

## The Fifty Day Count to Pentecost: 2019

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April 2019

During the Feast of Unleavened Bread, we begin preparing for the next festival, the Feast of Weeks, known in the New Testament as Pentecost. We have not yet finished one festival, and we begin preparing for the next one.

Of all the festivals mentioned in Leviticus 23 and Deuteronomy 16, this is the only one that doesn't have a specific calendar date. The day on which Pentecost is observed is determined by counting a certain number of days, with the last day being the festival. We begin this count on the Sunday, "the day after the Sabbath" (Leviticus 23:9-16) that falls within the week of the Feast of Unleavened Bread. The most popular name for this festival in the Bible is the "Feast of Weeks," because calculating the date of the festival involves counting seven weeks or Sabbaths, from the day of the Wave Sheaf Offering. With the day after the seventh Sabbath, a Sunday, being the Feast of Weeks (Exodus 34:22; Leviticus 23:15-16; Numbers 28:26; Deuteronomy 16:9-10, 16; 2 Chronicles 8:12-13). This is a total count of fifty days. The exact date on the calendar may vary from year to year, but the feast day is always a Sunday. Although the old covenant sacrificial system has ceased, as Christians we continue to observe the Feast of Weeks. Still determining the count from the day of the wave sheaf offering by ancient Israel.

The following is a list of readings from the Book of Acts to be read during the fifty-day count to Pentecost. These readings will focus on the role of the Holy Spirit in the early Church. Besides, reading from Book of Acts on Sunday thru Friday. On the seven weekly Sabbaths there will be a collection of Bible Study Notes about the Holy Spirit: *Old Testament Prophecies*

*about the coming of the Holy Spirit, John and the coming Holy Spirit, Jesus and the coming of the Holy Spirit, Jesus, the giver of the Holy Spirit, The work of the Holy Spirit in the believer, Using the Spirit of Pentecost Part 1, and Using the Spirit of Pentecost Part 2.*<sup>1</sup>

### Counting to Pentecost

#### 1st Day - April 21, Wave Sheaf Sunday

On the Sunday occurring during the Feast of Unleavened Bread, the Israelites made a special offering called the wave sheaf. On this day, the high priest would wave a sheaf of the firstfruits of the barley harvest before God. This was the first sheaf of grain harvested during the spring harvest season (Leviticus 23:9-14).

On the morning of the wave sheaf offering, the Sunday following Jesus' death, during the Feast of Unleavened Bread. Mary Magdalene came to Jesus' tomb and found it empty (John 20:1-2). Jesus had already risen and left his tomb before the close of the weekly Sabbath.

Sometime later on Sunday, Jesus appears to Mary who was the first person Jesus showed himself to after his resurrection (Mark 16:9). In her excitement at seeing Jesus, Mary reaches out to hug him. But, Jesus tells her not to touch him because he hadn't yet ascended to the Father in heaven (John 20:11-18). After Jesus' meeting with Mary Magdalene, he appears to the other women who had gone to the tomb with her (Mark 16:1-2; Luke 23:55-24:1), allowing them to touch him (Matthew 28:5, 8-9).

This indicates that some time between Jesus' meeting with Mary (John 20:17) and the meeting with the other women (Matthew 28:9), he ascended to the Father in heaven. All this happened on the day of the wave sheaf offering, during the Feast of Unleavened Bread. On the same day, the High Priest waved a sheaf of firstfruits before God. Jesus having risen "from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen

asleep" (1 Corinthians 15:20; also see Colossians 1:18; Acts 26:23). Ascended to heaven as the first person resurrected to eternal life. Jesus is the firstfruits of those resurrected from the dead, with those belonging to him resurrected at his second coming (1 Corinthians 15:20-23, 50-55; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18).

As the Passover lamb represents the slain Jesus. The wave sheaf offering represents the resurrected Jesus rising to heaven, as the firstfruits of many more that will one day also rise from the dead. Wave sheaf Sunday doesn't picture Jesus' resurrection, but his ascension to heaven.

The fifty day or seven-week count to Pentecost begins on this day, the day after the Sabbath (which is Sunday), that falls during the Days of Unleavened Bread (Leviticus 23:15-16, 21; Deuteronomy 16:9-10).

### 2nd Day - April 22, Acts 1

v:2 "given commands through the **Holy Spirit**"  
v:5 "baptized with the **Holy Spirit**"  
v:8 "receive power when the **Holy Spirit** has come upon you"  
v:16 "the **Holy Spirit** spoke beforehand"

### 3rd Day - April 23, Acts 2:1-21

v:4 "filled with the **Holy Spirit**"  
v:17 "pour out my **Spirit**"  
v:18 "pour out my **Spirit**"

### 4th Day - April 24, Acts 2:22-47

v:33 "the promise of the **Holy Spirit**, he has poured out"  
v:38 "receive the gift of the **Holy Spirit**"

### 5th Day - April 25, Acts 3

This chapter doesn't mention the Holy Spirit. But it would be through the power of the Spirit that Peter was able to heal this man (Acts 1:8;

Romans 15:17-19). Peter did not have any personal power to heal (Acts 3:12).

