



## RBC CONNECT GROUP STUDY FOR WEEK 31/5/20

### THE DAY OF PENTECOST

**Please note:** As always, the following questions are discussion starters to the topic of faith.

Feel free to explore what faith is as you begin your discussion.

#### **Bible Reading: Acts 2:1-8**

The followers of Jesus were all together in one place fifty days after the special religious gathering to remember how the Jews left Egypt. <sup>2</sup> All at once there was a sound from heaven like a powerful wind. It filled the house where they were sitting. <sup>3</sup> Then they saw tongues which were divided that looked like fire. These came down on each one of them. <sup>4</sup> They were all filled with the Holy Spirit. Then they began to speak in other languages which the Holy Spirit made them able to speak. <sup>5</sup> There were many religious Jews staying in Jerusalem. They were from every country of the world. <sup>6</sup> When they heard this strange sound, they gathered together. They all listened! It was hard for them to believe they were hearing words in their own language. <sup>7</sup> They were surprised and wondered about it. They said to each other, "Are not these Galileans who are speaking?" <sup>8</sup> How is it that each one of us can hear his own language?

**1) In Acts 1:4, Jesus told his disciples to wait in Jerusalem until they had received the gift of the Holy Spirit. Why was this such a crucial necessity before they began their ministry?**

**2) What do you know of the Feast of Pentecost?**

Understanding what was being celebrated helps to understand why this coming of the Holy Spirit and consequences happened on this day.

**3) Do you think the Scriptures are put together by clever design or are they a bunch of stories haphazardly written in the hope of making sense?**

**4) Discuss John 20:20-22 in relation to Acts 2:4. How are they linked?**

This story is regarded as the birth of the church.

- 5) Do you agree with this or was the church established to fit the need rather than by God's intent?
- 6) How does event this fit with the Feast of Pentecost?
- 7) Once they were filled with the Holy Spirit they began to 'speak in other languages'. How has this been misinterpreted over the years? What is the truth about 'speaking in tongues' in this scene?
- 8) Verse 7 suggests a supernatural phenomenon. What do you make of 'supernatural' events?
- 9) Are they still relevant for 2020 and beyond? Why?

**Prayer:**

Lord of the Harvest, You gave Your disciples the mandate to be Your witnesses around the world and empowered them with Your Holy Spirit on the day of Pentecost to accomplish this task. Today, we ask that You help us to refocus our attention, as we face a task unfinished. You have blessed us with the power and the gifts of Your Holy Spirit. Help us to use these for ministry and witness. **Amen.**