



## BIBLE RADIO PRODUCTIONS

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BIBLE ADVENTURES SCRIPT:

**A1704 ~ Pentecost.**

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*Welcome to Bible Adventures. Help for today. Hope for tomorrow. Jesus is Lord of all.*

‘Pentecost’ is a Greek word meaning ‘50 days’ and is celebrated around the Christian world as the day the Holy Spirit of God Almighty Himself was given to 120 followers of Jesus. These followers had been waiting and praying since Jesus’ ascension into heaven to receive this new Comforter Jesus had promised to them. Pentecost marks the beginning of the Church Age in history, but there is much to be learnt from understanding the Day of Pentecost.

In the Old Testament, the Children of Israel left Egypt the day after Passover to travel seven weeks before reaching Mount Sinai. At this mountain, God spoke to the people and gave Moses the Law for them to follow. It was at this time that Israel became a nation. God gave the Israelites feast days to be observed in special ways and times. There were 3 spring feasts and 3 autumn feasts. One held in the middle in early summer was known as ‘The Feast of Weeks’ and celebrated 7 weeks from the first Sunday after Passover. Traditionally, the nation’s grain harvest was commenced on Resurrection Sunday.

There were three compulsory feasts for all able-bodied men to attend in Jerusalem for worshipping the Lord at the Temple. For the Feast of Weeks festival, the people took the first fruits of their lands and offered them to the Lord. It was a joyful and thankful time for the people as they celebrated.

However, the Temple was destroyed in AD 70 and a revolt occurred in 135 AD. A final defeat of the Jewish nation in 140 AD meant that there would be no more national harvests to celebrate. The Jewish people were dispersed throughout the other nations of the world. The Feast of Weeks was now held on any day of the week and highlighted the giving of God's Law.

Early Christians also changed the way various festival dates are determined, although over the centuries, Christians have retained Pentecost to be remembered on a Sunday. To work out the date Christians now start counting on the day we call 'Easter Sunday', which is the first official Sunday after the first full moon that follows the Spring Equinox, when day and night are of equal length.

In current tradition, at this time of year, Jewish people read through the book of Ruth, which hints at the coming of the church. The story of Ruth has been called 'The Romance of Redemption'. It's about Naomi, a Jewish woman from Bethlehem, who travelled with her husband and two sons to a neighbouring country called Moab to escape a severe famine happening in Israel. This trip occurred in a peaceful time during the days of the judges. The sons married Moabite women and yet all three men died, leaving Naomi financially destitute.

After the famine in Israel ended, Naomi returned to Bethlehem with Ruth, one of her daughters-in-law who insisted on going with her. Once back in Bethlehem, Naomi's close relative, a prominent Jewish man named Boaz fell in love with Ruth and married her. In the process, he also regained Naomi's land as her kinsman redeemer. Both these events were accomplished according to the laws that God had given Moses. From this family came the ruling dynasty of Israel, which began with King David and now has Jesus Christ as its eternal ruler.

In today's *Bible Adventure* the Holy Spirit is given to Jesus' followers in Jerusalem.

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In the entire history of human beings, there have been three events that have been more important than all others: the birth of Jesus, the death and resurrection of Jesus and the coming of the Holy Spirit in full power on the disciples of Jesus. In Acts, Chapter 2, a doctor and writer named Luke, gives us a description of this third event.

It was in Matthew, Chapter 3, that John the Baptist predicted Jesus would baptise His followers with both the Holy Spirit and fire. Fire is a sign of God's presence, which God used throughout the Old Testament: God appeared before Moses in flames of fire from within a bush. When the Jewish people fled from Egypt, God went before them in a pillar of fire at night to show them the way. When the prophet Elijah offered a sacrifice to show the one and true living God, God consumed the sacrifice, the altar and surrounding things with fire that came from heaven.

When the Holy Spirit was given at Pentecost, Jesus' disciples were gathered together in a house. They heard a sound like the blowing of a violent wind and they saw tongues of fire appear in the room and rest on each person's head. All of the followers were filled with the Holy Spirit and their lives were changed forever.

From that day on, the disciples had the power of the risen Christ living within them! Their fears and doubts were gone and when they spoke, they spoke with the power and authority of God through His Holy Spirit. They lived their lives remaining fully dependent on the Holy Spirit and remained under His guidance and control.

Back in the days of the American wild west, when there was much undeveloped land to be found, a few men went bush with their bedrolls and as much food as they could carry. After they had travelled for many miles, they stopped at a sandy river bank and tried to wash some of the sand to see if it contained any gold. With promising results, they set up camp in that place and worked for a few weeks in very primitive conditions.

