

Pentecost

Acts 2

Pentecost Introduction

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- **Acts 1:8** is the key to the whole book – and explains the *For Christ* portion of Horizon Central's mission.

But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.

Pentecost Introduction

Outline of Acts (from Acts 1:8)	Chapters
• The Witness in Jerusalem	1 – 7
• The Witness in Judea and Samaria	8 – 12
• The Witness to the End of the Earth	13 – 28

Pentecost Introduction

Three Major Themes within Acts:

- Mission
- Opposition
- Inclusion

Pentecost Introduction

One of the major themes in Acts is inclusiveness. Luke provides strong evidence that the community of believers transcends all racial, regional and social barriers. The church should not be divided on the lines of race, region or social class. Believers are called to reach out to everyone.

– Paul Mumo Kisau,
Nairobi International School of Theology



Pentecost Introduction

Three Major Points of Emphasis:

1. Jesus Christ proclaimed in his death and resurrection
 2. A church empowered by the Holy Spirit
 3. A church devoted to prayer
- Watch for all three of these items in **Acts 2**.

Pentecost Introduction

- Finally, this chapter must also be understood in light of the orders Christ left with his followers.

- **Acts 1:4-5** (ESV)

⁴ And while staying with them [the apostles] he ordered them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the promise of the Father, which, he said, “you heard from me; ⁵ for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.”

Pentecost Introduction

- Finally, this chapter must also be understood in light of the orders Christ left with his followers.
- **Acts 1:14** (ESV)

All these [at most 120, from Acts 1] with one accord were devoting themselves to prayer, together with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and his brothers.

Pentecost Introduction

An Outline of Acts 2:

1. Miracle 2:1-13
2. Message 2:14-36
3. Response 2:37-41
4. Results 2:42-47

1. Miracle 2:1-13

1. Miracle 2:1-13

- **2:1** Pentecost = “Fiftieth” = *Shavuot* or “Weeks”,
 - See **Leviticus 23:15-21**
- This was a Holiday of Harvest. It signified the end of Israel's harvest season.
- Spiritually, at this point, Israel's harvest season is coming to an end and the Church is being born.

1. Miracle 2:1-13

- 2:2-4 Four Details of the Spirit's Coming:
 - There was a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind which filled the whole house (v.2)
 - divided tongues as of fire that sat upon each of them (v.3)
 - They were all filled with the Holy Spirit (v.4)
 - They began to speak with other tongues (languages) as the Spirit gave them utterance (v.4)

1. Miracle 2:1-13

- 2:5 devout men from every nation
- These were there for the feast.
- Pentecost was one of the three holidays for which Jewish men would gather in Jerusalem.

1. Miracle 2:1-13

- 2:10 Jews and proselytes

- Proselytes were Gentiles who converted to Judaism.
- They were circumcised and welcomed into the community.
- Another category – the God fearers – attended the synagogue services.

1. Miracle 2:1-13

- **2:12-13** These are still the most common responses to God's work in peoples' lives (not only speaking in tongues):
 - Some are **amazed**. (v.12 & 7)
 - Some are **perplexed**. (v.12 & 6)
 - Others **mock**. (v.13)

