



Chag Semeach! (Happy Festival!)

Starting Wednesday night, Jews all over the world will celebrate Shavuot (the Feast of Weeks), or what Christians call Pentecost (Deut. 16:10). This is the spring festival that commemorates God's gift of the Torah to the nation of Israel gathered at the foot of Mount Sinai. Some Jews will study the Five Books of Moses all night as they relish knowing the mind of God. This Sunday is Pentecost, when we celebrate God's gift of the Holy Spirit. The prophet Joel promised that a day would come when all God's people would enjoy spiritual illumination on par with kings, judges and warriors. Today in our prayer guide and gathering, we'll celebrate the *"promise of the Father"* to magnify Jesus and promote his reign (Acts 1:4).

Between 6:00 AM—9:00 AM: The Spirit is the Activator of life, and our present consciousness and faculties depend on him (Gen. 2:7, Isa. 42:5). Stop and marvel for a minute at your own unique existence. Then read Ps. 146 in worship of him who breathed life into you. There are at least ten separate action verbs applied to God in this Psalm. List them and be amazed at God's dynamic activity for us.

Between 9:00 AM—12:00 PM: In Joel 2, God promises the return of material blessings after the locust invasion. Then, as an encore that surpasses all his "givebacks," he promises spiritual illumination to all his people. Yes, not just to the leaders, but to the lowly. *"And it shall come to pass afterward, that I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh; your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, and your young men shall see visions. ²⁹ Even on the male and female servants in those days I will pour out my Spirit"* (Joel 2:28-29). Tell God what keeps you tongue-tied and afraid to take action.

Between 12:00 PM—3:00 PM: One thousand years before Joel leveled and then electrified God's people with his prophecy, Moses lamented for his countrymen. He dreamed that all his kinsmen would be touched by God and talk boldly for him (*"Would that all the LORD's people were prophets, that the LORD would put his Spirit on them!"* —Num 11:29). Read Acts 2:1-13, which describes the fulfillment of Moses' aspiration and Joel's prophecy. Then, picture yourself mentioning God's *"mighty works"* to someone you meet *this week* (Acts 2:12). Believe, Prophet-like Person, that God has appointed a divine conversation for you. Pray in anticipation. Maybe it's with a neighbor, a clerk or someone else. Be ready.

Between 3:00 PM—4:00 PM: Join the **Joel Moment Prayer Gathering**. Go to [Zoom.com](https://zoom.us) and enter Meeting ID and Password.

Between 5:00 PM—9:00 PM: Paul tells diverse and ordinary people that they're now united and anointed for action: *"For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body--Jews or Greeks, slaves or free..."* —1 Cor. 12:13. The time is ripening for us again to serve through on-campus and off-campus activities. Pray that we'll burst out of seclusion and into the gatherings and good works that God has for us.



DARREN S. ["Happy Festival, Everyone!" Introductory words about Joel's prediction of widespread illumination by the Spirit.]

^{ESV} **Joel 2:28-29** *"And it shall come to pass afterward, that I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh; your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, and your young men shall see visions. ²⁹ Even on the male and female servants in those days I will pour out my Spirit."*

SUSAN P. [How that promised illumination began to occur on a special Jewish holiday, and how it's continuing today in Christians, the People of the Spirit.]

^{ESV} **Acts 2:1-13** *When the day of Pentecost arrived, they were all together in one place. ² And suddenly there came from heaven a sound like a mighty rushing wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. ³ And divided tongues as of fire appeared to them and rested on each one of them. ⁴ And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance. ⁵ Now there were dwelling in Jerusalem Jews, devout men from every nation under heaven. ⁶ And at this sound the multitude came together, and they were bewildered, because each one was hearing them speak in his own language. ⁷ And they were amazed and astonished, saying, "Are not all these who are speaking Galileans? ⁸ And how is it that we hear, each of us in his own native language? ⁹ Parthians and Medes and Elamites and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, ¹⁰ Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, ¹¹ both Jews and proselytes, Cretans and Arabians--we hear them telling in our own tongues the mighty works of God." ¹² And all were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, "What does this mean?" ¹³ But others mocking said, "They are filled with new wine."*

SANDEEP V. [A personal story about how God provided for this man and increased his faith at a vulnerable time.]



AUSTIN AND SUSAN S. [Cowardly types like Peter (and us) are clothed with power to praise God, proclaim the message about Jesus and swell with unspeakable joy despite pain.]

