturday night Sabbath comes next

So, the day after the Sabbath (when you start counting to 50) was Resurrection Day

Jesus comes out of the tomb and into us.

50 days later the **Holy Spirit comes out of heaven and into us.**

John 20:19-23 On the evening of that first day of the week, when the disciples were together, with the doors locked for fear of the Jewish leaders, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you!” After he said this, he showed them his hands and side. The disciples were overjoyed when they saw the Lord. Again Jesus said, “Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you.” And with that he breathed on them and said, “Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive anyone’s sins, their sins are forgiven; if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven.”

This can be a little confusing because of how He says two things.

It’s really only confusing in English, not in Hebrew.

It’s the Perfect tense concept again.

Jesus is beginning something that will actually happen later.

Receive the Holy Spirit

This was not the baptism of the Holy Spirit, this was salvation, the receiving of Christ.

They had followed Him and put their faith in him but could not receive Him until He rose

Same perfect tense concept. Were they saved for the last three years?

Yes, but not yet.

- “But if Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, the spirit is life because of righteousness.”—Romans 8:10
- “I am crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but it is Christ who lives in me.”—Galatians 2:20
- “My children, with whom I travail again in birth until Christ is formed in you.”—Galatians 4:19
- “That Christ may make His home in your hearts through faith.”—Ephesians 3:17

I am sending you

He told them to wait until they received the Holy Spirit before they went anywhere.

(tarry in the city of Jerusalem until you are endued with power from on high)

Again, this is the first day of the 50 days, not the baptism, this is receiving Christ

This all happens on the evening of Resurrection day – Day 1 of counting to 50

The whole 50 days counting to Pentecost is all about Jesus showing that He is Faithful

What He Begins He Finishes

That's how we think of it using the English language

In Hebrew you would think of it like this:

What He Does, He Does

Day 1 Jesus Rises to Life Again

We count 7 weeks – Seven is the number of completeness and perfection

If Week 1 was about resurrection power

Week 2 is twice as powerful

Week 3 doubles that power, etc

Something powerful is coming

It's not just about Jesus having more power, He already had all power

He's getting ready to give us power

We are His body on the earth – greater things will we do

How much greater – 7 times greater

John 14 12 Very truly I tell you, whoever believes in me will do the works I have been doing, and they will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father.

8:45 The First Pentecost - Voices and Fire

On the first Pentecost, signs and wonders accompanied the giving of the Torah at Mount Sinai. There was smoke, fire, and cloud on the mountain. The mountain trembled and the blast of a shofar sounded louder and louder. The voice of God was audibly heard by the entire nation.

According to the *Midrash* (a traditional Jewish interpretation of Scripture), the giving of the Torah at Mount Sinai was accompanied by several wonders.

1. Flames of fire which came to each individual at Sinai: *"On the occasion of the giving of the Torah, the Children of Israel not only heard the LORD's Voice, but actually saw the sound waves as they emerged from the LORD's mouth. They visualized them as a fiery substance. Each commandment that left the LORD's mouth traveled around the entire camp and then came back to every Jew individually."*
2. The voice of God speaking in every language known to man (in Rabbinic lore, there are 70 mother languages.) It says: *"And all the people witnessed the thunders" (Exodus 20:15). So it is said that God's voice, as it was uttered, split up into seventy voices, in seventy languages, so that all the nations should understand.*

"When the people saw the thunder and lightning and heard the trumpet and saw the mountain in smoke, they trembled with fear." (Exodus 20:18). In Hebrew, the "thunder and lightning" in this passage literally reads "voices and (torches or fires or lights)." "Voices" was translated "thunders", because voices are normally heard rather than seen, and "torches" was translated "lightnings" to perhaps match logically.

The word "voices" is plural. What the people heard was one God, but many voices or languages. This means that everyone heard the Torah in a way that they could understand it in the language that they spoke, even though they were a "mixed multitude" (Exodus 12:38).

In Acts 2:1-4, we have: "When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. (a large fire of some sort came down from heaven and then divided and covered each one of them) All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them." You have voices and torches again.

Acts 2:5-8 Now there were staying in Jerusalem God-fearing Jews from every nation under heaven. When they heard this sound, a crowd came together in bewilderment, because each one heard their own language being spoken. Utterly amazed, they asked: "Aren't all these who are speaking Galileans? Then how is it that each of us hears them in our native language?

The Bible says the people heard in their language but it doesn't say they spoke in that language. Just like at Sinai, everyone heard in their own language as God spoke.