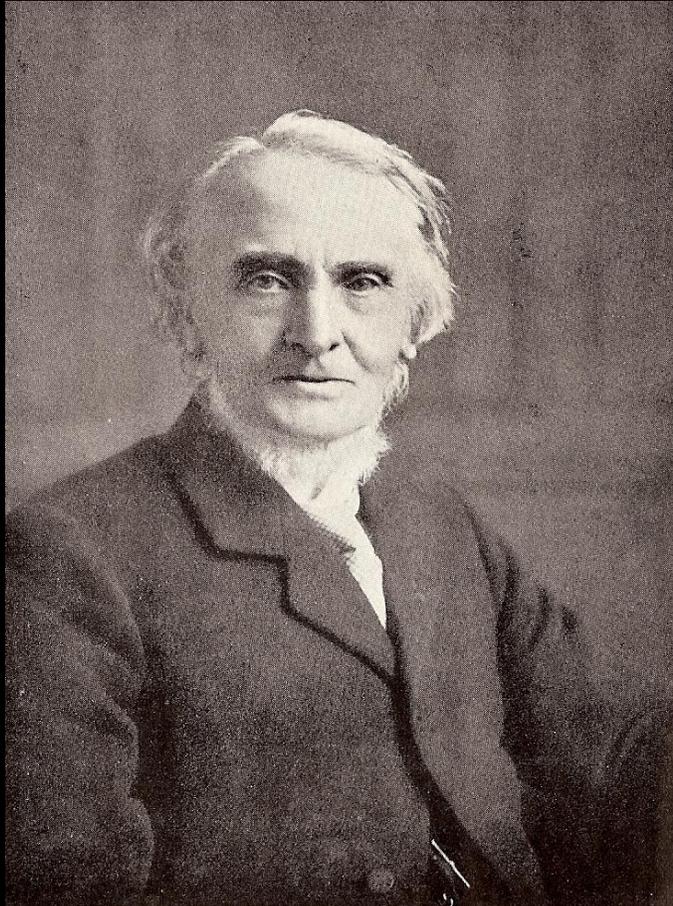
2. Message 2:14-36

- Look for three things in this message we are about to read:
 1. Promise
 2. Fulfillment
 3. The resurrection-ascension of Jesus.
- This is the theological core of the gospel – and the whole New Testament.

2. Message 2:14-36

- 2:22 & 36 Some of those directly responsible for the death of Jesus were part of the crowd.
- Notice overall how Jesus forms the very heart and center of Peter's message. He is both Lord and Christ

2. Message 2:14-36



The three names are names of the same Person, but they proclaim altogether different aspects of His work and His character. The name 'Jesus' is the name of the Man, and brings to us a Brother; the name 'Christ' is the name of office, and brings to us a Redeemer; the name 'Lord' is the name of dignity, and brings to us a King.

– Alexander Maclaren (1826 – 1910)

2. Message 2:14-36

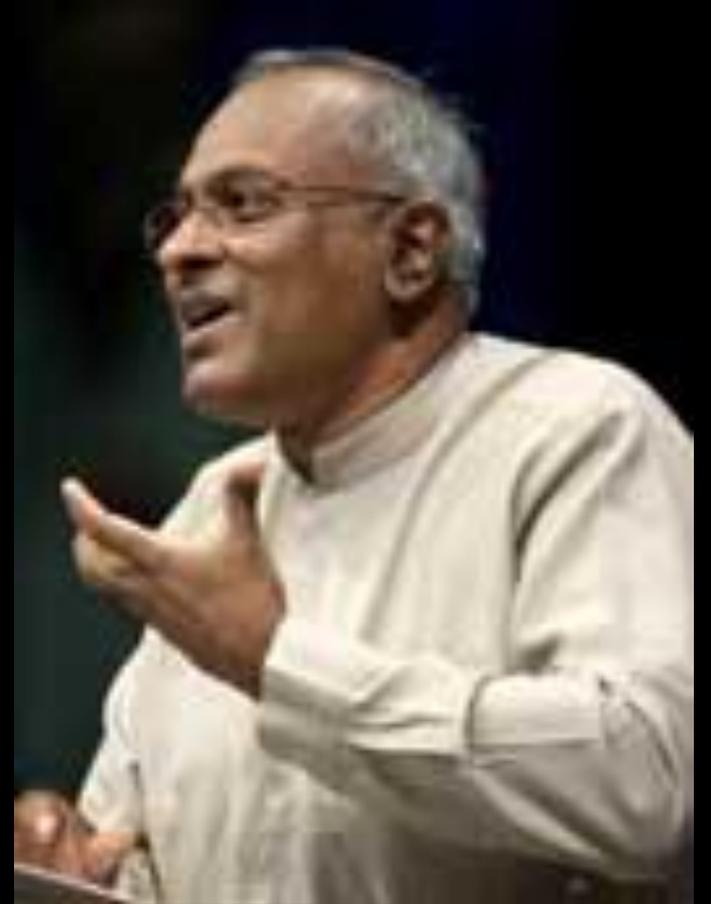
- In Jesus, we have a Brother, a Redeemer and a King.
- In a nutshell, **Christianity is Christ** – which is the title of a book by W. H. Griffith Thomas.

3. Response 2:37-41

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Christianity is optimistic about grace, but pessimistic about human nature.