As their food was getting low, the men agreed to go back to get more supplies. They took with them a reasonable quantity of the gold that they had found and all agreed that they wouldn't tell anyone about their find. However, to their surprise, as they started back into the bush, they were followed by other men loaded up with items needed to go out gold hunting.

When questioned as to where they were going, the new men said that no one had told them but they could easily see on the faces of the successful ones that they had struck gold. Likewise, a person filled with the Holy Spirit shows on their face the love and joy of knowing Christ.

Some people have the idea that the Holy Spirit is just a force and they deny that the Holy Spirit is co-equal with God the Father and God the Son. In John, Chapter 15, the Lord Jesus said to His disciples: "But when the Helper comes, whom I shall send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who proceeds from the Father, He will testify of Me." This shows that the Holy Spirit is a person. However, the Holy Spirit never bears witness about Himself; rather, bears witness to Jesus. In Matthew, Chapter 28, where it speaks of making disciples of all the nations, including "baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit," He, the Holy Spirit, was given a place of perfect equality with both the Father and Son.

In John, Chapter 16, Jesus said: “When He, the Holy Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will speak and He will tell you things to come.” The Holy Spirit has fellowship with believers and He intercedes for them, as indicated in Romans, Chapter 8. He also gives them spiritual gifts and appoints them to service for God.

In going back to the beginning of the Bible, in the second verse of Genesis, Chapter 1, it speaks of the Spirit of God hovering over the waters. The Holy Spirit was there at the creation of the universe. And throughout the Old Testament of the Bible, God revealed Himself to individuals by the Holy Spirit.

On the Day of Pentecost recorded in the New Testament, the Holy Spirit began a new work in Jesus’ followers, for He came to form the church, which is the body of Christ. He has the important task of providing spiritual life for those who were spiritually dead before they put their faith in Christ. The Spirit also indwells new believers and seals them as belonging to God. While some individuals in the Old Testament were temporarily filled by the Holy Spirit, at Pentecost and thereafter, every committed believer in Jesus is indwelt by the Holy Spirit unendingly, as from the moment of salvation, the person’s body becomes a temple of God that He lives in.

If a person is not indwelt by the Holy Spirit, the Bible is clear that he or she isn’t saved from eternal destruction in the next life; for in Romans, Chapter 8, it says that if anyone doesn’t have the Spirit of Christ, that person does not belong to Christ.

Three conditions are necessary for a believer to be filled with the Spirit. 1. Christians shouldn’t put out the Spirit’s fire in their lives by resisting His guidance and empowerment, but they should yield to the Spirit. 2. Christians are not to grieve the Spirit by hiding any unconfessed sin or avoiding being restored in fellowship with Christ after their sin is forgiven. 3. Christians should walk daily in the Spirit, and by continual dependency on Him for victory over any sin in their lives.

The Holy Spirit will guide those who stay close to Him. The story is told of John Bunyan, who was being held as a prisoner in Bedford Jail for preaching the Gospel without having a licence to do so. Some of his prosecutors back in London heard rumours that he was often allowed to leave the prison while a prisoner; so they sent an officer to Bedford to discuss the matter with the jailer.

On the night before the officer came, Bunyan was at home with his family. For some reason, he became so restless that he told his wife that, although the jailer had given him permission to stay home until morning, something was telling him he should go back to the jail immediately. He did so, and the jailer, who still did not know about the impending arrival of the London officer, was a little upset by Bunyan coming back at such an unreasonable hour.

But early the next morning, the London officer arrived and questioned the jailer, asking, “Are all the prisoners here?” “Yes,” said the jailer. “Is John Bunyan here?” “Yes.” “Let me see him.” Bunyan was called and appeared and all was well. After the officer had gone, the jailer said to Bunyan, “Well, you may go in and out any time you think is proper, for you know when to return better than I can tell you.”

When we celebrate Pentecost, may we show our appreciation for the fellowship we have with God through His Spirit! And may we spend our lives working in the harvest He considers most valuable: the saving of people’s souls from eternal guilt and destruction. In Luke, Chapter 10, the Lord Jesus said: “The harvest truly is great, but the labourers are few; therefore pray the Lord of the harvest to send out labourers into His harvest.”

And may we always be reminded of the blessing in 2 Corinthians, Chapter 13, Verse 14 that says: “The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all. Amen.”

*The drama is from The Bible In Living Sound.*

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