



Bible Study - Acts 2.1-21

Q1 How did the disciples prepare for the coming of the Holy Spirit? See Acts 1.4, 1.13-14, 2.1.

Q2 The Jewish festival of Pentecost was (a) a celebration of the firstfruits of the wheat harvest, (b) a commemoration of the giving of the Law at Mount Sinai, (c) a "week of weeks" after the Passover, (d) a festival when Jews from all over the world would gather in Jerusalem.

In what ways was Pentecost a fitting day for the pouring out of the Holy Spirit?

Q3 What three signs accompanied the pouring out of the Spirit and what do you think each of these signs meant?

Q4 What was it that the gathered crowd were amazed by?

On Sunday we talked about how Pentecost rapidly moved the disciples along three "scales":- the faith scale (from timid to confident), the hope scale (from confused about the gospel to clear about the gospel) and the love scale (from self-centred to compassionate, other-centred).

Q5 What evidence do we see in this chapter of the changes the Spirit made in the disciples? Were these changes once and for all? (see Acts 4.31).

Q6 What evidence do we see of the Spirit's work among us? (Hint: think about the fruits of the Spirit; Galatians 5.22-23).

Q7 Did you find it helpful to reflect on where we are as individuals and as a Church on the same three scales? Do you know where to find help in moving along the scales?

Q8 Is the Holy Spirit a "missing person" in today's Church? How might police techniques for finding missing persons help us find the Holy Spirit? (e.g. publish posters/photofit, speak to family and acquaintances, find out about habits and haunts, last known movements, follow footprints etc...)

Q9 The Holy Spirit is not forced upon us? What can we do as individuals and as a Church to open ourselves to the transforming power of the Holy Spirit?