

Preparation for Pentecost (2)

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Acts / Baptism of the Spirit; Pentecost; Revival; Reformation; Renew / Acts 2:1

The purpose of communion is essentially to renew your vows to God. In the Christian life people often fall in to a rut spiritually or lose their first love. This is why we meet with God regularly to re-commit in the process of communion.

- Powerful experience
 - continual study

- What happened?
- How did it happen?
- Can it be repeated?

- Start from beginning...

Acts 2:1 ESV

When the day of Pentecost arrived, they were all together in one place.

- Other version

- NKJV

Acts 2:1 NKJV

When the Day of Pentecost had fully come, they were all with one accord in one place.

- Adds detail

With One Accord

- How did they
 - get to be
 - in one accord?
- Previously,
 - division
 - in-fighting
 - competition
 - rivalry
- Now... Perfect

- unity
 - harmony
 - accord
-
- How did that Happen?
 - How did Pentecost Happen?
 - These answers...
 - Seem to be related.
 - Back to first question.
 - How did they get united.
 - God had made a promise:

Luke 24:49 ESV

And behold, I am sending the promise of my Father upon you. But stay in the city until you are clothed with power from on high.”

- They didn't know much...
 - stay in Jerusalem
 - power

- Holy Spirit
- Go to Jerusalem
 - wait
 - what to do while waiting.
 - had time to think...
- What else would they do?

[Acts 1:12-14](#) (ESV)

Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a Sabbath day's journey away. And when they had entered, they went up to the upper room, where they were staying, Peter and John and James and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James the son of Alphaeus and Simon the Zealot and Judas the son of James... together with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and his brothers.

- The group
 - 11 disciples
 - women
 - Jesus' family

› First step?

Small Group Meeting

- They came together.
 - small room
 - small group
- Step one...
 - Get together.
- Unity doesn't happen
 - without being together.

Marriage

Takes effort

Take intention

But is rewarding

Ecclesiastes 4:9–12 ESV

Two are better than one, because they have a good reward for their toil. For if they fall, one will lift up his fellow. But woe to him who is alone when he falls and has not another to lift him up! Again, if two lie together, they keep warm, but how can one keep warm alone? And though a man might prevail against one who is alone, two will withstand him—a threefold cord is not quickly broken.

- To grow together...
 - spend time together.
- As a church,
 - spend time together.
 - working
 - social
 - small groups.

Step 1: Small Group Gathering

Small Group Advertisement

- It goes further
 - what were they doing?

› Step Two

[Acts 1:14](#) (ESV)

All these with one accord were devoting themselves to prayer...

- Spending time
 - earnest prayer.
- Something special
 - when a group
 - prays together.

Acts of the Apostles (Chapter 4—Pentecost)

They knew that they had a Representative in heaven, an Advocate at the throne of God. In solemn awe they bowed in prayer, repeating the assurance, “Whatsoever ye shall ask the Father in My name, He will give it you.

- 10 days of prayer
 - intimate
 - meaningful
 - personal
 - unity
- What did they pray about?
 - Multiple things...
 - we will see.

Step 1: Small Group Gathering

Step 2: Earnest Prayer

- Small group prayer time.
- What else did they do?

› Step 3

Acts 1:15 ESV

In those days Peter stood up among the brothers (the company of persons was in all about 120) and said,

Meeting in Larger Church Group

- Came together
 - larger group
 - met for church.
- Revival happens in stages
 - personal
 - small group
 - church
 - community
- Take power of
 - small group revival
 - to others...
- How,

- testimonies
- reproducing experience.

What is Revival Anyway?

Acts of the Apostles Chapter 5—The Gift of the Spirit

It is not a conclusive evidence that a man is a Christian because he manifests spiritual ecstasy under extraordinary circumstances. Holiness is not rapture: it is an entire surrender of the will to God; it is living by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God; it is doing the will of our heavenly Father; it is trusting God in trial, in darkness as well as in the light; it is walking by faith and not by sight; it is relying on God with unquestioning confidence, and resting in His love.

- Revival is not feeling.
 - It is renewed experience.
 - of conversion.

Step 1: Small Group Gathering

Step 2: Earnest Prayer

Step 3: Church Meeting

- What else did they do?

› Step 4

Acts 1:15–17 ESV

In those days Peter stood up among the brothers (the company of persons was in all about 120) and said, “Brothers, the Scripture had to be fulfilled, which the Holy Spirit spoke beforehand by the mouth of David concerning Judas, who became a guide to those who arrested Jesus. For he was numbered among us and was allotted his share in this ministry.”

Study God’s Word

- (prophecy)
- (Judas)
- Bible Study
- They had added benefit.
 - Study scriptures...
- Also,
 - Remember Jesus words
 - spoken to them.

- They recalled
 - words of humility
 - patience
 - love
- Words they
 - slighted...

Step 1: Small Group Gathering

Step 2: Earnest Prayer

Step 3: Church Gathering

Step 4: Deep Bible Study

- What happened as
 - they studied and prayed?
- Realized
 - made mistakes
 - false assumptions

- inaccurate ideas
- study prophecy
- understand God's will.