### 6th Day - April 26, Acts 4

v:8 "Then Peter, filled with the **Holy Spirit**, said to them"  
v:25 "who through the mouth of our father David, your servant, said by the **Holy Spirit**,"  
v:31 "they were all filled with the **Holy Spirit**"

### 7th Day - April 27, First Sabbath

#### Old Testament Prophecies about the Coming of the Holy Spirit

- 1) The sending of the Holy Spirit is compared to the pouring out of water (Isaiah 44:1-5).
  - a) In the New Testament, the Holy Spirit is compared to water (John 7:37-39).
- 2) The New Covenant deals with the heart, the inward man and receiving the Holy Spirit (Jeremiah 31:31-34).
  - a) God knew from the start that Israel would not obey, they lacked the "heart" to do it (Deuteronomy 5:27-33).
  - b) Israel did not have the "heart" or ability to understand and obey God (Deuteronomy 29:1-4).
  - c) A fleshly mind, one without the Holy Spirit, does not want to obey God (Romans 8:1-11).
- 3) The sending of the Holy Spirit makes it possible to obey God (Ezekiel 11:14-21; 36:22-27).
- 4) Putting God's Spirit in people (Ezekiel 37:13-14).
- 5) The outpouring of the Holy Spirit (Ezekiel 39:25-29).
- 6) The outpouring of the Holy Spirit on mankind (Joel 2:28-32).
  - a) In explaining why Jesus' followers were speaking in tongues on the Day of Pentecost. The apostle Peter quotes these verses from Joel (Acts 2:1-21).

### 8th Day - April 28, Acts 5:1-16

v:3 "to lie to the **Holy Spirit**"  
v:9 "to test the **Spirit** of the Lord?"

### 9th Day - April 29, Acts 5:17-42

v:32 "we are witnesses to these things, and so is the **Holy Spirit**, whom God has given to those who obey him"

### 10th Day - April 30, Acts 6

v:3 "pick out from among you seven men of good repute, full of the **Spirit** and of wisdom"

v:5 "Stephen, a man full of faith and of the **Holy Spirit**"

v:10 "the wisdom and the **Spirit** with which he was speaking"

### 11th Day - May 1, Acts 7:1-38

### 12th Day - May 2, Acts 7:39-60

v:51 "you always resist the **Holy Spirit**"

v:55 "full of the **Holy Spirit**"

### 13th Day - May 3, Acts 8

v:15 "prayed for them that they might receive the **Holy Spirit**"

v:17 "laid their hands on them and they received the **Holy Spirit**"

v:18 "the **Spirit** was given through the laying on of the apostles' hands"

v:19 "so that anyone on whom I lay my hands may receive the **Holy Spirit**"

v:29 "the **Spirit** said to Philip"

v:39 "the **Spirit** of the Lord carried Philip away"

### 14th Day - May 4, Second Sabbath

#### John and the coming Holy Spirit

1) "'As for me [John], I baptize you with water for repentance, but He who is coming after me is mightier than I, and I am not fit to remove His sandals; He will baptize you with the **Holy Spirit** and fire'" (Matthew 3:11).

2) "And he [John] was preaching, and saying, 'After me One is coming who is mightier than I, and I am not fit to stoop down and untie the thong of His sandals. I baptized you with water; but He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit'" (Mark 1:7-8).

3) "John answered and said to them all, 'As for me, I baptize you with water; but One is coming who is mightier than I, and I am not fit to untie the thong of His sandals; He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire'" (Luke 3:16).

4) "John testified saying, 'I have seen the Spirit descending as a dove out of heaven, and He remained upon Him [Jesus]. I did not recognize Him, but He who sent me to baptize in water said to me, "He upon whom you see the Spirit descending and remaining upon Him, this is the One who baptizes in the Holy Spirit." I myself have seen, and have testified that this is the Son of God'" (John 1:32-34)

### 15th Day - May 5, Acts 9:1-19

v:17: "the Lord Jesus . . . has sent me so that you may regain your sight and be filled with the **Holy Spirit**"

### 16th Day - May 6, Acts 9:20-43

v:31: "And walking in the fear of the Lord and in the comfort of the **Holy Spirit**, it multiplied"

### 17th Day - May 7, Acts 10:1-23

v:19-20 "the **Spirit** said to him, "Behold, three men are looking for you. Rise and go down and accompany them without hesitation, for I have sent them"