The disciples and followers of Jesus were all well aware of the giving of the Torah at Shavuot. They knew the story of the words of fire resting on each individual at Shavuot. They knew the story of God's voice speaking to all mankind in every language at Shavuot.

Therefore, the miracles and signs and wonders they experienced in Acts chapter two, carried deep significance and prophetic fulfillment. The tongues of fire and the speaking in every tongue were both direct allusions to the Mount Sinai experience and to the receiving of the Torah.

9:00 A New Covenant

*Jeremiah 31:31-33 "Behold, the days are coming, says the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah -- not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day that I took them by the hand to lead them out of the land of Egypt, My covenant which they broke, **though I was a husband to them**, says the Lord. But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord: I will put My law in their minds, and write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people.*

Salvation through the blood of Jesus and the Baptism of the Holy Spirit together are the full expression of God, dwelling within human hearts, so that He might be our God, and we might be His people. We have the gift of the Spirit of God dwelling within us, and are now enabled to walk in the statutes and to observe the ordinances of God!

This is what was spoken by the prophet Joel:

"And afterward, I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your old men will dream dreams, your young men will see visions. Even on my servants, both men and women, I will pour out my Spirit in those days. I will show wonders in the heavens and on the earth, blood and fire and billows of smoke. The sun will be turned to darkness and the moon to blood before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the Lord.

But when Peter quotes it in Acts He stops there, but the next verse Joel explains why Peter picked that verse:

32 And everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved; for on Mount Zion and in Jerusalem there will be deliverance, as the Lord has said, even among the survivors whom the Lord calls.

God told where it would happen the next time – not at Sinai – but Zion

Isaiah 2:2-3 In the last days the mountain of the Lord's temple will be established as the highest of the mountains; it will be exalted above the hills, and all nations will stream to it. Many peoples will come and say, "Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the temple of the God of Jacob. He will teach us his ways, so that we may walk in his paths." The law will go out from Zion, the word of the Lord from Jerusalem.

The Spirit and the Law would now both go forth from Zion written on the hearts of men, not stones.

Sinai:

- A "mixed multitude" who came to worship the God of Israel
- Voices and torches were seen (and heard)
- 3000 died when they rejected the Torah at Sinai.

Zion:

- A "mixed multitude" who came to worship the God of Israel
- Everyone heard in their own language in a way which he could understand.
- 3000 lived when they accepted the Torah through the Spirit on Zion.

9:15 Together

Upper “Room”

They gathered in an upper room in Acts 1:13. They describe it as a place they are staying and where the small group of leaders/disciples meet to make decisions.

But this room from Acts 1 is not where they are described as gathering in Acts 2.

The word "house" in Acts 1 is "oikia" meaning house or home, or a place of dwelling, is used to describe the place where they were sitting.

But the word used in the Greek in Acts 2 is "oikon," from "oikos" which is predominately used to mean "the Sanctuary or House of God".

Specifically, the Temple courtyard.

There were 4 courtyards in the temple area (one for Priests, Israelites, Women, and Gentiles. More than enough room for hundreds to gather and everyone to react to what happens.

The day of Pentecost arrives, as it had for centuries, since the first Pentecost at Mt Sinai, when Moses received the Ten Commandments. These men are sitting together, somewhere in the courtyard of the Israelites, when this awesome whirring, roar, like the rushing violent wind of a tornado blasts onto the Temple Mount and into the Temple courtyard of the Israelites, which is filled to capacity with men there for the Temple services of Shavu'ot.

The Holy Spirit in voice and fire falls on this group of men probably sitting off to themselves to avoid persecution from the others on the Temple Mount. "And suddenly there came from heaven a noise like a violent, rushing wind, and it filled the whole house (courtyard) where they were sitting.

Why Tablets of Stone – Why hearts that can turn to stone

Long after you receive the gift of the Holy Spirit you can fall away deep into sin but still have the baptism of the Holy spirit and the gifts that come with it.

The same reason that God chose to engrave His commands on tablets of stone,

There are two kinds of letters. Letters which are written, and letters which are engraved.

The difference is that written letters are ultimately separate from what they are written on.

They are not one with the paper or the parchment. The letters are of ink and they adhere to the paper, and then are they one.

When letters are engraved, the letters themselves are from the same medium as that on which they are written. The letters are not something external, they emanate from the stone itself.

“I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts. And I will be their God, and they shall be my people” (Jer. 31:33; cf. Heb. 8:10).

So, when God does a work in us, it's literally transformative, He becomes a part of us.

