

What does Pentecost/Shavuot mean to you?

May 2026

By Philip Shields 42 minutes

Hello everyone.

Pentecost is on May 24, 2026, always on a Sunday. Most of the various groups are keeping it on the same day and date this time, this year.

What does Pentecost mean to you? I recommend on this website you go the Search Bar on the top right corner of the home page *and type in “Pentecost” and see what comes up. Also try “first resurrection” and “Holy Spirit”,* and you’ll see many full sermons with their notes on these topics.

I intend to summarize today some of the biggest points of Pentecost, and at least one or two might surprise some of you. If you are using the notes with the audio, you can just *hover your mouse over the scriptures that are cited* and you should be able to see the scripture itself pop up. Most people, even in the churches of God, miss some of the huge points about Pentecost, so I hope you’ll look up all the scriptures I cite.

Most of you know Pentecost as one of God’s holy days listed in **Leviticus 23** as **Feast of Weeks**, and it’s discussed also as Pentecost, meaning “fiftieth” in Acts 2. MANY events are associated with this special day. **This day is all about the first fruits, a huge key point in fully understanding this day.** And of course in Acts 2, we’re told this is when God sent His Holy Spirit.

Leviticus 23:15-17 “And you shall count for yourselves from the day after the Sabbath, from the day that you brought the sheaf of the wave offering: seven Sabbaths shall be completed. **16 Count fifty days to the day after the seventh Sabbath;** then you shall offer a new grain offering to YHVH. **17** You shall bring from your dwellings two wave loaves of two-tenths of an ephah. They shall be of fine flour; they shall be **baked with leaven. They are the firstfruits to YHVH**”.

Numbers 28:26 ‘**Also on the day of the firstfruits,** when you bring a new grain offering to the Lord at **your Feast of Weeks,** you shall have a holy convocation. You shall do no customary work.”

In the New Testament, Jesus told His disciples to WAIT in Jerusalem to receive the promise of the Father when they would be baptized with the Holy

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Spirit (**Acts 1:4-5**) and receive power when the Holy Spirit came upon them (**Acts 1:8**). Then they were to witness to Christ to everyone after that.

I'll start by focusing on receiving the Holy Spirit, **but there's so much more than that which happened on this Pentecost holy day! So read carefully to the end and you'll probably be surprised.**

GOD STARTED His new covenant Church ON Pentecost, one of His holy days. Those who believe we no longer have to keep God's holy days will have to explain why God sent his Holy Spirit ON this very holy day! They were all together (**Acts 2:1**) and they KEPT this holy day and received God's Spirit.

Acts 1:8 – “But you shall **receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you;** and you shall be **witnesses to Me** in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”

I recommend you carefully study the sermons I have about what or who the Holy Spirit is. Holy Spirit is the presence of God within us. “The Lord IS the spirit” (**2 Cor. 3:17**). *Holy Spirit is not a 3rd person of a holy trinity.* *IF* the Spirit is a separate third being or person, then since the Holy Spirit conceived Jesus, his Father would have to be the Spirit (**Luke 1:35**). But no, His father is God the Father! Ponder that. Also check **Matthew 1:18-20**. The Holy Spirit was also God's seed, to impregnate Mary. But the Father was God the Father.

So the Spirit is God's presence in us. It includes his power, His seed and his life, his mind, and his presence in us. Holy Spirit begets us into the family of God (**Rom 8:15-16**), and **seals us, guaranteeing our salvation (Eph. 1:14; 2 Cor. 1:22)**. Having this Holy Spirit confirms we are children of God (**Rom. 8:9, 14**). Jesus and God our Father actually come dwell inside us when they have given us of their spirit (**John 14:23**). Be sure to study the included verses here.

John 14:23 Jesus answered and said to him, "If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and **We** will come to him and **make Our home with him.**"

For other scriptures that show God lives in us by their Holy Spirit – see **1 John 3:24; Romans 8:9-11; Eph. 2:22; 2 Cor. 6:16** – **where it says God dwells IN us.** Just hover of the cited scriptures so you can read them.

