

## Why All Christians Should Celebrate Pentecost



It has been said that there are 2 kinds of responses made by people. Some people say why? Some people say why not. I would like you to reconsider your preconceived attitudes about this day. Lets look at its relevance to us as Christian believers.

- This day is the founding day of the Church of Jesus / Yeshua (his Hebrew name).
- The Holy Spirit came in a mighty way just as Jesus had predicted He would.
- Some people might say that this belongs to the Old Testament past, but why then would God choose this special day to inaugurate His Church? The bible says that the feast days are “The LORD’s feasts” – they belong to God Himself.
- We have to be very careful to extradite ourselves from anti-Jewish bias that was unfortunately prevalent in the early Roman Church and in the days of the early Church fathers.
- The truth is that God made this day as the day associated with the final great harvest of the Jewish year. In a prophetic way it symbolizes the great final harvest of the world. And so it was that the world harvest of souls actually starts on this day!
- Remember it was Jesus Himself who told the disciples to wait in Jerusalem and not go out into the world to evangelize until they were endued with the Holy Spirit anointing that happened on the appointed day of Pentecost.

We are not trying to earn bonus points from God by celebrating this day, rather we are celebrating where the Church comes from and it’s roots in God’s plan going back thousands of years.

I can personally say that I have been blessed having celebrated Pentecost or Shavuot (the Feast of Weeks) for 12 years now. It is a time to rejoice at what God has done.

## **So my question again is, why not celebrate this event?**

But you may say, this is not something that you are familiar with. Well it's time to move out of the familiar box, to something that is God given. Pentecost is not a man made tradition, as are so many things that have been adopted by the Church over the years. Instead it is biblical.

Now we remember and celebrate God coming down gloriously to start something new on the earth. Jesus promises in John 14:18 where Jesus says "I will not leave you as orphans, but I will come to you". Later in John 14:26 Jesus promised "But the counselor, the Holy Spirit, who the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things". It happened! Halleluyah.

## **How can we celebrate this day?**

In our assembly we use the theme of Pentecost as the topic for the closest day of worship.

The theme is seen in the scriptures in the Tanach (Old Testament). Leviticus 23 describes the 7 yearly feasts with feast of Weeks/Shavuot as the 4th feast. The New Testament scripture describing the fulfillment of this feast is Acts 1:4 where Jesus told the disciples to wait in Jerusalem and Acts 2:1 where the day of Pentecost outpouring starts the church age.

On this day we encourage the people to open their hearts afresh to God's Holy Spirit, to be revived, to take this opportunity to be renewed.

Afterwards we have a special feast of food brought by the members for fellowship together. There is no legalism in this for us, just a blessing. But we are not judging anyone who doesn't do it as Col 2:16 says, "Therefore do not let anyone judge you by what you eat or drink or with regard to a religious festival, a new moon celebration or a Sabbath day."

You should try it too. Make it your tradition, you won't be disappointed. This is part of recovering the good things from the Jewish roots of our faith. You will be blessed!

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