You can mis-use any gift, use them in immaturity, use them in sin, submit them to the devil.

You can walk away from your relationship with son into disobedience and throw away your relationship now and for eternity.

Romans 8:14 For those who are led by the Spirit of God are the children of God.

The baptism of the Holy Spirit doesn't make a different kind of Christian, He fills you with His presence, empowers you with His presence, equips you with His presence, comforts you with His presence, etc

In Acts 2, we read about the original outpouring of the Holy Spirit during Pentecost. By Chapter 4, these same people, are seeking to be refilled again.

On their release, Peter and John went back to their own people and reported all that the chief priests and the elders had said to them. When they heard this, they raised their voices together in prayer to God....After they prayed, the place where they were meeting was shaken. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the word of God boldly.

It was not a one-time experience, but rather a constant refilling of the Spirit which they needed to change their world. They continually sought to be empowered to accomplish whatever task God assigned to them, so they kept getting filled – and refilled -- and refilled.

9:30 Out of Control

Was the Baptism of the Holy Spirit an event in history – Yes
Has it continued to happen even to our current day – Yes
Is it a one-time occurrence or a constant refilling – More is always available

In a very practical sense, we countdown the 50 days to Pentecost because 2,000 years ago was not a one-time experience for the disciples, but rather the first experience of a constant refilling of the Spirit.

As we arrive at Pentecost this Saturday and Sunday let's seek together to encounter the Baptism of the Holy Spirit for those who never have, and ask for even more of the wonderful manifest presence of Jesus for those who have encountered the Baptism but are still longing for more of His touch.

If your particular church upbringing has left you confused or even hesitant about the possibilities of such encounters and experiences in our day, listen to Jesus describe what the average Christian life would look like just before He ascended: *“And these signs will follow those who believe: In My name they will cast out demons; **they will speak with new tongues; they will take up serpents; and if they drink anything deadly, it will by no means hurt them; they will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover.**”* Mark 16:17-18

Earlier in Mark 16 we can see why they needed a significant encounter. When the women first came to the tomb after the resurrection and encountered an angel, *“they went out quickly and fled from the tomb, for they trembled and were amazed. And they said nothing to anyone, for **they were afraid.**”* Then when Mary Magdalene finally gained the courage to tell the apostles, ***they did not believe.*** *When the two disciples who walked with Jesus on the road shared their story, **they did not believe them either...*** *Later He appeared to the eleven as they sat at the table; and He rebuked their unbelief and hardness of heart, because they did not believe those who had seen Him after He had risen.”*

Obviously, Jesus doesn't want any of us to repeat the mistakes of the apostles or fulfill the prophecy of Isaiah 28 *“Whom will He teach knowledge? And whom will He make to understand the message...For with stammering lips and another tongue He will speak to this people, to whom He said, “This is the rest with which You may cause the weary to rest,” and, “This is the refreshing”; yet they would not hear.”*

Thirty-nine years ago when I first received the Baptism of the Holy Spirit, I was utterly shocked that other languages which I didn't understand or speak were suddenly pouring out of my mouth. A moment before I had been standing in a field worshipping in the only language I have ever spoken, English. I had never heard anyone speak in tongues before or heard anyone teach on it. The Holy Spirit massively changed my life in much the same way Jesus had the year before when I gave my life to Him.

9:45 Catch The Wind

“The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear the sound of it, but cannot tell where it comes from and where it goes. So is everyone who is born of the Spirit.” John 3:8

The Hebrew word for wind or breath is ***ruach***. It's also the word for Spirit. Obviously we can't dictate the moving of the wind or the Spirit. Thankfully we don't have to catch the wind to be filled with the Spirit. I have known many people who have earnestly sought the Baptism of the Holy Spirit but still haven't received. Some went away bitter, some went away offended, some stopped seeking and plunged into denial declaring that they had received the Baptism when they were saved and no tongues were required. Sadly, I also know of teachers who claimed to be filled with the Spirit and intentionally deceived other seekers into mumbling repetitious phrases and declared it a move of the Spirit.

Striving in the flesh for a move of God is agonizing. So is screaming at the wind to blow where we want it to blow. Micah 6:8 tells us, ***“He has shown you, O man, what is good; And what does the LORD require of you but to do justly, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God?”***

We need to be like a windmill, which is designed to be propelled by the wind, no matter which direction it's blowing in order to generate power. If we want to be filled, then we need to be sensitive to which way He is blowing, and then we will not only be filled, but empowered by the Holy Spirit to do His will.

