

**PENTECOST PRAYER & FASTING**

13-19 May 2024

*Encounter*  
WITH THE  
**HOLY SPIRIT**

# Encounter WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT

## **PENTECOST PRAYER & FASTING**

Pentecost is a significant day for Christians as it commemorates the outpouring of the Holy Spirit on the disciples in Jerusalem. This event is recorded in Acts 2, where Luke tells us how the disciples followed Jesus' instructions and gathered in the upper room to await the coming of the Holy Spirit.

After being filled with the Holy Spirit, the disciples were empowered to become "fishers of men" and performed many miracles. Signs and wonders followed them. This encounter with the Holy Spirit's power has impacted the Church throughout the centuries; this power is still available to anyone who believes.

Over the next seven days, we invite you to join us in prayer and fasting on our spiritual journey to Pentecost: Encounter with the Holy Spirit. Each day, there is something for us to reflect on. Let the Holy Spirit direct and guide you during this season of prayer and fasting.

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## TYPES OF FAST

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### **TOTAL FAST**

Abstain from solid food and water or any beverage.



### **NORMAL FAST**

Abstain from solid food. Take only water.



### **PARTIAL FAST**

Abstain from solid food. Take only water and liquid food such as soup, milk.



### **DANIEL'S FAST**

Abstain from meat. Take only vegetables, fruits and juices.

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## LENGTH OF FAST

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### • **NORMAL FAST**

12 hours or, from sunrise to sundown.

### • **SELECTIVE FAST**

Fast one full meal a day, e.g. lunch or dinner.

*\*Note: If you have a medical condition, do seek your doctor's advice on the type and duration of your fast.*

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## SUGGESTIONS

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### • **INDIVIDUAL**

Commit to pray 15 minutes in the spirit every day, besides fasting.

### • **FAMILY**

Fast and pray together as a family. Decide on one type of fast everyone in the family will commit to, and come together daily to pray for 15 minutes.

### • **CONNECT GROUP**

During Open Connect Group, spend time to pray as a group using this booklet. Pray in the spirit for 15 minutes and allow the Holy Spirit to move in your midst.

**DAY 1 • MAY 13**

**THE SUPERNATURAL ARRIVAL**

*"When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them." - Acts 2:1-4*

Pentecost happened on a Jewish feast celebrating a thanksgiving for the first-fruits of the wheat harvest (Leviticus 23:15, Deuteronomy 16:9). It was celebrated 50 days after Passover and marked by pilgrims coming to Jerusalem from all over the world for the celebration. For the church, it marked the day when the long-awaited spiritual harvest would begin.

First came a sound from heaven "like a violent rushing wind" and though there was no actual wind, the sound so "filled the whole house where they were sitting".

Second, "there appeared to them" divided tongues of fire that rested on them. This fire did not rest upon only a select few but rested on each individual.

**Reflection:** Then the Promise came, "All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them." (Acts 2:4) This fulfilled promise is for everyone, for all whom the Lord our God will call.

**Prayer**

- A deeper understanding of the work of the Holy Spirit
- Every believer to be hungry for, and to experience a personal, fresh Pentecost
- Unprecedented gospel impact and revival in our cities and villages

*Peter replied, "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." - Acts 2:38*

Before Jesus ascended into heaven, He promised His disciples that He would send the Holy Spirit to empower them (Acts 1:8). The day of Pentecost was seen as the fulfilment of this promise. On that day, the Holy Spirit gave the apostles miraculous ability to speak in different languages. The crowd was amazed; it was a supernatural sign from the Holy Spirit.

Peter seized the opportunity and addressed the crowd. He began by explaining on the miraculous tongues. He spoke about the age of fulfilment based on the prophecy of Joel, found in Joel 2:28-32 and Acts 2:15-21.

Peter explained that every person must repent of their sins, seek forgiveness from Jesus, be baptized in water, and receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. He emphasized that this was not a formula but a promise. Peter declared that the long-awaited promise had been fulfilled and the Spirit was available to all who call upon the Lord. Peter and his friends witnessed the amazing results of preaching in the name of Jesus as about three thousand people were added to the church.

**Reflection:** When the Church is experiencing a move of the Holy Spirit, it will always bring people back to the preaching of salvation through Jesus Christ.

### **Prayer**

- Salvation in our celebration services and connect groups
- More full-time workers to be raised: to plant churches in Malaysia
- Churches to grow in maturity and power; to advance God's kingdom

*When they saw the courage of Peter and John and realized that they were unschooled, ordinary men, they were astonished and they took note that these men had been with Jesus. – Acts 4:13*

After Pentecost, the apostles performed many wonders and miraculous signs that had a great impact on the Jews, leading to an increase in the number of believers. In Acts chapter 3, Peter and John passed through the temple gate and encountered a man who was begging for money. Rather than giving him money, Peter reached out to help the man get up and miraculously healed him in the name of Jesus.

Peter then preached a powerful sermon which amazed those who had witnessed the miracle. He boldly proclaimed that “Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to mankind by which we must be saved.” - Acts 4:12

The religious leaders were worried about the increasing number of people turning to Jesus. To stop this, they took Peter and John into custody and demanded that they refrain from talking about Jesus. However, the two apostles refused to remain silent. The boldness and anointing of the Spirit made Jesus visible in their lives. They were called by God and were empowered by the Holy Spirit to preach the gospel.

**Reflection:** When one has been with Jesus, the Holy Spirit can turn an ordinary man to be extraordinary, performing miraculous signs and wonders.

