

"On the Way" 365 Bible Reading Plan**ACTS 2****Acts 2**

Acts 2 begins with a historical note, ***"The day of Pentecost had fully come..."*** What happened on the Day of Pentecost was no accident or afterthought. It had been on God's "Appointment Calendar" from time immemorial. The day we call Pentecost, "50th" in the Greek of the New Testament, is actually the day on the Hebrew Calendar called *"Shavuot."* In the Hebrew language, that means *"Weeks,"* and that is because it is on the fiftieth (50th) day after the offering of the *"First Fruits."*

The Passover begins a week of observing a leaven-free experience. The first day of the week after the Passover Shabbat is when the *first fruits* of the barley harvest were offered to God as a promise of, and thanksgiving for, more to come. The Lord Jesus was crucified on Passover and was raised from the dead on the *Day of First Fruits.* The First Fruits offering initiated a countdown, counting seven weeks, seven Shabbats, until the fiftieth (50th) day after the First Fruits offering. On the fiftieth (50th) day, another offering was given of an entire loaf of bread, the fulfillment of the initial First Fruits offering as promised. So, Pentecost was not a random act of history but rather another fulfillment of the promises of God and His faithfulness to His people Israel.

The disciples, as we read in John 21, did not just wait around aimlessly until the Day of Pentecost. They prayed and did what they knew to do. Check out Acts one, and you will see that after the ascension of Jesus, they came back inside the city of Jerusalem and "actively waited" for God to give the next steps and fulfill the promise that the Lord Jesus said, ***"you shall receive."*** The rabbis teach the people unto this day that the "Ten Commandments" were given to Israel at Mount Sinai, exactly fifty (50) days from their exodus from Egypt. This was already a special day, but now it was going to be even more special because God, the God of creation, the God of eternity, the God who had been with them, Immanuel, was now going to come into the life of every disciple from that historic day in Acts 2 until the Messiah Jesus comes again. So many followers of Jesus in our present day are carried away with and emphasize the miraculous manifestations of sound, v.2, sight, v.3, and speech in vv.4ff, but the great miracle of Pentecost in Acts 2 is the reality that from that day forward anyone, the weakest to the strongest believer and follower of Jesus, would have the person and presence of the living God within them through the person of the Holy Spirit. He is the Promise Jesus said the Father would send. The Holy Spirit is in the life of every follower of Jesus! Praise the Lord!

Prayer and Action Steps

Father in heaven, Thank You for sending the Lord Jesus and for sending the Holy Spirit to live in my life forever. Thank You that You will never leave me nor forsake me. Please enable me to choose to allow the Holy Spirit within me to fill me and control every thought and action in my life. Amen