



Christian Community

Pentecost was the Jewish Feast Day (Feast of Weeks), 50 days after Passover, commemorating the giving of the Law on Mt. Sinai and celebrating the offering of the first fruits of the Harvest of wheat to God.

The post-apostolic writers see in the presence and power of the Spirit the source and dynamic of peace and unity within the church.

The Holy Spirit :

Empowers & inspires individuals

Gives supernatural courage

Lifts people above their human limitations so they are able to achieve great things for God

Gives fresh insight and understanding

Inspired the writers of the Bible and others to write spiritual books

Silently transforms inner lives and enables personal changes in behaviour

Guides and directs

Can be prophetic

Can bring joy in the midst of adversity

Enabled the widespread growth & development of the global Church

Is a unifying factor in our faith and is always working in love to fulfil God's purposes.

[IVP Dictionary of the Later NT & its Developments : via Logos]



Week 7. Spirit-Filled Community

- Do you think the Holy Spirit is relevant to the Church?
- Read Acts 2:1-21
- How was the coming of the Holy Spirit seen and felt by the disciples?
- What immediate difference did it make to them?
Peter interprets this event as the fulfilment of God's promises spoken by the prophet Joel.
- How did everyone react?

Every Christian receives the gift of the holy Spirit which is available to all who believe and therefore is a unifying aspect of the Church.

- How might the Holy Spirit help us as individuals and as a Church?
- There are many ways in which the silent work of the Holy Spirit brings about change & transformation both in individual Christians and in the Church. Look at the list opposite and discuss those that you are drawn to.
- Can you think of examples / personal experience to illustrate some of them?
- How might we, as a Church, retain an openness to the work of the Spirit?
- Close with prayer, for the work of our Church to be led by the Holy Spirit in the direction of God's choosing.