– Ajith Fernando,
Youth for Christ, Sri Lanka



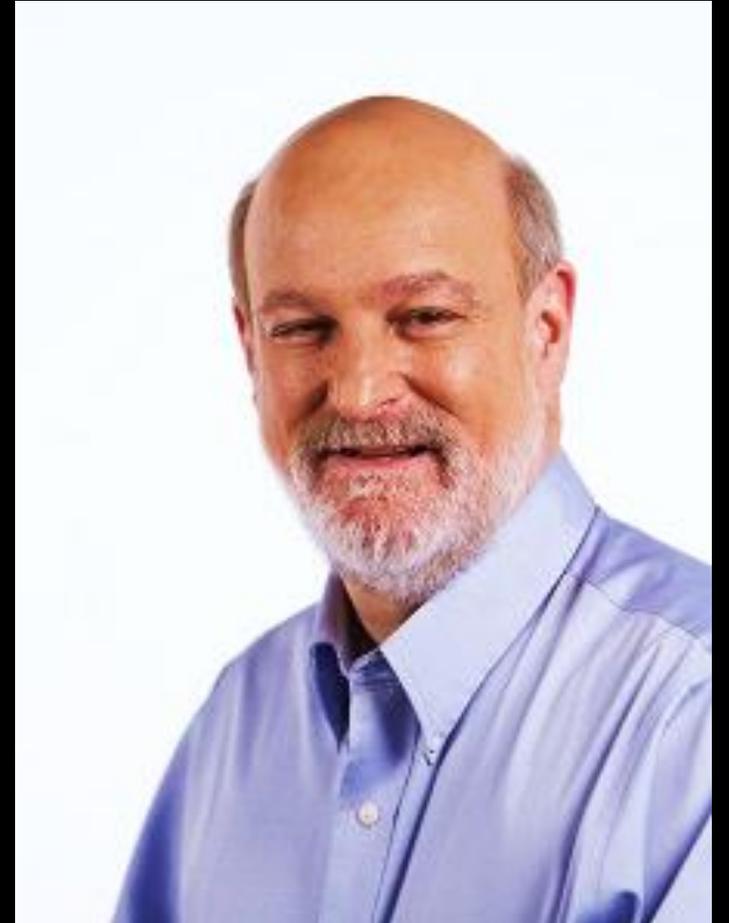
3. Response 2:37-41

- Peter's assumes that everyone needs forgiveness of sins and can be forgiven through faith in Jesus.
- These are the two sides of the gospel coin.

3. Response 2:37-41

Out of the ashes from which resurrection emerges is a new life that rests in unending fellowship with God ... But this promise is not conferred automatically. One must respond to it with a faith or turning that asks to receive what is promised.

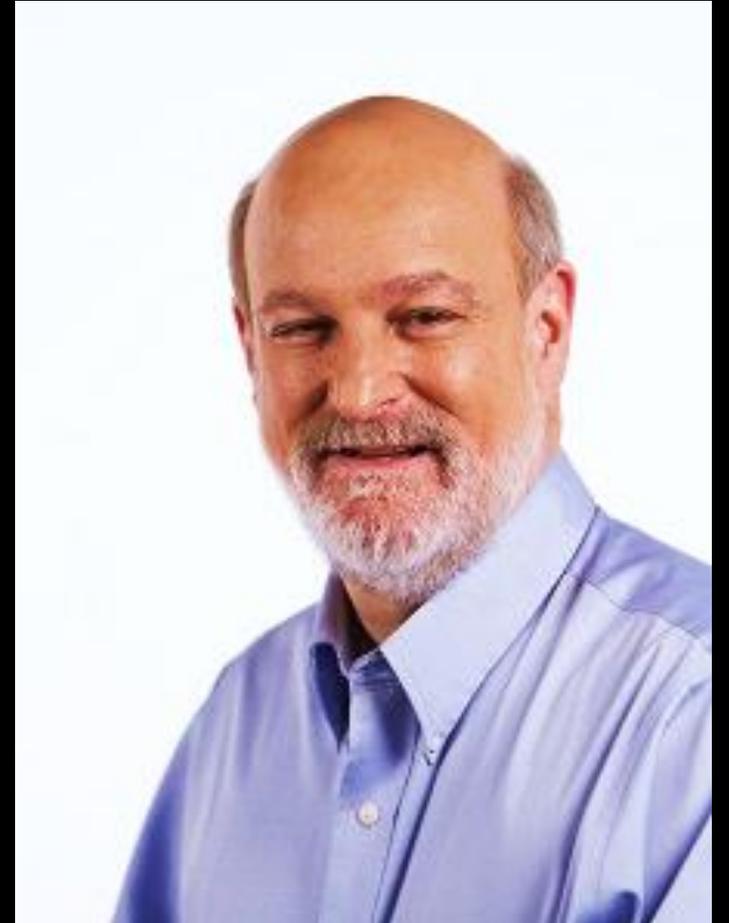
– Darrell Bock,
Dallas Theological Seminary



3. Response 2:37-41

Having asked, one can trust God to provide it. After all, it is a promise that God gave much to fulfill.

