



MISSION CONTROL “Supernatural ChurchBirth” Part 1

Acts 2:1-13
May 24, 2015

THE FIRST CHURCH WAS BORN IN: Vs 1-3

- ✓ **God’s Providence – The Day of Pentecost**
 - **The Feast of Weeks or Harvest** – Evangelism
Exodus 23:16
 - **The Feast of First Fruits** – Earnest Money
*Numbers 28:6 Exodus 23:16, 34:22, Leviticus 23:15;
Romans 8:19-23; 2 Corinthians 5:5; Ephesians 1:13*
 - **The Giving of the Law** – Evidence
Exodus 19:1; Jeremiah 31:31-34; Heb. 10:11,16-18
- ✓ **God’s Power – The Wind**
Ezekiel 37:9; John 3:5-8
- ✓ **God’s Presence – Fire**
*Exodus 3:1-6; 19: 16-17; Hebrews 12:18-24 Matthew
3:11; Luke 3:16*

THE FIRST CHURCH WAS VALIDATED BY: Vs 4,11b

- ✓ **Them Being Filled With the Holy Spirit**
*Romans 8:9; 1 Corinthians 12:13; Galatians 3:28
Ephesians 4:4 -6; Acts 8, 10, 19; Acts 4:31,6, 7, 9, 13,
Ephesians 5:18*
- ✓ **Them Speaking in Other Languages**
- ✓ **Them Praising the Lord**
The Languages Were For Validation Not Communication

THE FIRST CHURCH WAS FOR EVERYONE Vs 5-11

- ✓ **The People Heard and Understood in Their Own Heart Language**
- ✓ **The People Were From Everywhere**
- ✓ **The People Would Come to Know It Was For Them**

THE REACTION TO THE FIRST CHURCH WAS

Vs 7-8, 12-13

- ✓ **Amazement**
- ✓ **Confusion**
- ✓ **Contempt**

How Will Respond?

- ✓ **Would you realize and understand that the Lord will go to any length to say “This Message is for You?” Today, I plead with you to accept the greatest gift you could ever receive the Gift of Eternal Life? Would give Him your heart & life today? Remember it is as simple as **ABC!** **Admit** to God you are a sinner, **Ask** for His forgiveness, **Believe** Jesus is God’s Son, **Confess** Him as Savior & **Commit** Your Life to Him as Lord. (the Boss of your life)**
- ✓ **Have you asked Christ into your heart but never made it public. Have you not been baptized? You can come & make that decision today public today. He was willing to humble Himself and be obedient, will you?**
- ✓ **Are you a part of a church family? If not, you need one! Is the Lord calling you to Petal FBC today? Why wait any longer? Step over the line and join us in reaching this community with the gospel of Jesus Christ!**
- ✓ **Would the words that come from our lips constantly be to speak the wonderful works of God? May it be so!**
- ✓ **May we be consistently empty so that we can continually be filled with the Holy Spirit!**

THE ACTS: MISSION CONTROL

“Supernatural ChurchBirth” Part 1

Acts 2:1-13

May 17, 2015 AM Service

A huge pivotal point here, the fulfillment of the promise of the Holy Spirit. Promised in the Old Testament even to the last prophet, John the Baptist of the coming of the Holy Spirit.

Their disciples were waiting, praying together, electing a new disciple, but yet surely the disciples missed Jesus, and perhaps they were wondering, how would they be His witnesses.? Yes they believed the promise of the coming of the Holy Spirit, but Jesus was no longer with them. There had to be a certain sense of emptiness which is not a bad thing really – in fact when we are empty then we are at a place where we can be filled.

We get to see behind the curtain if you will of the Supernatural birthing of the 1st Church. We see Mission Control and how the behind the scenes prayer and filling of the leadership had prepared them for what was next – the coming of the Holy Spirit upon them which would truly change the world forever!

This idea of the Supernatural ChurchBirth of the 1st Church located in Jerusalem. It certainly reminds of those who are parents and the pregnancy experience and having that 1st baby. There is that time of excitement and anticipation finding out you are pregnant and waiting for that baby to come and the closer it gets the longer it seems and the anticipation builds. And let’s clearly say people tell you babies are so sweet and it’s jus basically feeding them and dressing them and letting them sleep – no biggie – nobody ever told me they would turn my world upside down – let me just say those people lied!

In the same way, the Church has been talked about and the promise of the Holy Spirit would usher that in and the coming of the New Covenant and Let us also be clear that they Holy Spirit was not created at Pentecost! The Holy Spirit had been active prior to Pentecost and had worked in Creation ([Gen 1:1-2](#)), throughout Old Testament history ([Judges 6:34](#); [1 Sam 16:13](#)), and in the life and ministry of Jesus.

Here we will see **the dramatic shift of Christianity all in a single word, a preposition**. We see it shift from the preposition **with** to the preposition

in. They had been limited all this time by the preposition with. But now there would be two changes: the Spirit would dwell in people and not just come on them, and His presence would be permanent not temporary! And here we see in Acts 2 the Church is finally born in dramatic fashion and the world will never be the same again!

The First Church Was Born In: Vs 1-3

Please note that the Church was not born because of what the disciples and His follower did or because they wanted it to happen (this is crucial to see) The coming of the Holy Spirit had nothing to do with these disciples did Other than, that did what Jesus told them to do. (Go back and wait) It is centered not around them being in one accord and one place but instead it is centered around the particular day in which God in His sovereignty chose to bring the Holy Spirit to His church and baptize these believers with the Holy Spirit and fill them for the very first time.