"You make your messengers into winds of The Spirit and all Your ministers become flames of fire." Psalm 104:4

The Holy Spirit Baptism can occur any time after Jesus comes to dwell in our heart. He doesn't get buried in our hearts, He plants Himself in order to bear fruit. We literally become a tree that bears spiritual fruit. All we have to do is ask and receive. Sometimes that includes asking until we receive.

The nine fruits listed in Galatians 5 all come as the result of "life" on a tree which requires us to grow. Controlling the tongue is not easy; our unruly tongues require revival. Faithfulness, gentleness, goodness, joy, kindness, longsuffering, love, peace, and self-control are all expressed many ways, but never so beautiful as with the tongue. Proverbs 18 tells us, ***“Death and life are in the power of the tongue, and those who love it will eat its fruit.”***

Still, there's more to the Spirit than tongues or what and how we speak. 1 Corinthians 12 tells us, ***“there are many spiritual gifts including: the word of wisdom, the word of knowledge, faith, healing, the working of miracles, prophecy, discerning of spirits, different kinds of tongues, and the interpretation of tongues.”*** The Spirit distributes them individually as He wills. Why does He give them? These nine gifts require us to minister to others in order to use them. They are not for keeping or storing up, but rather for using and giving away. And Deuteronomy 30 reminds us, ***“But the word is very near you, in your mouth and in your heart, that you may do it.”***

Acts 1:4-8 And being assembled together with them, He commanded them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the Promise of the Father, “which,” He said, “you have heard from Me; for John truly baptized with water, but you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.”

- There has been more conflict throughout church history on this one subject than probably every other issue combined because it is not intellectual and can't be understood or argued or controlled by man. It requires faith and obedience.
- The experience was different for me, then it was for Kelly, and then it was for Corrie.
- Wait for the promise - no matter how long it takes -
- No matter what others experience, don't assume God will do things the same way with you.
- Worship Him constantly - ask to be filled
- When opportunities arise for the laying on of hands - have faith and see what happens.
- Don't stop till you are full.

10:00 No Tongues But Other Gifts

Can you be baptized in the Holy Spirit and power without speaking in tongues?

If you don't speak in tongues, but obviously have gifts and anointing then they are coming from a different source than what is known as the Baptism of the Holy Spirit.

Gifts of the Father

Romans 12:4-8 For as we have many members in one body, but all the members do not have the same function, so we, being many, are one body in Christ, and individually members of one another. Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, let us prophesy in proportion to our faith; or ministry, let us use it in our ministering; he who teaches, in teaching; he who exhorts, in exhortation; he who gives, with liberality; he who leads, with diligence; he who shows mercy, with cheerfulness.

Gifts of the Son

Ephesians 4:11-13 And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ, till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ;

Gifts of the Holy Spirit

1 Corinthians 12:7-11 But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one for the profit of all for to one is given the word of wisdom through the Spirit, to another the word of knowledge through the same Spirit, to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healings by the same Spirit, to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another discerning of spirits, to another different kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually as He wills.

The First Two Wedding Vows

Listen to the wedding vows. 10 vows.

The first 5 are how we relate to God. The second 5 are how we relate to the other members of the bride.

2 "I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage. 3 "You shall have no other gods before Me.

I rescued you because I love you and you alone. I give you me. Don't give your love to anyone else.

4 "You shall not make for yourself a carved image—any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth; 5 you shall not bow down to them nor serve them. For I, the Lord your God, am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children to the third and fourth generations of those who hate Me, 6 but showing mercy to thousands, to those who love Me and keep My commandments.

Focus on Me. Because I am all about you.

10:15 Wedding Commands

7 "You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain, for the Lord will not hold him guiltless who takes His name in vain.

Let my name make your heart sing

The Lord = Jehovah = "the existing One" = I Am

The proper name of the one true God

Think of the teenager writing the name of the one they love over and over and over

It became the unpronounced word in Hebrew - except without the vowels

8 "Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. 9 Six days you shall labor and do all your work, 10 but the seventh day is the Sabbath of the Lord your God. In it you shall do no work: you, nor your son, nor your daughter, nor your male servant, nor your female servant, nor your cattle, nor your stranger who is within your gates. 11 For in six days the Lord made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and rested the seventh day. Therefore the Lord blessed the Sabbath day and hallowed it.

Let's not get sidetracked doing even important stuff - let's take time to just be together every week

12 "Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be long upon the land which the Lord your God is giving you.

13 "You shall not murder.

