

Church of God Sunday School

THE DAY OF PENTECOST

Acts 1:4-8; 2:1-41

When Jesus lived on this earth, He spent much time with His disciples (also known as the Apostles). But Jesus could not stay with them forever. Before He went back to Heaven, Jesus promised to send another "Comforter" (John 14:16). This Comforter (the Holy Spirit) would live in the hearts of saved men and women.

The Holy Spirit would not only comfort the Apostles, but He was also going to guide them and direct them. The Apostles were going to have many trials and persecutions as they preached to others about Jesus. They were going to need God's Holy Spirit to help them.

Jesus gave His Apostles a command before He ascended to Heaven. He told them to "wait for the promise of the Father." What was that promise? "Ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you." They would need that power to witness "unto the uttermost part of the earth."

It was time for the Feast of Pentecost. This feast was in memory of Moses receiving the Ten Commandments at Mount Sinai. Many people traveled to Jerusalem at this time, and the city was very crowded.

When the "day of Pentecost was fully come," the Apostles gathered together "with one accord in one place." They were waiting for God's promise, obeying the words of Jesus. Suddenly, they heard "a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind." This wind not only filled the *room* they were in, but it also "filled all the *house* where they were sitting."

After the wind, "there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire." These tongues like fire "sat

upon each of them [the Apostles]." A few years before this, John the Baptist, prophesying of Jesus, said, "He shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost and with fire" (Luke 3:16). That time had finally come!

Immediately, the Apostles "were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues [or languages]." There were many people in Jerusalem, and they spoke several different languages. When "the

multitude" heard what was going on, they "came together." They were "confounded, because that every man heard them [the Apostles] speak in his own language."

The Apostles did not know all those different languages. It was the power of the Holy Spirit working through them, for they only spoke "as the Spirit gave them utterance [or the power to speak]."

The multitude of people was amazed. They said to each other, "How hear we every man in our own tongue, wherein we were born?" They were also doubtful, saying, "What meaneth this?" Others made fun of the Apostles,

accusing them of being drunk.

Peter stood "up with the eleven" and began to preach to the multitude. Peter told them that "these are not drunken, as ye suppose. . . . But this is that which was spoken by the prophet Joel." The Prophet Joel had prophesied of this day, a day when God would pour out His "Spirit upon all flesh." Peter went on to preach of Jesus—His life, the miracles He performed, His death, and His resurrection. (This was the same Peter who had denied knowing Jesus three times because he was afraid, but now he was boldly preaching to multi-



tudes of people. What made Peter different? It was the Holy Spirit that gave Peter courage and power.)

The people were "pricked in their heart," and they said, "What shall we do?" Peter said, "Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ . . . and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost."

That day about "three thousand souls" repented and were baptized. "And they continued stedfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers."

God's Spirit, working through the willingness of the Apostles, had begun a great work. Many people were hearing and believing the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Souls were being saved! "And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved."

MEMORY VERSE:

"But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you." Acts 1:8



That day, 3,000 believers were baptized! They began to spend their time together. Here are some of the things they did.

Match the picture with its shadow.



praised God



shared with persons in need



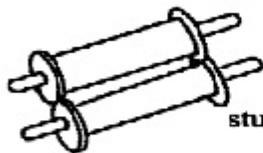
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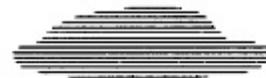
became friends



