

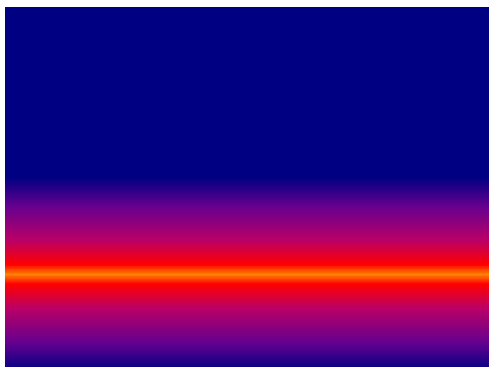
Holy Spirit speaks my lingo too!

Acts 2:1-13

By pastor Ken Keyte

4th June 2017

1



Kia ora tatou,

Today churches *all over the world* are celebrating a very significant anniversary. Does anyone know *what it is*? [Pentecost]

But it's *not only Christians* all over the world who celebrate this anniversary, *who else* celebrates Pentecost? [Jews]

Long before Pentecost was a Christian celebration,
it was a *Jewish festival*.

This morning I'm going to read *Acts 2:1-13* that describes what happened at the *Jewish festival of Pentecost* soon after the *risen Lord Jesus Christ* had ascended to heaven.

2

Acts 2:1-13

¹ When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. ² Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. ³ They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. ⁴ All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them. ⁵ Now there were staying in Jerusalem God-fearing Jews from every nation under heaven.

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3

Acts 2:1-13

⁶ When they heard this sound, a crowd came together in bewilderment, because each one heard them speaking in his own language.

⁷ Utterly amazed, they asked: "Are not all these men who are speaking Galileans?" ⁸ Then how is it that each of us hears them in his own native language? ⁹ Parthians, Medes and Elamites; residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, ¹⁰ Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya near Cyrene; visitors from Rome

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4

Acts 2:1-13

¹¹ (both Jews and converts to Judaism); Cretans and Arabs—we hear them declaring the wonders of God in our own tongues!" ¹² Amazed and perplexed, they asked one another, "What does this mean?"

¹³ Some, however, made fun of them and said, "They have had too much wine."

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5



Let's begin our *Christian Pentecost celebrations* this morning by recognising that *just as* there were people from *all over the world* in Jerusalem for the *Pentecost festival*, (who spoke many different languages),
so *too do we* have people from *all over the world* (who speak many different languages!) here with us today!

So those of you who are originally from a *different country* (and speak a different language to English),
when I *read out your country* I'd like to invite you to stand up and say a *greeting* in your own language?

Fiji
Samoa
Vanuatu
Papua New Guinea
Indonesia
Thailand
China
Malaysia
Holland

Germany
Italy
Chili
Kenya
Ethiopia
South Africa
England
Australia
???

On the day of Pentecost Acts 2 says the God fearing Jews asked in amazement. "*How is that each of us hears these Galileans in our own native language?*"

The answer is given in verse 4, the *followers of Jesus* who were together on the day of Pentecost, "*all of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them.*"

That the people in Jerusalem from *all over the world* could understand what these *followers of Jesus from Galilee* were saying, was a *supernatural sign* that the Holy Spirit speaks yours and my *language too!*

People from Fiji, Samoa, Vanuatu, Papua New Guinea, Indonesia, Thailand, China, Malaysia, Holland, Germany, Ethiopia, *Te Reo speakers*, all the English speaking countries, and New Zealand! - did you know that the *Holy Spirit* speaks *your language too!*

Now since this all happened at a *Jewish festival*, let's get into a *celebratory mood* by playing a *Pentecost party game* with me - called:

Seven things you should know (but might not) about Pentecost!

There *are prizes!* So *be in to win* and let's find out *how much you know* (or don't know) about *Pentecost* by answering *seven multi-guess questions*.

6

Seven things you should know
(but might not) about Pentecost

1. Which of the following names was Pentecost also known as:

- A. Festival of Weeks
- B. Harvest Festival
- C. Festival of Firstfruits
- D. Shavuot
- E. All of the above

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7

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2. Pentecost was also known as the festival of weeks because it was to be:

- A. celebrated on one day of the first week of harvest
- B. celebrated the day after seven weeks since the passover feast
- C. celebrated that the weak will be made strong
- D. none of the above

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Seven things you should know
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3. The word Pentecost comes from:

- A. the Greek word for 50 used in the Greek translation of the Old Testament
- B. the 50 day time period between the passover of Israel's exodus from Egypt and receipt of the Ten Commandments on Mt Sinai
- C. 50 days after Easter Sunday
- D. all of the above

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4. Pentecost expresses gratefulness for God's provision of the harvest by:


- A. waving banners and playing trumpets
- B. waving two loaves of bread symbolising the first fruits of harvest dedicated to God
- C. waving the first fruits of the harvest as an offering to God
- D. All of the above

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10

Seven things you should know (but might not) about Pentecost

5. The day of Pentecost:

- A. is different for Jews and Christians: Jews celebrate God's provision of the harvest; Christians celebrate God's provision of the Holy Spirit.
- B. is the same for Jews and Christians: both celebrate God's abundant provision of everything
-  C. is similar but different for Jews and Christians: Jews became the nation serving Yahweh under the laws of God; Christians became the people of many nations serving Jesus under the power of the Holy Spirit
- D. None of the above


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- a. is different for Jews and Christians: Jews celebrate God's provision of the harvest; Christians celebrate God's provision of the Holy Spirit.
- b. is the same for Jews and Christians: both celebrate God's abundant provision of everything
- c. *is similar but different for Jews and Christians: Jews became the nation serving Yahweh under the Torah laws of God; Christians became the people of many nations serving Jesus under the power of the Holy Spirit*
- d. None of the above