14 "You shall not commit adultery.

15 "You shall not steal.

16 "You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.

17 "You shall not covet your neighbor's house; you shall not covet your neighbor's wife, nor his male servant, nor his female servant, nor his ox, nor his donkey, nor anything that is your neighbor's."

The way I am treating you is the way I want you to treat my bride.

Look for ways to honor them,

I will give you everything you need and I will give each of them everything they need so don't lose you focus.

Don't hurt them, don't take what I give them, don't lie about them.

Don't even desire what I give them.

2 Samuel 12:7-9 The prophet Nathan rebukes David for his sins"

"Thus says the Lord God of Israel: 'I anointed you king over Israel, and I delivered you from the hand of Saul. 8 I gave you your master's house and your master's wives into your keeping, and gave you the house of Israel and Judah. And if that had been too little, I also would have given you much more! 9 Why have you despised the commandment of the Lord, to do evil in His sight?"

Name of God: The consonants (hard sounds) they kept. The vowels (soft sounds) they removed.

He rejoices over us with singing. Cantors perform Jewish services.

Imagine singing without the vowels...All the beauty is gone

10:30 Epic Wedding Vow Fail & Redemption

So what has God done with the Israelites so far?

He instituted Passover in Egypt - blood on their doors protect them.

He delivered them from slavery (a bad relationship)

Killed the first born of the Egyptians (this is what I will do to those who try to hurt you)

Divided the Red Sea and leads them through (nothing will separate us)

Provided over and over all they need during their long desert journey

Finally they arrived 50 days later at Mt Sinai and God says "it's time to marry me"

Deuteronomy 5:23-33 "So it was, when you heard the voice from the midst of the darkness, while the mountain was burning with fire, that you came near to me, all the heads of your tribes and your elders. And you said: 'Surely the Lord our God has shown us His glory and His greatness, and we have heard His voice from the midst of the fire. We have seen this day that God speaks with man; yet he still lives.

This must have been terrifying - it was intended to comfort them - they were marrying Him - He was showing them how awesome He was - that they need fear no one

25 Now therefore, why should we die? For this great fire will consume us; if we hear the voice of the Lord our God anymore, then we shall die. 26 For who is there of all flesh who has heard the voice of the living God speaking from the midst of the fire, as we have, and lived? 27 (They say to Moses) You go near and hear all that the Lord our God may say, and tell us all that the Lord our God says to you, and we will hear and do it.'

So God offers marriage and they say no thanks.

28 "Then the Lord heard the voice of your words when you spoke to me, and the Lord said to me: 'I have heard the voice of the words of this people which they have spoken to you. They are right in all that they have spoken. 29 Oh, that they had such a heart in them that they would fear Me and always keep all My commandments, that it might be well with them and with their children forever! 30 Go and say to them, "Return to your tents."

That's the saddest verse in the Bible - you can hear God's heart break - the ceremony ends - the bride goes one way and the groom goes the other - the marriage is delayed for 1,500 years

31 But as for you, stand here by Me, and I will speak to you all the commandments, the statutes, and the judgments which you shall teach them, that they may observe them in the land which I am giving them to possess.' 32 "Therefore you shall be careful to do as the Lord your God has commanded you; you shall not turn aside to the right hand or to the left. 33 You shall walk in all the ways which the Lord your God has commanded you, that you may live and that it may be well with you, and that you may prolong your days in the land which you shall possess.

The Redemption

What was intended to the wedding vows become the first 10 commandments of 613 laws in the Torah.

248 Positive Commandments (do's) and 365 Negative Commandments (do not's)

To add to their burden there is the Talmud (traditions and explanations) which is over 6,200 pages long.

There are 1,050 commands in the New Testament for Christians to obey.
Due to repetitions we can classify them under about 800 headings.

The Wedding Vows of the Bride of Christ

Revelation 21:1-8 Now I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away. Also there was no more sea. 2 Then I, John, saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.

3 And I heard a loud voice from heaven saying,

*“Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people. God Himself will be with them and be their God.

*4 And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes;

*there shall be no more death,

*nor sorrow,

*nor crying.

*There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away.”

*5 Then He who sat on the throne said, “Behold, I make all things new.” And He said to me, “Write, for these words are true and faithful.”

*6 And He said to me, “It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. I will give of the fountain of the water of life freely to him who thirsts.

*7 He who overcomes shall inherit all things, and I will be his God and he shall be My son.

*8 But the cowardly, unbelieving, abominable, murderers, sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars shall have their part in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death.”