### **Prayer**

- The gifts of the Holy Spirit to be manifested in all our church services and connect groups
- Churches in Malaysia receive visitation of the Holy Spirit
- An increase in five-fold ministry to equip the body of Christ – Apostle, Prophet, Evangelist, Pastor, and Teacher

*Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favour of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved. – Acts 2:46-47*

After the day of Pentecost, the Holy Spirit played an active role in the life of the Church, teaching and performing miracles. The number of new believers increased steadily, and many were baptized in water and in the Spirit. The work of the Spirit was evident in the apostles' ability to make disciples out of the 3,000 or so who were converted during Peter's sermon. The apostles taught these new believers and encouraged them to fellowship, break bread and pray together.

As a result there was numerical growth in the young church. Soon the followers of Christ reached about five thousand (Acts 4:4). Nevertheless, more and more men and women believed in the Lord and were added to their number (Acts 5:14). So the word of God spread. The number of disciples in Jerusalem increased rapidly, and a large number of priests became obedient to the faith (Acts 6:7). Then the church throughout Judea, Galilee and Samaria enjoyed a time of peace and was strengthened. Living in the fear of the Lord and encouraged by the Holy Spirit, it increased in numbers (Acts 9:31).

The growth of the church on the Day of Pentecost was seen in the way believers committed themselves and lived a transformed life.

**Reflection:** The Holy Spirit plays a major role in the growth of the church by empowering Christians to preach the Gospel to others.

### **Prayer**

- Increasing number of new disciples to be added
- Believers are empowered to fulfil their divine assignments
- Supernatural encounter with the Holy Spirit in all our prayer meetings

*Finally Paul became so annoyed that he turned around and said to the spirit, "In the name of Jesus Christ I command you to come out of her!" At that moment the spirit left her.*

*- Acts 16:18*

When Paul and Silas were going to the place of prayer, they were met by a female slave who had a spirit by which she predicted the future. She earned a great deal of money for her owners by fortune-telling.

She followed Paul and the rest, shouting, "These men are servants of the Most High God, who are telling you the way to be saved."

She kept this up for many days. Finally Paul became so annoyed that he turned around and said to the spirit, "In the name of Jesus Christ I command you to come out of her!" At that moment the spirit left her. (Acts 16:16-18)

The name of Jesus delivered the slave girl from the spirit's hold and freed her from her owners' exploitation. She was no longer able to predict the future and was now free to live her life without being used for their selfish gain.

**Reflection:** Every act of deliverance from God is an act of compassion.

### **Prayer**

- The Holy Spirit's power to work: heal all sicknesses and free all bondages
- Powerful visitation of the Holy Spirit to break all kinds of addictions
- Declare Isaiah 53:4-5 - "Surely he took up our pain and bore our suffering, yet we considered him punished by God, stricken by him, and afflicted. But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was on him, and by his wounds we are healed."



*"Friends, why are you doing this? We too are only human, like you. We are bringing you good news, telling you to turn from these worthless things to the living God, who made the heavens and the earth and the sea and everything in them." - Acts 14:15*

Paul and Barnabas visited Lystra, a pagan city filled with idolatry honouring the Greek gods and goddesses. A temple dedicated to Zeus was just outside the city. Paul's normal practice was to preach in the local synagogue first. There sat a man who was lame from birth and had never walked. While he listened to Paul speaking, Paul saw that he had faith to be healed. Paul called the man to "Stand up on your feet!", and the man jumped up and began to walk (Acts 14:8-10).

After this healing, Paul and Barnabas were mistaken for gods by the priest of Zeus who brought bulls and wreaths to sacrifice to them. Paul and Barnabas tore their clothes to show that they were completely human. Paul took the opportunity to teach them about the true God and urged them to turn away from "worthless things to the living God" (Acts 14:15).

Some Jews from Antioch and Iconium caused a stir in the crowd, and eventually stoned Paul and dragged him outside the city, thinking he was dead. He survived and left for Derbe the next day.

**Reflection:** The disciples of Jesus put themselves at great risk and endured persecution for the sake of the gospel. Their ministries did not draw attention to themselves, but they trusted the Spirit to work through them as God saw fit.

### Prayer

- Churches to be filled with boldness to proclaim the gospel
- More new churches to be planted in East and West Malaysia
- Greater unity in strategic partnership among churches to fulfil the Great Commission

*During the night Paul had a vision of a man of Macedonia standing and begging him, "Come over to Macedonia and help us." - Acts 16:9*

In the tranquillity of the night, Paul received a vision. A man from Macedonia stood before him, pleading for help. Paul and his companions obeyed the Spirit and responded immediately to the vision Paul had received (Acts 16:10). The Holy Spirit guided Paul and his companions to preach the gospel in Philippi, a city in Macedonia.

While there, Lydia, a dealer in purple cloth, converted to Christianity after hearing Paul's preaching. She and her household were baptized. Paul and Silas also freed a slave girl from her fortune-telling abilities, which had been used for profit. This resulted in their being imprisoned in Philippi. While in prison, the jailer and his family were saved (Acts 16:14–34).

In Athens, Paul preached at the Areopagus, one of the city's most important sites, and delivered a compelling speech that caught the attention from both the Stoics and Epicureans (Acts 17:16–34).

Paul planted several churches in response to the Macedonian call. He established local bodies of believers in Philippi (Acts 16:40) and Thessalonica (Acts 17:4) in Macedonia, and Corinth in nearby Achaia (Acts 18:1–11). These churches played a vital role in the growth of the early church and enjoyed a long-lasting relationship with the apostles.

The Macedonian Call was a God-given dream that changed the world and church history.

**Reflection:** The urgency of the call is a reminder of the urgency of the Gospel. There are people around us who are in desperate need of the message of Christ. We cannot afford to delay or ignore the call.

### Prayer

- Believers to live a transformed life through the Holy Spirit
- Witnessing is the lifestyle of all believers
- Signs, wonders, and miracles to be a norm in all churches
- Mission partners, pastors, church planters, bible school students and mission works in the 13 countries we work with



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