– Darrell Bock,
Dallas Theological Seminary



3. Response 2:37-41

- Peter's instructions are concise.
- Repent and be baptized, baptism being the outward mark of entrance into the community of faith.
- Please don't turn baptism into a "saving work"; it is really a "work of faith" – it naturally follows from a saving faith.

4. Results 2:42-47

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- 2:42 The apostles' teaching In those days the apostles did the actual teaching.
- These days you are stuck with guys like me.
- But we have the same Bible in the OT, now supplemented by writings that come from the apostles and their coworkers.

4. Results 2:42-47

- 2:42 fellowship = “sharing in common”
- Only use of the term in Acts.
- 19 times in the NT, 14 by Paul.

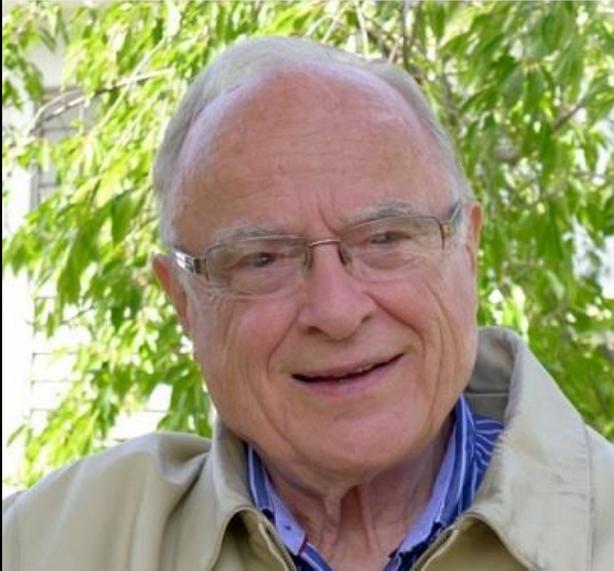
4. Results 2:42-47

- 2:42 fellowship = “sharing in common”
- Something is shared like food or material goods, as well as shared activity.
- Christianity is an interpersonal, interactive, interconnected faith. It cannot be otherwise.

4. Results 2:42-47

- 2:42 Breaking of bread probably refers to the earliest form of what we now call communion or the Lord's Supper.
- It's listed here with the activity of the church.
- It was probably part of a communal meal.

4. Results 2:42-47



Undoubtedly, “the breaking of bread” was an occasion for joy, love, and praise because it was connected with Jesus. Probably it should be understood as subtly connoting the passion of Christ, even though the full theology as described by Paul had not yet come into focus.

– Richard Longnecker,
Wycliffe College, U. of Toronto

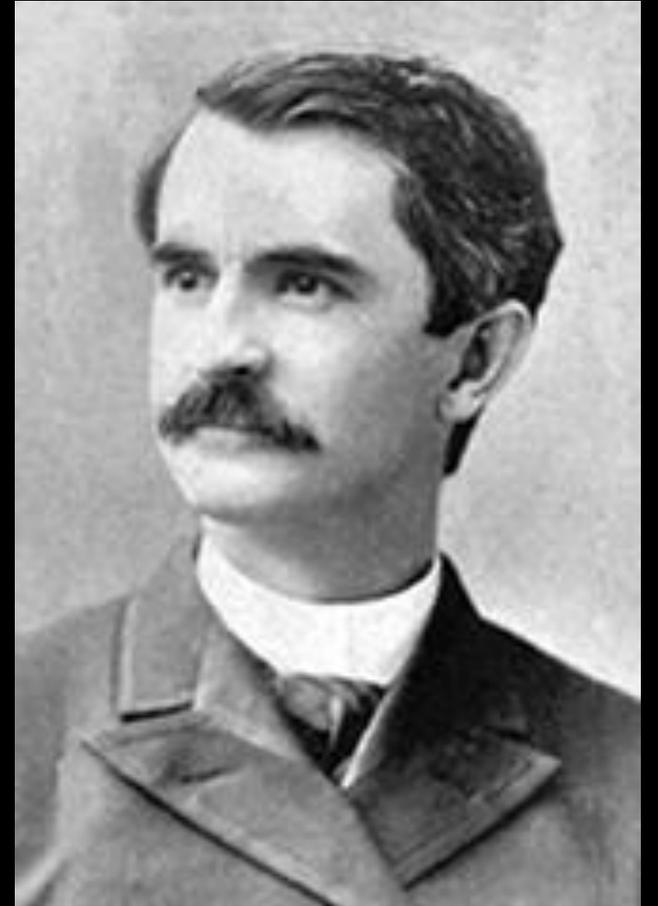
4. Results 2:42-47

- 2:42 **Acts** is a book of action just as the title indicates.
- The disciples are out there working to reach the world.
- Still, **Prayer** was an integral part of all their activity.
- It is mentioned 30 times in the book's 28 chapters.