But please grasp that there is not a single verse I know of where it clearly says any of God's people ever actually prayed TO the Holy Spirit. Please get that.

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We walk and live in the spirit (**Gal. 5:25**). We pray IN the spirit (**Eph 6:18**), BY the spirit, and we worship God in the spirit (**Phil. 3:3**) but never does it say we are pray TO the Spirit. We pray to our Father in heaven as Jesus taught us (**Matthew 6:9**), or even to Jesus also as Stephen did as he was dying (**Acts 7:59-60**), but we never pray *to* the Holy Spirit as if the Spirit is a separate person. There's not one example of anyone in the Bible praying TO the Holy Spirit. We shouldn't either.

One more thing: so many verses are interpreted to mean the Holy Spirit is a separate person. For example, people use **Rom 8:26-27, 34** to try to show that Holy Spirit intercedes for us when we pray, but **verse 34** make it clear that this was referring to Jesus, our one intercessor for us (**Heb. 7:25; 1 John 2:1-2**). I'll try to produce an updated sermon on God's Holy Spirit.

So yes, as recorded on the day of Pentecost in Acts 2, God sent His Holy Spirit. As a sign, they all spoke in other *known* languages around the area. **See Acts 2:5-12**, where this is clearly spelled out. This was not an unknown tongue as KJV incorrectly adds in 1 Cor. 14. But their "unknown" was an added word not in the original Greek. The audience heard the Pentecost message in their own different languages simultaneously. The miracle here was as much in their hearing as in the speaking by the apostles.

Acts 2:5-12 "And there were dwelling in Jerusalem Jews, devout men, from every nation under heaven. 6 And when this sound occurred, the multitude came together, and were confused, because everyone heard them speaking in his own language. 7 Then they were all amazed and marveled, saying to one another, "Look, are not all these who speak Galileans? **8 And how is it that we HEAR, each in our own language in which we were born?** 9 Parthians and Medes and Elamites, those dwelling in Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, 10 Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya adjoining Cyrene, visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, 11 Cretans and Arabs — **we hear them speaking in our own tongues the wonderful works of God.**" 12 So they were all amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, "Whatever could this mean?"

When God gives his Holy Spirit, he also gives us GIFTS of the spirit. See **1 Cor. 12** and **Romans 12**. MOST get one or two gifts of the spirit. We don't see a lot of people receiving all the gifts. Paul explains in **1 Cor. 13:13**, that in fact the GREATEST gifts of the spirit are faith, hope and love and the greatest gift of all is LOVE. That's the greatest gift of God's spirit we can have, according to scripture. In fact, read **1 Cor. 13:1-2, 8** where Paul explains that even if you could speak in the tongues of men or even of angels, but have no love, you're

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just a noisy, clanging cymbal. Read 1 Cor. 13:8 as well. Here's how Paul sums it up while discussing the best gifts of the Spirit:

1 Corinthians 13:13 “And now abide faith, hope, love, these three; **but the greatest of these is love.**”

Having Godly love is greater than having the gifts of healing, prophecy, miracles or speaking in tongues. How many of us are praying for more of the gift of God's love through his spirit? Most likely pray for miracles and healing.

Some like to believe that the fullness of the Holy Spirit is proven by being able to speak in tongues. Where are we told that in scripture? Speaking in tongues is **explained if you study carefully all of 1 Cor. 14**. But Paul said it must be cautiously viewed. Better to speak a few words people understand than ten thousand words in a tongue they don't know (**1 Cor. 14:18-19; 1-5**). I believe I have a full sermon on speaking in tongues. Study carefully **1 Cor. 14**.

When did John the Baptizer ever speak in tongues? Or when did Jesus himself ever speak in any tongues except his native Hebrew and Aramaic? The three thousand baptized also on Pentecost are not said to have spoken in tongues. Nor the many that Peter and John laid hands on in Samaria (**Acts 8:12-18**). Speaking in tongues is but one gift of God's spirit, and it's not better than others, certainly not better than having a lot of God's love as His gift.