### 18th Day - May 8, Acts 10:24-48

v:38: "God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the **Holy Spirit** and with power"

v:44 "the **Holy Spirit** fell on all who heard the word"

v:45 "the believers from among the circumcised . . . were amazed, because the gift of the **Holy Spirit** was poured out even on the Gentiles"

v:47 "Can anyone withhold water for baptizing these people, who have received the **Holy Spirit**"

### 19th Day - May 9, Acts 11

v:12 "the **Spirit** told me to go with them"

v:15 "the **Holy Spirit** fell on them just as on us at the beginning"

v:16 "I remembered the word of the Lord . . .

you will be baptized with the **Holy Spirit**"

v:24 "full of the **Holy Spirit** and of faith"

v:28 "Agabus . . . foretold by the **Spirit**"

### 20th Day - May 10, Acts 12

#### 21st Day - May 11, Third Sabbath

##### Jesus and the coming of the Holy Spirit

- 1) The sending of the Spirit on those who believe in Him (John 7:2, 37-39).
- 2) The sending of the Spirit as a Helper (John 14:15-17).
- 3) The sending of the Spirit to teach, and bring to remembrance His teachings (John 14:25-26).
- 4) The sending of the Spirit to bear witness to Him (John 15:26-27).
- 5) He must go away so the Holy Spirit can come (John 16:5-7).
- 6) The sending of the Spirit to convict the world concerning sin, righteousness, and judgment (John 16:8-11).
- 7) The sending of the Spirit to guide people into truth (John 16:12-13).
- 8) The sending of the Spirit to glorify Him (John 16:14-15).
- 9) Breathing on the apostles saying, "Receive the Holy Spirit," picturing the future giving of the Spirit at Pentecost (John 20:22, Acts 2).
- 10) The apostles are to stay in Jerusalem until "baptized with the Holy Spirit." The Spirit will give them the power to be His witnesses (Acts 1:1-8).

### 22nd Day - May 12, Acts 13:1-25

v:2 "the **Holy Spirit** said"

v:4 "being sent out by the **Holy Spirit**"

v:9 "Paul, filled with the **Holy Spirit**"

### 23rd Day - May 13, Acts 13:26-52

v:52 "the disciples were filled with joy and with the **Holy Spirit**"

### 24th Day - May 14, Acts 14

### 25th Day - May 15, Acts 15:1-21

v:8 "giving them the **Holy Spirit** just as he did to us"

### 26th Day - May 16, Acts 15:22-41

v:28 "it has seemed good to the **Holy Spirit** and to us"

### 27th Day - May 17, Acts 16:1-15

v:6 "having been forbidden by the **Holy Spirit** to speak the word in Asia"

v:7 "the **Spirit** of Jesus did not allow them"

### 28th Day - May 18, Fourth Sabbath

##### Jesus, the giver of the Holy Spirit

- 1) Jesus disciples received the Holy Spirit on the Day of Pentecost (Acts 1:3-8; 2:1-4, 12-21).
- 2) John the Baptist said Jesus would baptize people with the Holy Spirit (Luke 3:15-16).
- 3) Jesus said that His disciples would be baptized with the Holy Spirit (Acts 1:4-8; Acts 11:16).
- 4) Jesus sends the Holy Spirit (Luke 24:49-53; John 14:16-17; 15:26; 16:7; Acts 2:33).
  - a) Through Jesus, God the Father gives us the Holy Spirit.

### 29th Day - May 19, Acts 16:16-40

### 30th Day - May 20, Acts 17:1-15

### 31st Day - May 21, Acts 17:16-34

### 32nd Day - May 22, Acts 18

### 33rd Day - May 23, Acts 19:1-22

v:2 And he said to them, "Did you receive the **Holy Spirit** when you believed?" And they said, "No, we have not even heard that there is a **Holy Spirit**."

v:6 "And when Paul had laid his hands on them, the **Holy Spirit** came on them"

v:21" Paul resolved in the **Spirit** to pass through Macedonia and Achaia and go to Jerusalem"

### 34th Day - May 24, Acts 19:23-41

### 35th Day - May 25, Fifth Sabbath

#### The work of the Holy Spirit in the believer

- 1) The Holy Spirit can speak through us (Matthew 10:16-20).
- 2) The Holy Spirit is our Comforter, Counselor or Helper (John 14:16-17, 26; 15:26; 16:7-14; Acts 9:31).
- 3) The Holy Spirit teaches us (John 14:26).
- 4) The Holy Spirit guides or leads our lives (John 16:13; Romans 8:14).
- 5) Through the Holy Spirit, we receive power (Acts 1:8; Romans 15:13; Ephesians 3:16; 2 Timothy 1:7).
- 6) Through the Holy Spirit, we put to death the deeds of the flesh (Romans 8:13).
- 7) Through the Holy Spirit, we become the sons of God (Romans 8:14-17, 23).8).
- 8) The Holy Spirit helps us in our prayer life (Romans 8:26-27).
- 9) The Holy Spirit baptizes us into the Church (1 Corinthians 12:13).
- 10) Through the Holy Spirit, we receive freedom and liberty (2 Corinthians 3:17).
- 11) We have fellowship with the Holy Spirit (2 Corinthians 13:14; Philippians 2:1).
- 12) We receive eternal life through the Holy Spirit (Galatians 6:8).
- 13) We have access to the Father by the Holy Spirit (Ephesians 2:18).
- 14) The Holy Spirit regenerates and renews us (Titus 3:3-7).
- 15) The Holy Spirit sanctifies us (1 Peter 1:2).