11

Seven things you should know (but might not) about Pentecost

6. The day of Pentecost is also:

- A. 10 days after Jesus ascended from heaven
- B. The anniversary of King David's death
- C. A celebration of divine abundance of the Spirit, promising much more to come
- D. Referred to by Apostle Paul, "...we who have the first fruits of the Spirit..." (Rom 8:23)
-  E. All of the above

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- e. *All of the above*

12

Seven things you should know (but might not) about Pentecost

7. The day of Pentecost in Acts 2 was:

- A. Prophesied by Micah, "God says, in the last days I will pour out my Spirit on all people..." (Micah 4:1)
- B. Prophesied by Jeremiah, "I will put my law in their minds and write it on their hearts" (Jer. 31:33)
-  C. *Prophesied by both Micah and Jeremiah*
- D. Was not foreseen by anyone in the Old Testament

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- c. *Was prophesied by both Micah and Jeremiah*
- d. Was not foreseen by anyone in the Old Testament

Who got seven out of seven? [prizes]

13



So given *all we've just learned about the similarities & differences* between Pentecost for the *Jew* and for the *Christian*, was it *just a coincidence* that God *poured out the Holy Spirit* on the Jewish celebration of *God's law being given* to the people of Israel? [No!]

Then *what does this mean* for people like *you and me*?

Doesn't it mean that, *not only* did God pour out the Holy Spirit to *fill and empower us*, (like the Christians at Pentecost) but also to *speak to us personally* (like the people from all over the world at Pentecost) because the Holy Spirit speaks *our lingo too!*

Peter is a great example of this!

Peter was the first *spirit filled follower of Jesus* to stand up and preach a *Spirit empowered Pentecost sermon*, which he based upon the scriptures of *Joel 2:28-32* and *Psalms 110*. (You can read it if you like in Acts 2:14-36).

Jewish Pentecost celebrates when the *Holy Spirit wrote God's Laws down and gave them to Moses* for the people of Israel to *read and obey*.

Christian Pentecost celebrates the *Holy Spirit writing God's laws on the believers hearts and minds* (such as Peter).

Which is a pretty good *clue* that the *Holy Spirit's preferred way of communicating to us* (in our lingo!)- is through *scripture!*

Of course he speaks to us in *other ways too*, but *Spirit inspired scripture* is the Holy Spirit's *first mode of communicating to me and you!*

Which means (don't you think) that we should give the Holy Spirit *plenty of opportunity* to speak to us in our language *through scripture*.

But *how?*

I confess to having had lots of *difficulty* with the common Christian practice of getting up in the morning for a *quiet time*.

I used to try to do it because I knew *that's what Christians were supposed to do*, but I'd usually find that after I'd read my Bible passage for the day that instead of having a *wonderfully intimate one on one time between me, and the Holy Spirit*,

I'd end up thinking about whatever was on my mind, while the *Father, Son and Holy Spirit* were probably having a conversation about me that I hadn't joined in on!

That was until I discovered a *quiet time tool* that has *revolutionised* how I listen to the *Holy Spirit speaking to me in my language through scripture*.

It's a very simple tool that involves simply reading a passage of scripture and then writing down what I sense the Holy Spirit is saying to me through it.

I use an acronym called S.T.A.R to help me with that.

14

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- SCRPTURE:
- THOUGHTS (about Scripture): "*Holy Spirit what did this mean to those who first read this scripture?*"
- APPPLICATION: "*Holy Spirit what are you saying to me through this scripture?*"
- REPLY:

S stands for "*Scripture*", I read the Bible passage from my daily devotional and then I write out the verse that catches my attention as being especially for me.

T stands for "*Thoughts about scripture*".

I pray: "*Holy Spirit show me what this scripture meant to those it was originally written to.*"

Often I have to read a bit further to help me with that, like flicking to the start of the book to find out who it was written to, or the chapter before to find out what was going on. And I start writing it down.

A is for "*Application*." I pray: "*Holy Spirit what are you saying to me through this scripture about my situation today*" (whatever I'm going through, good or bad, I know the Holy Spirit wants to speak to me about it, and will use the scripture for what he wants to say. And again I start writing.

R is for "*Reply*." Now I start writing down my prayer reply to what I've just heard him the Holy Spirit saying to me through scripture. because I know he wants to listen to me too!

And that's it!

Now I 'd like to give you a go at doing that this morning by using the sheets you were given out as you came in.

I'm going to supply the Bible passage for you, so you can have a go!

But first *let me pray for you.*

Holy Spirit bring to our attention (each and everyone one of us) a verse from this scripture passage that you want to speak to us through today.

Holy Spirit help us understand what this passage meant to the people it was first written to?

Holy Spirit what are you saying to each and every one of us through this passage today?

Holy Spirit thank-you that you listen to our reply because we know from Pentecost that you speak our language too!

Seven things you should know (but might not) about Pentecost

1. Which of the following names was Pentecost also known as: A B C D E
2. Pentecost was also known as the festival of weeks because it was to be: A B C D
3. The word Pentecost comes from: A B C D
4. Pentecost expresses gratefulness for God's provision of the harvest by: A B C D
5. The day of Pentecost is: A B C D
6. The day of Pentecost is also: A B C D E
7. The day of Pentecost in Acts 2 was: A B C D

SCRIPTURE: *'Not only so, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for our adoption as sons and daughters, the redemption of our bodies.'* (Rom 8:23)

THOUGHTS (about Scripture) *"Holy Spirit show me what this scripture meant to those it was originally written to."*

APPLICATION: *"Holy Spirit what are you saying to me through this scripture about my situation today"*

REPLY: