

“Shavuot, Pentecost Sunday”

By this day the first four feasts have already been fulfilled, the first two by Jesus Christ on the actual feast days according to the Hebrew calendar.

- He was sacrificed on the **First Feast, Passover, Pesach**
- The **Second Feast of Unleavened Bread, Chag Hamotzi**, carried great significance in light of His sacrifice
- Resurrected on the **Third Feast, First Fruits, Yom Habikkurim**.
- The **Fourth Feast, Shavu’ot**, or the Festival of Weeks was again fulfilled on the exact day on what we now call Pentecost.
 - NOT 50 days after EASTER – 50 days after Passover
 - Last Sunday at Sunset started Shavuot

7 Feasts of Israel

- Significant in reflection – remembering what God has done
 - ALSO – what God is going to do!
- 2 newer festivals were added between Moses and Jesus:
 - Esther’s **Purim**
 - Winter’s **Hannukah**
- **9 Festivals in Jesus’ day**
 - He observed them all
- **3 of these Festivals were considered very special by the Lord – so special that the Lord required all men to come to His parties!**
 - **Pesach** – Jesus gives His life as a ransom for our sin
 - **Shavu’ot** – Jesus gives His Spirit for the ministry of the Church
 - **Sukkot** – Jesus gives us His hope for His soon return – Hosanna!

Pentecost was one of the Jewish feast days. Only they didn't call it Pentecost. That's the Greek name. The Jews called it the Feast of Harvest or the Feast of Weeks. It is mentioned four places in the first five books—in Exodus 23:16; Leviticus 23:15-22; Numbers 28:26-31 and Deuteronomy 16:9-12. It was the celebration of the beginning of the early weeks of harvest. In Palestine there were two harvests each year. The early harvest came during the months of May and June; the final harvest came in the Fall. Pentecost was the celebration of the beginning of the early wheat harvest, which meant that Pentecost always fell sometime during the middle of the month of May or sometimes in early June.

On Pentecost, the High Priest was to take two loaves of freshly baked wheat bread made of fine flour and yeast and offer them before the Lord. The wheat bread was made from the newly harvested wheat.(Leviticus 23:15-17 RSV)

Shavu’ot – The Inauguration of the “Ecclesia”, the CHURCH

- **Jesus foretold of the coming church’s power:**

Matthew 16:16–19

16 And Simon Peter answered and said, “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God!”

17 And Jesus answered and said to him, “Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah, because flesh and blood did not reveal this to you, but my Father who is in heaven.

18 And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock **I will build my church**, and the gates of Hades will not overpower it!

- **#1** – notice, it is **HIS church** – not mine, not Calvary Chapel’s!
 - **“THY kingdom come, THY will be done, on earth as it is in Heaven!”**
- **#2** – The church’s power is greater than the Gates of Hell!
 - **YOU** are the church – **the power invested in you, upon you, and working through you is power that is greater than Hell’s power!**

19 **I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven**, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you release on earth will be released in heaven.”

- **When will He give the church this power?**
- **How can the water baptized church get this power?**
- **How do I get the Keys of the Kingdom of Heaven?**

KEYS – they imply privilege, they supply access

- My house, my car, my keys!
- I don’t have open access to your house or bank accounts?
- You don’t have access to my house or bank accounts?
- JESUS lets us have BOTH!
 - Access to His throne room
 - Access to His bank accounts

Hebrews 4:16

16 Therefore let us approach **with confidence (boldly)** to the throne of grace, in order that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

ACCESS!

Romans 5:2 through whom also **we have access** by faith into this grace in which we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God.

Ephesians 2:18 For through Him **we both have access** by one Spirit to the Father.

Ephesians 3:12 in whom **we have boldness and access with confidence** by faith in Him. ¹

Jack Hayford: “Keys denote authority. Through Peter, a representative of the church throughout the ages, Jesus is passing on to His church His authority or control to **bind** and to **loose on earth**. The Greek construction behind **will be bound** and **will be loosed** indicates that Jesus is the One who has activated the provisions through His Cross; the church is then charged with implementation of what He has released through His life, death, and resurrection.