WHAT ELSE happened or happens?

So we know God's Holy Spirit came on the Day of Pentecost. What else happened and will happen on Pentecost? SO MUCH more. I have full sermons on each of these remaining points.

1. **Holy Spirit was given on the day of Pentecost.** AFTER this, they began to preach Christ everywhere. Many consider this the start of the New Covenant Church of God, though Jesus introduced it at the Lord's Supper (**Luke 22:20; 1 Cor. 11:25**) – “this is the new covenant in my blood.” Holy Spirit seals us and guarantees our salvation.
2. **The LAW of God was given on Pentecost at Mt. Sinai.** The Ten Words (the 10 Commandments) and more.
3. **God married Israel at Mt. Sinai soon afterwards (Exodus 24).** More scriptures showing God was married to Israel: **Jeremiah 3:14; 31:31-32; Isaiah 54:5.** There were other marriages at about Pentecost

time in other years – like Ruth and Boaz, picturing Christ (Boaz) and the church, including Gentiles (Ruth). Do these all picture our marriage later to Christ?

I believe it very plausible that the Marriage or the **Wedding Supper of the Lamb in Revelation 19**, which it clearly says **will be in heaven**, will also happen shortly after Pentecost. In **Matthew 22:1-2** a certain king (God the Father) put on a wedding for his Son (Jesus). Where is God our father? We pray it: “Our father in heaven...” He’s putting on the wedding and we will be there if we are full of God’s spirit.

4. Remember **two leavened wheat loaves were raised up towards heaven** and then lowered again also on Feast of Weeks/Pentecost. What could *that* mean? At Passover season and day of firstfruits, it was unleavened barley picturing Christ. But for Pentecost they used leavened loaves of wheat picturing us. **Leviticus 23:16-17**. That passage calls the two loaves “**the firstfruits** of YHVH”. Pentecost is all about the firstfruits. Who are the first fruits of God’s people? Those being called NOW (**James 1:18**).

I’m telling you dear brethren: CHERISH and love your high calling to be among God’s first fruits. Praise God for calling you to be among the precious first fruits of God. You’re one out of 8-1/2 billions others on this planet whom God the Father himself called to be a first fruit. Others will come along later, and you and I will be instrumental in that. But those being called now are so blessed to be among God’s firstfruits, implying a much bigger harvest of souls come later. Paul makes it clear that there is a divine ORDER on the sequence of when people are called.

1 Corinthians 15:20-24

“But now **Christ is risen from the dead, and has become the firstfruits** of those who have fallen asleep. 21 For since by man came death, by Man also came the resurrection of the dead. 22 For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ all shall be made alive. 23 ***But each one in his own order: Christ the firstfruits, afterward those who are Christ's at His coming.*** 24 Then comes the end, when He delivers the kingdom to God the Father, when He puts an end to all rule and all authority and power”.

Firstfruits wheat loaves raised up towards heaven on Pentecost pictures US also being resurrected, I believe most likely on **Pentecost, which is all about first fruits**. For a DEEP, FULL explanation of it, study my sermon

on the first resurrection. The Fall holy days are not about first fruits (us) but about God focusing on saving the rest of humanity and whole world.

We tended to feel the first resurrection would be on the Feast of Trumpets because of the word “trumpets” and we know the 7th trumpet marked the first resurrection (**Rev. 11:15-18; 1 Cor. 15:50-53**). But the Feast of Trumpets is about different other people and time and timing. It’s not about us. Check out my sermon on it. It’s all there, video, notes and all.

