

PENTECOST

The Spirit Comes

The disciples knew what was coming: they knew Jesus was leaving and that He would ascend to heaven. Still, they were afraid of being without their leader and teacher. In the days leading up to Pentecost, the disciples were afraid and anxious. They begged Jesus: “Lord, show us the Father, and it is enough for us” (John 14:8). They were fearful about where Jesus was going: “Lord, we do not know where You are going. How can we know the way?” (John 14:5).



To calm their fears and anxieties, Jesus promised the disciples that He would not leave them alone as if they were orphans (John 14:18), and He promised that He would send a helper—the Holy Spirit.

On Pentecost, Jesus made good on His promises to the disciples. On that day, they very clearly and publicly received the gift of the Holy Spirit. There was no doubt in anyone’s mind: Jesus had made good on His promises, and the disciples were certainly not alone.

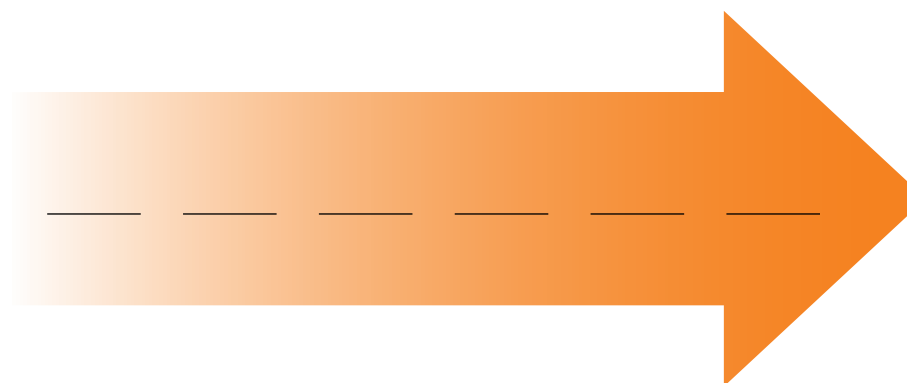
One Though Many

Language can be a massive barrier when trying to communicate with someone; trying to make sense of a foreign language is frustrating, if not impossible. To make things even worse, there are thousands of different languages spread out across the world, resulting in ample opportunities for communication breakdowns.

Communicating with one another was not always this frustrating. In Genesis 11, we are told there was a time when all people spoke the same language. Having only one language made communication so easy that the people worked together and plotted to build a tower to heaven! This gateway to heaven that the people tried to build is known as the tower of Babel. God saw the people’s great pride in their arrogant plan to build the tower. So He confused their language, mixing up their speech and creating many new languages.

Notice how what happened at Pentecost is the exact opposite of what happened at the tower of Babel. At Babel, the world went from one language to many languages, and people could no longer understand one another; at Pentecost, people miraculously were all able to understand what was being said, despite the fact that they spoke many different languages. On this day after Christ’s death and resurrection, creation was given a glimpse of what life was like before sin corrupted the world. Not only did Christ conquer sin and death on the cross, but He also restored life to the way it was before sin! Pentecost offered a glimpse of the restored language that God’s people will enjoy when Christ returns.

On the arrow below, write the letters *a* through *f* to place the following events of human history in their correct order: (a) tower of Babel, many languages in the world; (b) the Last Day, when language will never again be a barrier; (c) God’s creation has one language; (d) sin enters the world; (e) Christ’s perfect life, death, and resurrection; (f) Pentecost, when language is no longer a barrier.



Fill in each blank with the correct word(s) from the following list:

understand	baptized	Jerusalem	tongues	Holy Spirit
fifty	grave	three thousand	languages	primary languages

Pentecost occurred _____ days after Christ’s resurrection from the _____ . People who spoke many different _____ from many different countries had gathered in _____ . The gift of the _____ allowed everyone present to speak in _____ . Although they were not speaking in their _____ , they were still able to _____ one another. This allowed _____ people to hear the Gospel, repent, and be _____ .

REVIEW

tongues—

witness—

REMEMBER

“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. For the promise is for you and for your children and for all who are far off, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to Himself.”

Acts 2:38–39