Clearly rabbinic in imagery, binding and loosing have to do with forbidding or permitting. In other words, Jesus is stating that the church will be empowered to continue in the privileged responsibility of leavening the earth with His kingdom power and provision. For example, if someone is bound by sin, the church can “loose” him by preaching the provision of freedom from sin in Jesus Christ (Rom. 6:14). If someone is indwelt by a demon, the church can “bind” the demon by commanding its departure (Acts 16:18), realizing that Jesus alone made this provision possible (Matt. 12:29). How the church binds and looses is diverse and would most certainly extend far beyond the mere use of these terms in prayerful petitions.” ²

- **When will He give the church this power?**
- **How can the water baptized church get this power?**
- **How do I get the Keys of the Kingdom of Heaven?**

Acts 1:4–5

4 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;

5 for John truly baptized with water,

but you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit

not many days from now.”

Matthew 3:11 (John the Baptist knew it would be coming!)

11 I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance, but He who is coming after me is mightier than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry.

He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.

- Baptism of repentance of your sins
- Who is the “you” here?

¹ *The New King James Version* (Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 1982), Ro 5:2–Eph 3:12.

² Jack W. Hayford, ed., *Spirit Filled Life Study Bible*, electronic ed. (Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson, 1997), Mt 16:19.

- Not just the Apostles
- Not Jesus – He didn't need to be baptized in the Holy Spirit.
- All those **with expectant hearts** waiting for the Messiah to appear.

The Apostles had received the Holy Spirit as the token/seal of their belief in Jesus as their Savior:

John 20:21–23

21 So Jesus said to them again, "Peace to you. As the Father has sent me, I also send you."

22 And when he had said this,

he breathed on them and said to them,

"Receive the Holy Spirit.

23 If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them. If you retain the sins of any, they are retained."

Luke 24:49

49 And behold, I am sending out what was promised by my Father upon you, but you stay in the city until you are **clothed with power from on high.**"

Acts 1:8

8 But you shall receive power **when the Holy Spirit has come upon you;** and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."

Acts 1:12–15

12 Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a Sabbath day's journey.

13 And when they had entered, they went up into **the upper room** where they were staying:

14 These all continued **with one accord in prayer and supplication**, with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with His brothers.

15 And in those days Peter stood up in the midst of the disciples **(altogether the number of names was about a hundred and twenty)**, and said,

- 120 people gathered in 1 purpose, 1 goal, 1 expectation
 - Expectation of God's Promised Helper/Comforter

Billy Graham: Man has two great spiritual needs.

One is for forgiveness. God answered it at Calvary.

The other is for goodness. God answered it at Pentecost.

Spring has sprung!

Summer has arrived!

The Great Fall is coming!

- **Is this what Amos was prophesying about?**

Amos 8:1-2 Thus the Lord God showed me:

Behold, **a basket of summer fruit.**

2 And He said, "Amos, what do you see?"

So I said, **"A basket of summer fruit."**

Then the Lord said to me:

"The end has come upon My people Israel;

I will not pass by them anymore.

Jeremiah 8:20 "The harvest is past,

The summer is ended,

And we (Israel) are not saved!"

Matthew 24:32-35

32 "Now learn this parable from the fig tree:

When its branch has already become tender and puts forth leaves,

you know that **summer is near.**

33 "So you also, when you see all these things,

know that it is near—at the doors!

34 "Assuredly, I say to you,

this generation will by no means pass away

till all these things take place.

35 "Heaven and earth will pass away,

but My words will by no means pass away.

The FAR majority of the Evangelical Christian community pay no attention to Biblical/Levitical Shavuot.

- "Stay away from Pentecost and what it means to the church of Jesus Christ."
- "Stay away from personal Holy Spirit empowerment" –

- Diminishes church power over individuals
- Diminishes personal need for the refilling of the Holy Spirit

Pentecost – a day to remember ALL that God has provided His church

- To wave our joy of His provision before Him
- To proclaim our gratitude for our rich Harvest
- To see OUR kinsman redeemer calling us into HIS fields – where even our gleaning will overwhelm us!
- A day to get re-baptized in the Holy Spirit
 - Re-pentent
 - Re-conciled
 - Re-filled
 - Re-freshed
 - Re-lived