

# The Spirit Breathes Life

## Session Two

Source: Stott, John W.R. "The Message of Acts: The Spirit, the Church and the World".  
Downers Grove: Inter-Varsity Press, 1990, 428 pages.

"As a body without breath is a corpse, so the church without the Spirit is dead."

T / F Of the four evangelists, Luke lays the heaviest emphasis on the Spirit.

### The Feast of Pentecost

The Feast of Pentecost is one of three major Old Testament festivals. The other two are Passover and Tabernacles/Booths.

The Feast of Pentecost is also known as the Feast or \_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_.

"This feast had two meanings, one agricultural and the other historical.

- 1) Passover to Pentecost = \_\_\_\_ days (of the grain harvest)
- 2) the giving of the law to Moses at Mt. Sinai (supposedly 50 days after the Exodus)

### Amazing Insight from the Pentecost Article in the Lutheran Study Bible (p. 1835):

"On Pentecost morning, farmers from around Jerusalem gathered baskets with several types of food. A flute player led the farmers up Mount Zion as they sang the song of Ascents (Psalms 120-136). This liturgy and procession was known as the Great Hallel (Praise)...As the procession neared the city, officials went out to join the procession up the Temple Mount. The king placed a basket of food on his shoulder and led the people into the temple courts as the Levites sang Psalm 30, written for the temple dedication.

In the temple courts, the farmers would present their baskets before the priests. Each farmer would step forward and say the liturgy of recitation (Deut. 26:3). He would remove the basket from his shoulder and tip it toward the priest. The priest took hold of the basket, and the two of them swayed it back and forth as a 'wave' offering. Then the farmer would recite in Hebrew, 'A wandering Aramean was my father...' (Deut. 26:5-10a). He would leave the basket, bow before the Lord, and make way for the next farmer.

But a controversy arose about the recitation. The priest would have to lead the people who could not speak Hebrew. He would say a part in Hebrew, and the person making the offering would repeat it. This apparently embarrassed people. They stopped bringing their offerings. As a result, the priests decided that they would lead all the people in the recitation, whether or not they knew Hebrew. In his way, they continued to receive everyone's offering, but also retained Hebrew as the language of temple services."

Pentecost, especially the speaking in tongues, is a reversal of \_\_\_\_\_. There “earth proudly tried to ascend to heaven, whereas in Jerusalem heaven humbly descended to earth.” (p. 68)

Why don't Lutherans consider speaking in tongues normative for the Christian?

### Tracking the Spirit (Acts 2:1-13)

Pentecost happens \_\_\_\_\_ days after Christ's ascension.

Why were there so many people in Jerusalem at the time (v. 5)? (see map)

### Speech, Speech! (Acts 2:14-41)

About \_\_\_\_\_% of Acts is Peter and Paul speaking. Another \_\_\_\_\_ % is Stephen speaking.

Peter speaks at “the third hour of the day” (v. 15). What time is it? Why is this a peak time?

What “moves” does Peter make in his sermon? Analyze what he says about Joel, Jesus and David.

See how closely the gift of the Holy Spirit is associated with baptism.

Keeping track of the numbers...the church has gone from 12 to 120 to 3,120.

Stott: The Spirit-filled church was a loving, learning, worshipping and evangelistic church.

“Of course the church did not begin that day, and it is incorrect to call the Day of Pentecost ‘the birthday of the church’. For the church as the people of God goes back at least 4,000 years to Abraham. What happened at Pentecost was that the remnant of God's people became the Spirit-filled body of Christ.” (p. 81)

“One might perhaps say that the Holy Spirit opened a school in Jerusalem that day; its teachers were the apostles whom Jesus has appointed; and there were 3,000 pupils in the kindergarten!” (p. 82)

“For the Holy Spirit is a missionary Spirit who created a missionary church.” (p. 86)