

# What Every Last-Days Pentecostal Needs to Know About Speaking in Tongues

The Sunday which occurs seven weeks after Easter is celebrated in the Christian Church as Pentecost Sunday. It coincides with the Jewish Feast of Pentecost, which was observed in Jewish worship 50 days after their Feast of Passover.

As recorded in the opening verses of the book of the Acts, after His resurrection from the tomb and before His ascension to heaven, Jesus “presented Himself alive ... by many infallible proofs, appearing to them for forty days, and speaking concerning the kingdom of God” (Acts 1:3).

He went on to command the disciples not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait for what He had told them about the Father’s promise to send the Holy Spirit to them. He explained that just as John had baptized followers in water, they would be “baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now” (Acts 1:5).

Jesus went on to explain, “You shall receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you. And you shall be My witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth” (Acts 1:8).

Chapter 2 narrates the sights and sounds which happened supernaturally to the 120 disciples present together on the day of Pentecost. “A sound like a mighty rushing wind came from heaven” and “tongues as of fire” appeared to them and separated apart to rest of each one (Acts 2:2).

“And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues, as the Spirit enabled them to speak” (Acts 2:4).

The crowds of devout Jews from Jerusalem and visiting Jews and proselytes from many nations, who were there for the Feast, came together to see what was happening. They were motivated because they heard “them speaking in our own languages the mighty works of God” (Acts 2:11).

They were all amazed and perplexed. Some questioned the meaning of this supernatural happening, asking, “What does this mean?” Others mocked, saying, “These men are full of new wine” (see Acts 2:12-13).

Peter stood among the other apostles and defended the speakers as not being drunk since it was too early in the morning! Rather, this transformed fisherman proclaimed these sights and sounds were a fulfillment of prophecy by the Prophet Joel (2:28-29) for the last days.

“‘In the last days it shall be,’ says God, ‘that I will pour out My Spirit on all flesh; your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams. Even on My menservants and maidservants I will pour out My Spirit in those days; and they shall prophesy’