4. Results 2:42-47

When we rely upon organization, we get what organization can do; when we rely upon education, we get what education can do; when we rely upon eloquence, we get what eloquence can do. But when we rely upon prayer, we get what God can do.

– A. C. Dixon, (1854 – 1925),
pastor, Moody Church, Chicago



4. Results 2:42-47

- 2:47 ... praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved.
- When the church is healthy and filled with the Holy Spirit, it reaches toward God and neighbor.

Pentecost Conclusions

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- Though **Acts 2** took place on a special spring day in Jerusalem, it was the blast off that began a story that still continues at present.
- In **Acts 1:8** is Christ had promised,
But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.

Pentecost Conclusions

As we proceed through the book, we will see Christ's promise begin to unfold.

- The Witness in **Jerusalem** 1 – 7
- The Witness in **Judea and Samaria** 8 – 12
- The Witness to the **End of the Earth** 13 – 28

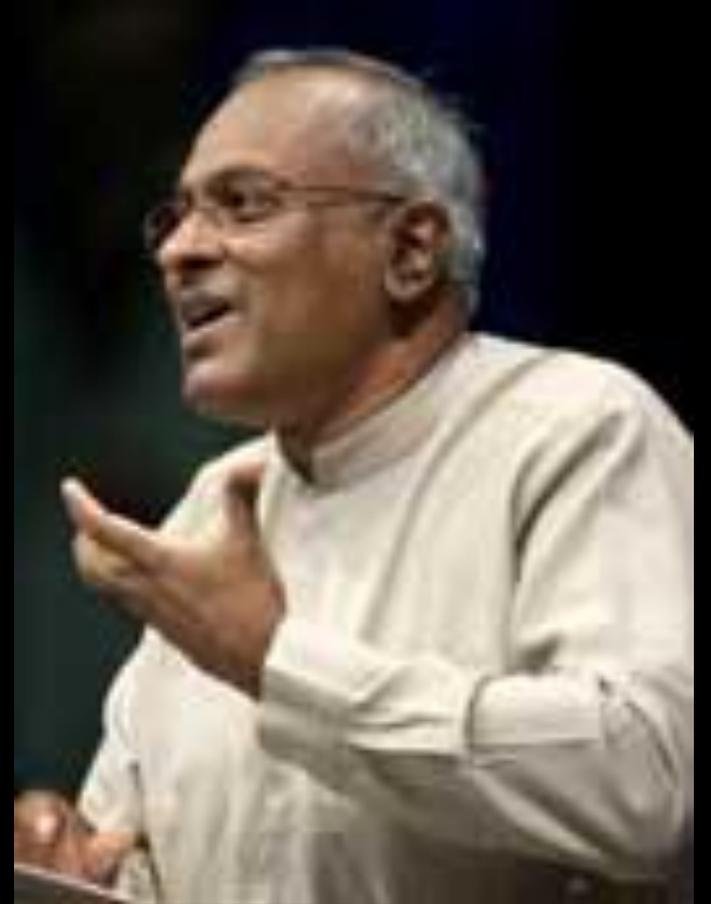
Pentecost Conclusions

- We will also see three Major Themes within Acts:
 - **Mission** – From the beginning to the end of the book, the church stays on task.
 - **Opposition** – Not everyone receives the message, or even stays neutral.
 - **Inclusion** – All who will may come to Jesus.

Pentecost Conclusions

The greatest thing about the mission of the church is the message we have to proclaim, and it should remain as one of the great features that motivates people to mission.

– Ajith Fernando,
Youth for Christ, Sri Lanka



Pentecost Conclusions

Three Major Points of Emphasis:

1. Jesus Christ proclaimed in his death and resurrection
 2. A church empowered by the Holy Spirit
 3. A church devoted to prayer. All three of these were visible in **Acts 2**.
- Do we want to be this kind of church?