› **Step 5:**

What happened to them

in the upper room

happened to all

during Pentecost.

Acts 2:37 ESV

Now when they heard this they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, "Brothers, what shall we do?"

Step 5: Repentance

- As they studied,
 - realized their error

- convicted
- confessed
- repented
 - cut to the heart

-

Acts of the Apostles Chapter 4—Pentecost

As the disciples waited for the fulfillment of the promise, they humbled their hearts in true repentance and confessed their unbelief.

- Confessed to God
- Wished they could
 - have the time back.
- Repentance with each other.
- Imagine
 - Peter

- denied Christ
- James & John
 - fought for 1st place
- Thomas
 - doubted resurrection
- Everyone
 - Bickering
 - Selfishness
 - lack of faith
- REGRETS!
- This was chance...
 - wrongs righted.

Acts of the Apostles Chapter 4—Pentecost

Putting away all differences, all desire for the supremacy, they came close together in Christian fellowship.

- Many tears shed
 - in the upper room.

Step 1: Small Group Gathering

Step 2: Earnest Prayer

Step 3: Church Gathering

Step 4: Deep Bible Study

Step 5: Repentance

- As they thought
 - about their failures
 - repented of them.
- They thought
 - redeem their actions.
 - make right choices.
- How?

Acts of the Apostles Chapter 4—Pentecost

But they were comforted by the thought that they were forgiven. And they determined that, so far as possible, they would atone for their unbelief by bravely confessing Him before the world.

› Step 6

Plan to Witness

- Pentecost
 - not just about
 - Jesus disciples
- That is where it started
 - but the result
 - so much more.

Acts 2:6–12 **ESV**

And at this sound the multitude came together, and they were bewildered, because each one was hearing them speak in his own language. And they were amazed and astonished, saying, “Are not all these who are speaking Galileans? And how is it that we hear, each of us in his own native language? Parthians and Medes and Elamites and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, Cretans and Arabians—we hear them telling in our own tongues the mighty works of God.” And all were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, “What does this mean?”

- The result
 - of Holy Spirit Power
 - evangelism...

Acts of the Apostles Chapter 4—Pentecost

The disciples prayed with intense earnestness for a fitness to meet men and in their daily intercourse to speak words that would lead sinners to Christ.

- Their prayer time
 1. Confession
 2. Power to witness
- I suggest
 - result of revival
 - always evangelism.
- Revival is not just
 - about me and you.
- It is about

- sharing experience
- with others.

Acts of the Apostles Chapter 4—Pentecost

As they meditated upon His pure, holy life they felt that no toil would be too hard, no sacrifice too great, if only they could bear witness in their lives to the loveliness of Christ's character.

In Summary...

Step 1: Small Group Gathering

Step 2: Earnest Prayer

Step 3: Church Gathering

Step 4: Deep Bible Study

Step 5: Repentance

Step 6: Plan to Witness

Can We Experience Pentecost Today?

- On the day of Pentecost
 - Peter was preaching
 - said to them.

Acts 2:38–39 ESV

And Peter said to them, “Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is for you and for your children and for all who are far off, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to himself.”

- Peter said to them.
 - For you
 - Your Children.
- Just them
- No,
 - Still holds true.
 - For us
 - our children
- We can have

- same experience.
- How? Follow same steps.

Acts of the Apostles Chapter 5—The Gift of the Spirit

The lapse of time has wrought no change in Christ's parting promise to send the Holy Spirit as His representative. It is not because of any restriction on the part of God that the riches of His grace do not flow earthward to men. If the fulfillment of the promise is not seen as it might be, it is because the promise is not appreciated as it should be. If all were willing, all would be filled with the Spirit. Wherever the need of the Holy Spirit is a matter little thought of, there is seen spiritual drought, spiritual darkness, spiritual declension and death. Whenever minor matters occupy the attention, the divine power which is necessary for the growth and prosperity of the church, and which would bring all other blessings in its train, is lacking, though offered in infinite plenitude. Since this is the means by which we are to receive power, why do we not hunger and thirst for the gift of the Spirit? Why do we not talk of it, pray for it, and preach concerning it? The Lord is more willing to give the Holy Spirit to those who serve Him than parents are to give good gifts to their children. For the daily baptism of the Spirit every worker should offer his petition to God. Companies of Christian workers should gather to ask for special help, for heavenly wisdom, that they may know how to plan and execute wisely. Especially should they pray that God will baptize His chosen ambassadors in mission fields with a rich measure of His Spirit. The presence of the Spirit with God's workers will give the proclamation of truth a power that not all the honor or glory of the world could give.

Appeal

Follow Steps

Step 1: Small Group Gathering

Step 2: Earnest Prayer

Step 3: Church Gathering

Step 4: Deep Bible Study

Step 5: Repentance

Step 6: Plan to Witness

Participate in Ten Days.