FIRST Resurrection, Part 1:

<https://lightontherock.org/index.php/sermons/message/the-glorious-first-resurrection-part-1-new?highlight=WyJmaXJzdCIsInJlc3VycmVjdGlvbiJd>

Part 2, First resurrection: who and where

<https://lightontherock.org/index.php/sermons/message/our-glorious-first-resurrection-part-2-then-what?highlight=WyJmaXJzdCIsInJlc3VycmVjdGlvbiJd>

Plus, many forget that after the seventh Trumpet there are still seven more last Bowl plagues, finishing God’s wrath (Rev. 15:1; Rev. 16), which will take a few months! If we’re resurrected and remain on the earth the whole time, what will we be doing all that time the seven bowl plagues are running? No, we won’t be on the earth then. Like the two leavened loaves of Pentecost raised up to heaven and then back down, we’ll also go to heaven and then return to earth some months later.

WE first fruits will be in heaven for a time before returning to earth. In God’s 3rd heaven, what could we be doing? We’ll be meeting our Father, plus millions of righteous angels and perhaps even our own guardian angels. We’ll be meeting the various teams who will work together under Christ. The “game plan” of what we’ll be doing when we return to earth will be explained. We’ll all be shown our gorgeous new homes and mansions – beyond our wildest dreams. We’ll meet the four living creatures around the God’s throne and the 24 Elders. And, we’ll be seated in the Wedding Supper to end all wedding suppers – the Wedding Supper of the Lamb and of you and me. Hallelujah! I hope that excites you.

Then a few earth months later (God is outside of time and space), probably on the Feast of Trumpets, the end of Revelation 19:11-16 shows Yeshua after the wedding supper rising to mount a royal angelic stallion and leads us all – angels and his saints back to earth in the

biggest invasion from outer space ever imaginable. There's a major battle first. Jesus will eliminate all the huge armies gathered to fight against **Him (Rev. 19:17-21)**, led by the Beast and the False Prophet who will be captured and cast into the Lake of Fire. For the rest of the armies there, **Zechariah 14:12** describes their terrible end. Read it.

So by now the rebels and mockers have been removed, and we land on the Mount of Olives, which splits in two (**Zech 14:4**). Then we take over the reins of government with Messiah over the whole earth. Satan is bound for a thousand years (**Rev. 20:1-3**), and I suppose this will include all of his fallen angels, the demons, with him, though that's not specified.

So I believe deeply, along with some others, that the first Resurrection more likely happens on Pentecost in a future year, soon, and we who had the Holy Spirit given to us, rise up in glorious spirit bodies to HEAVEN and receive our new names from God and Christ, are shown our magnificent mansions, get to meet all those men and women we've come to know in the Bible, and be part of the Wedding Supper of the Lamb of God.

I find that so exciting, and I sure hope you do too. There's so much more to Pentecost than just the story of Acts 2. So much more. I hope you're as excited as I am.

If you still have questions from all this, check out my sermons on this website on - The 5-fold meaning of Pentecost, the First resurrection, the Holy Spirit – as I go into far more detail in the full sermons. See below.

COME, LORD JESUS, COME. And help us live like we really are thrilled about your high calling and help us to seek you first always.

Closing prayer.

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LINKS TO OTHER PENTECOST SERMONS, many also in Swahili.

Pentecost's Exciting 5-fold meaning

<https://lightontherock.org/index.php/sermons/message/pentecost-s-exciting-5-fold-meaning?highlight=WyI1LWZvbGQiXQ==>

Bearing the fruit of God's Spirit (VERY important sermon)

<https://lightontherock.org/index.php/sermons/message/bearing-the-fruit-of-god-s-holy-spirit?highlight=WyJmcnVpdCJd>

Part 1, WHO or What is God's Spirit

<https://lightontherock.org/index.php/sermons/message/who-or-what-is-gods-holy-spirit-part-1-new?highlight=WyJob2x5Iiwic3Bpcml0IiwicGFydCIzMlo=>

PART 2 Who/What is God's Spirit

<https://lightontherock.org/index.php/sermons/message/who-or-what-is-gods-holy-spirit-part-2?highlight=WyJob2x5Iiwic3Bpcml0IiwicGFydCIzMlo=>

I'll try to post a new updated, more to-the-point sermon on God's Spirit if I can soon.