^{ESV} **Acts 2:14-41** *But Peter, standing with the eleven, lifted up his voice and addressed them: "Men of Judea and all who dwell in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and give ear to my words. ¹⁵ For these people are not drunk, as you suppose, since it is only the third hour of the day. ¹⁶ But this is what was uttered through the prophet Joel: ¹⁷ "'And in the last days it shall be, God declares, that I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh, and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams; ¹⁸ even on my male servants and female servants in those days I will pour out my Spirit, and they shall prophesy. ¹⁹ And I will show wonders in the heavens above and signs on the earth below, blood, and fire, and vapor of smoke; ²⁰ the sun shall be turned to darkness and the moon to blood, before the day of the Lord comes, the great and magnificent day. ²¹ And it shall come to pass that everyone who calls upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.' ²² "Men of Israel, hear these words: Jesus of Nazareth, a man attested to you by God with mighty works and wonders and signs that God did through him in your midst, as you yourselves know-- ²³ this Jesus, delivered up according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of lawless men. ²⁴ God raised him up, loosing the pangs of death, because it was not possible for him to be held by it. ²⁵ For David says concerning him, "'I saw the Lord always before me, for he is at my right hand that I may not be shaken; ²⁶ therefore my heart was glad, and my tongue rejoiced; my flesh also will dwell in hope. ²⁷ For you will not abandon my soul to Hades, or let your Holy One see corruption. ²⁸ You have made known to me the paths of life; you will make me full of gladness with your presence.' ²⁹ "Brothers, I may say to you with confidence about the patriarch David that he both died and was buried, and his tomb is with us to this day. ³⁰ Being therefore a prophet, and knowing that God had sworn with an oath to him that he would set one of his descendants on his throne, ³¹ he foresaw and spoke about the resurrection of the Christ, that he was not abandoned to Hades, nor did his flesh see corruption. ³² This Jesus God raised up, and of that we all are witnesses. ³³ Being therefore exalted at the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, he has poured out this that you yourselves are seeing and hearing. ³⁴ For David did not ascend into the heavens, but he himself says, "'The Lord said to my Lord, "Sit at my right hand, ³⁵ until I make your enemies your footstool." ³⁶ Let all the house of Israel therefore know for certain that God has made him both Lord and Christ, this Jesus whom you crucified." ³⁷ Now when they heard this they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, "Brothers, what shall we do?" ³⁸ And Peter said to them, "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. ³⁹ 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." ⁴⁰ And with many other words he bore witness and continued to exhort them, saying, "Save yourselves from this crooked generation." ⁴¹ So those who received his word were baptized, and there were added that day about three thousand souls.*



ANNA S. [A song of adoration to the Lord for making his personal presence known through his Spirit.]

“Holy Spirit”

There's nothing worth more
That could ever come close
No thing can compare
You're our living hope
Your presence, Lord
I've tasted and seen
Of the sweetest of loves
Where my heart becomes free
And my shame is undone
Your presence, Lord

Holy Spirit, You are welcome here
Come flood this place and fill the atmosphere
Your glory, God, is what our hearts long for
To be overcome by Your presence, Lord
Your presence, Lord

There's nothing worth more
That could ever come close
No thing can compare
You're our living hope
Your presence, Lord

I've tasted and seen
Of the sweetest of loves
Where my heart becomes free
And my shame is undone
Your presence, Lord

Holy Spirit, You are welcome here
Come flood this place and fill the atmosphere
Your glory, God, is what our hearts long for
To be overcome by Your presence, Lord
Your presence, Lord

Let us become more aware of Your presence
Let us experience the glory of Your goodness

Holy Spirit, You are welcome here
Come flood this place and fill the atmosphere
Your glory, God, is what our hearts long for
To be overcome by Your presence, Lord

GROUP PRAYER PROMPT #1 (8 min.): Paul says: *“Do not quench the Spirit”* (1 Thes. 5:19). Ask that no blatant rebellion, doubt or callousness by any church family member would douse our fellowship and ministries with fire retardant. Make the following verse from Romans your three-part prayer, using your own unique words (*“Do not be slothful in zeal, be fervent in spirit, serve the Lord”* — Rom. 12:11). Let’s acknowledge and repent of any laziness or casualness in our discipleship to Jesus.

GROUP PRAYER PROMPT #2 (8 min.): Paul tells us that we must be re-awakened regularly to God’s very personal affection for us while being re-activated with his kingdom-advancing fire and drive. Let’s open ourselves and eagerly receive what we need (*“be filled with the Spirit”* — Eph. 5:18). May our Zoom Rooms become spillways. Ask that we’d all brim over with the *“fullness of God”* (Eph. 3:19).

GROUP PRAYER PROMPT #3 (8 min.): People are sick, lonely and financially strapped. They’re loading up on alcohol and consulting psychics. Let’s lament for them. Also, regarding the practical needs we know about, let’s send them towards heaven knowing the Spirit is eager to help us (Rom. 8:26).