broke bread

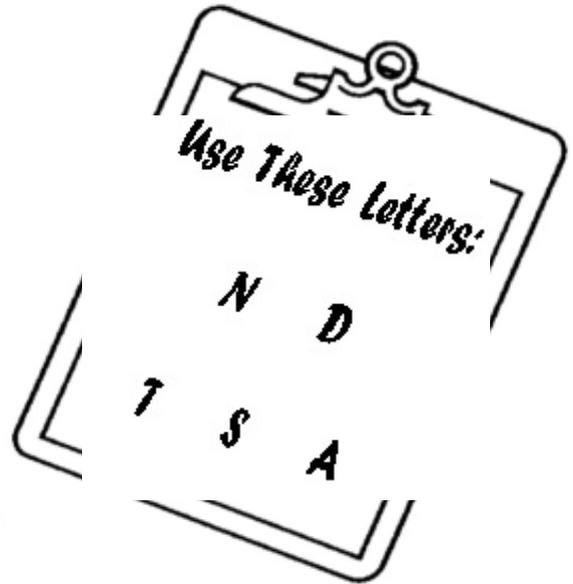
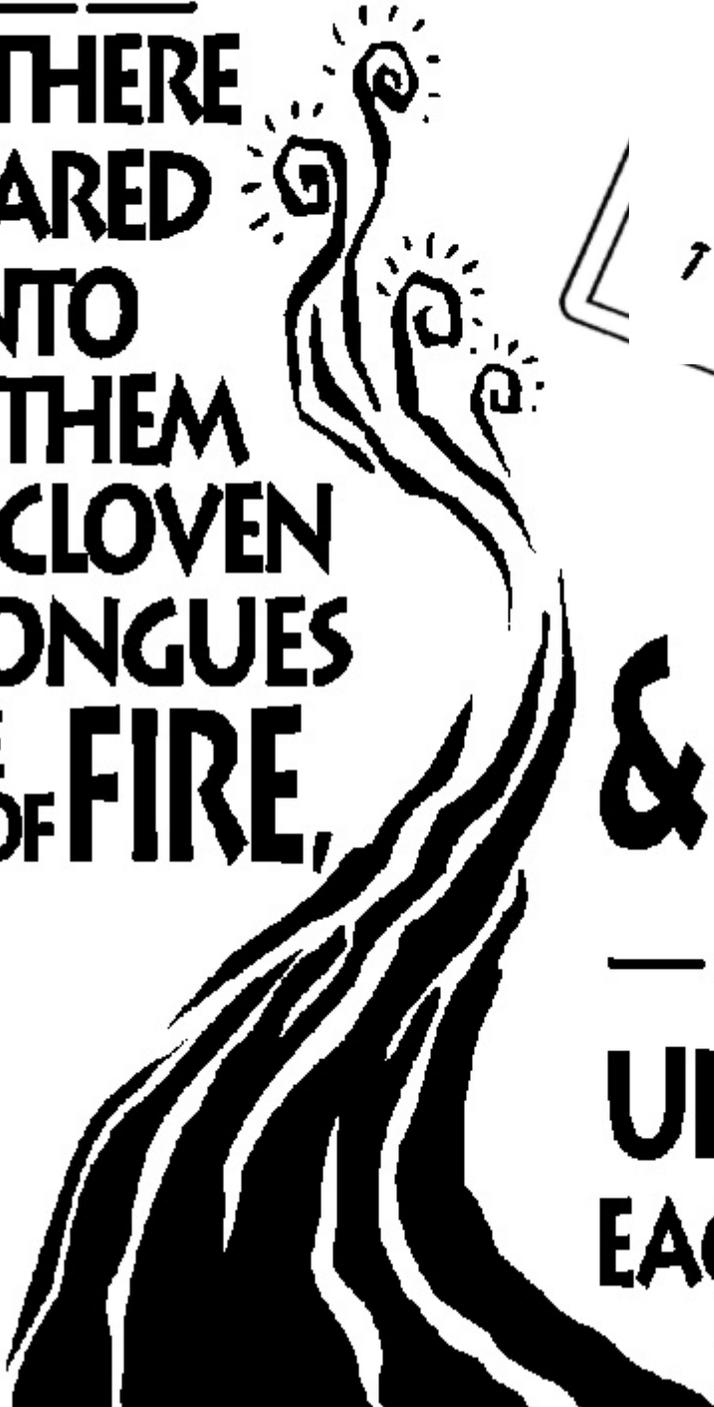


studied and learned



Fill in the Missing Letters

A _____
THERE
APPEARED
UNTO
THEM
CLOVEN
TONGUES
LIKE
AS OF FIRE,



& IT

UPON
EACH
OF THEM.



"Cloven Tongues Like as of Fire"