### 36th Day - May 26, Acts 20

v:22 "I am going to Jerusalem, constrained by the **Spirit**"

v:23 "the **Holy Spirit** testifies to me in every city"

v:28 "the **Holy Spirit** has made you overseers"

### 37th Day - May 27, Acts 21:1-26

v:4 "through the **Spirit** they were telling Paul"

v:11 "he took Paul's belt and bound his own feet and hands and said, "Thus says the **Holy Spirit**,

"This is how the Jews at Jerusalem will bind the man who owns this belt"

### 38th Day - May 28, Acts 21:27-40

### 39th Day - May 29, Acts 22

### 40th Day - May 30, Acts 23:1-11

### 41st Day - May 31, Acts 23:12-35

### 42nd Day - June 1, Sixth Sabbath

#### Using the Spirit of Pentecost Part 1

- 1) As the firstfruits of those receiving the Spirit (Romans 8:22-23), we have a responsibility to use the Spirit, making sure not to quench it (1 Thessalonians 5:19).
- 2) The parables of the Talents and Pounds teach us that God will hold us accountable for what He gives us, and this includes the Holy Spirit (Matthew 25:14-30; Luke 19:11-27).
- 3) The Spirit makes it possible for us to do three things: 1) Obey God, 2) Produce spiritual fruit, 3) Use our spiritual gifts.
- 4) Obedience through the Spirit
  - a) When we receive the Holy Spirit, we have the laws of God written on our hearts. This Spirit makes obedience to God possible (Jeremiah 31:31-34; Ezekiel. 11:19-21; Ezekiel. 36:22-27; Hebrews 8:7-13; Romans 8:1-9).
  - b) God gives the Holy Spirit to those who obey. The more we obey, the more Spirit we receive (Acts 5:27-32).
- 5) We can lose the Spirit because of not obeying God, or at least lessen its effect in our lives (Psalm 51:10-12).

- (1) Saul received the Holy Spirit when Samuel anointed him king of Israel (1 Samuel 10:1, 6-13). Later as a result of Saul's sin in not obeying God's command to destroy the Amalekites, God took the kingdom of Israel from Saul and gave it to David (1 Samuel 15-16), as well as taking His Spirit from Saul (1 Samuel 16:14).

- (2) When we sin, we grieve the Spirit. It appears we damage its impact on our lives (Isaiah 63:10; Acts 7:51; Ephesians 4:30).

**43rd Day - June 2, Acts 24**

**44th Day - June 3, Acts 25;1-12**

**45th Day - June 4, Acts 25;13-27**

**46th Day - June 5, Acts 26**

**47th Day - June 6, Acts 27**

**48th Day - June 7, Acts 28**

v:25 "The **Holy Spirit** was right in saying to your fathers"

**49th Day - June 8, Seventh Sabbath**

**Using the Spirit of Pentecost Part 2**

- 1) On the Sixth Sabbath, we examined using the Spirit to obey God. This week we will look at producing spiritual fruit and using spiritual gifts

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<sup>1</sup> All scriptures quoted from the Book of Acts are from the *English Standard Version*. Scriptures

- 2) Fruit of the Spirit
- a) The "natural" outcome of living a life of obedience, living by the Spirit, is producing spiritual fruit (Galatians 5:16-26).
  - b) We produce spiritual fruit by abiding in Jesus (John 15:1-17).
    - (1) Those who are unfruitful are taken away and burned (John 15:2, 6); clearly a reference to being cast into the Lake of Fire (Matthew 25:41-46; Revelation 20:10).
- 3) Gifts of the Spirit
- a) We have a responsibility to use our spiritual gifts (1 Corinthians 12:1-11, 27-31; Romans 12:4-8; Ephesians 4:4-13; 1 Peter 4:9-11).
  - b) We have a duty to use our spiritual gifts since the Spirit is under our control: "The spirits of prophets are subject to prophets" (1 Corinthians 14:31-32).

**50th Day - June 9, Pentecost**

Leviticus 23:15-22, Acts 1-2

quoted in the weekly Bible Study Notes are from the *New American Standard Bible*.