

The Story of Pentecost - the coming of God's Spirit

It was now fifty days since Jesus has been Crucified. His followers were trying to sort out all the extraordinary events that had happened since then. They were convinced that Jesus was not dead - that he had risen again. After all they had seen him, even touched him. They believed that he was the Messiah - the Son of God. But what were they supposed to do about it? They felt alone and a bit frightened.

Then, as they were gathered together on the day of Pentecost (the fiftieth day), it suddenly happened. everything changed!!

What happened? Well, it was so strange they didn't really know how to explain it to people. They could only say that it was as if God's spirit swept through the house, like a mighty rushing wind. It was as if each one of them had been touched by God's power - like a flame in their hearts. Whatever it was, they knew they didn't feel frightened or alone any more - they felt fired up, excited, full of courage!

They rushed out onto the streets and began to talk to all the visitors in the city, telling them in their own language about God's great work. People thought they were drunk until Peter explained, *'God's Spirit is pouring into us. This is a time when people will see visions and dream dreams because God is here!'* Then he told all the people about Jesus - he was not frightened any more, he was brave enough to tell all those strangers the good news. Many accepted what he said and became Christians by being baptised. The Christian church had begun!

(Based on Acts 2:1-13)

