

June 8/25 Small Group Questions

Acts 2: 1-8, 12, 14, 16-18, 37-39, 41-47 "Do you yearn for fire?"

Pentecost is both a never to be repeated historical event and a present expectation. A present expectation that the spirit can be living and active in us in the same way now.

Read Acts 2: 1-8, 12, 14, 16-18, 37-39, 41-47; and Exodus 19: 16-18; 20: 1-3, 18-21

Pentecost was already a feast. Pente means fifty, fifty days after Passover, fifty days after God rescued his people from slavery in Egypt, fifty days journey into the desert the people of Israel come to the base of mount Sinai. Moses goes up the mountain to meet with God and there is fire and wind and Moses receives the 10 commandments.

1. Acts 2 opens with the words – when the day of Pentecost arrived or more accurately in the Greek, when the day of Pentecost was fulfilled. What are the connections between the first Pentecost and this one? What does this tell us about the work of Jesus? the work of the Spirit?
2. *The fire of his purity.* Peter invites the people to repent. Repentance is the means by which we tap into the transforming work of the Spirit – Discuss.
3. *The fire of his presence.* The fire of his presence came down that first Pentecost and the people recoiled in fear asking Moses to be the go between. Now the fire of his presence comes down upon a gathered community. What does this tell us about where God is encountered post-pentecost?

Read Leviticus 23:15-22

The fire of his power. Pentecost was also an agricultural feast. It was the beginning of the grain harvest – the first taste of their future harvest. The Spirit empowers a people to live as a foretaste of Jesus' future kingdom.

4. In what ways is the church post Pentecost empowered to be a first taste of Jesus' future kingdom?
5. How might we receive the fire of the Spirit?