Many times people wonder why is the OT important and why read it and then we come to a text like this and we see the incredible significance and foreshadowing and the setting of the stage by the Lord for this event to occur. It was God's perfect plan and His perfect sovereign timing that led to the birth of the Church.

It happened due to three distinct reasons listed here in Acts and the 1st is of the upmost importance.

✓ **God's Providence (Timing) – The Day of Pentecost**

The Greek's word for the day of fifties

Reference to one of the three **most significant feast days** the Old Testament Jews celebrated

- (1) **Feast of the Passover** – The Remembrance of the deliverance of the children of Israel from Egypt (This has just been celebrated 50 days earlier when Jesus had been crucified as the Passover Lamb and then gloriously raised from the dead – the picture of the death angel can pass over our “house” if we have allowed the blood of the Lamb to cove our lives! - One Sunday after that is the **Feast of Unleavened Bread**
- (2) 50 Days later, a week of weeks – **Feast of Weeks** - on the 7th Sunday after the Sunday of unleavened bread Celebrate the Feast of Weeks or became known as the Feast of Pentecost or Day of

Pentecost - In the nature of that feast the context is critical. It is also significant to note that the city of Jerusalem overflowing with people due to Pentecost – even more than the Passover due to the later date and the weather being better. Notice, the Lord’s sovereignty – the two biggest days of the Jewish year – Passover and Pentecost – the Lord unfolds His plan so that they most could see it.

(3) The Feast of the Tabernacle followed that

▪ **The Feast of Weeks or Harvest – Evangelism** [Exodus 23:16](#)

The Holy Spirit is about evangelism

Jews were called by God to celebrate the harvest and they were to bring grain offerings that were to represent that harvest and rejoice and celebrate what God had done in that harvest

Make the connection here of the coming harvest [Acts 1:4](#), and [8](#) you shall be my witnesses - Remember, the outline of the book of Acts One primary purpose of the Holy Spirit is to go and take the gospel to a lost and dying world, making concentric circles beginning in Jerusalem your own back yard, and going out from there Telling people how to miss hell and make heaven through a relationship with me.

He told them from the beginning it was going to be about evangelism That’s why you have to wait for the Holy Spirit

Let’s look at the harvest that takes place throughout Acts, really what this book is all about [2:41, 47](#), conservative 1 per day

[5:14](#), multitudes [6:1](#) multiplying, [6:7 9:31, 21:20](#) myriads, tens of thousands most conservative bible scholars, (not Baptist preachers!) that they were some 50,000 believers at minimum that were a part of the Jerusalem church and it all started on this day of Pentecost

It wasn’t chance, something the disciples worked up, or they were just super spiritual, it was the day that God had ordained, he picked this day, and I am going to show a new kind of harvest, I’m calling you who were once fisherman, to become fishers of men’s souls

The church set out on its major agenda and that is bringing men and women, boys and girls to Jesus Christ.

Strong word here, listen closely and this is tough

If we are not about evangelism, sharing the good news, bringing in the harvest, then one must ask, do we have the Holy Spirit, because as we have said, it is the primary role of the Holy Spirit in our lives, or it should be. And if we don't have the Holy Spirit, then we know what that means, we are not saved. Not to doubt your salvation here, but to ask the question

- **The Feast of First Fruits – Earnest Money**

[Numbers 28:6](#) [Exodus 23:16, 34:22](#), [Leviticus 23:15](#); [Romans 8:19-23](#); [2 Corinthians 5:5](#); [Ephesians 1:13](#)

Also called the Feast of First Fruits

Almost every time you see this feast mentioned in the first five books of the OT, you see it referred to as the Feast of First Fruits

[Numbers 28:6](#) [Exodus 23:16, 34:32](#), [Leviticus 23:15](#)

What the Jews were called upon to do, was to take some of their first fruits, the very first and best as a sacrifice

And it is where we get our concept of tithing, first fruits to the Lord, the first portion of what we have, we give it off the top and goes back to Him, acknowledging that He is the giver of All - [Romans 8:19-23](#)

The first fruits of God's investment, God's promise, of what is in store, the Holy Spirit is not an end, there is more to this thing that God is doing in our lives with the coming of the Holy Spirit for us - our salvation in which we receive the Holy Spirit, the important and crucial part of who God is and what is doing, but the Holy Spirit is only earnest money, a down payment, a deposit,

ILLUS: earnest money to build my house

but stronger than that, it is binding in the sense that the person putting down the money says if I back out on my commitment to you, you get to keep the earnest money

We see what that means, God says I'm not backing out on this deal, what I started in your life I will finish [Philippians 1:6](#)

[Look at 2 Corinthians 5:5](#) – a down payment (pledge)

[Ephesians 1:13](#) – sealed with Holy Spirit of promise, the guarantee

Talking about all the riches of heaven, all the riches of heaven that are in store for believers, starting with the Jewish converts and now Gentiles, and God let you in all this deal, got all that waiting for us

But God has invested His very presence in our life as a guarantee, as

a down payment, as earnest money for this promise He will keep.

- **The Giving of the Law – Evidence**

[Exodus 19:1](#); [Jeremiah 31:31-34](#); [Hebrews 10:11, 16-18](#)

The Holy Spirit is about evidence of the forgiveness of sins in our lives – **ILLUS: Ever been in place as a Christian where you stumbled**, blew it and got off the path, gone back and done some of the things we used to do before we were saved.

Ever wonder, well I wonder if I am really forgiven?

God brought evidence of the forgiveness of sin for those who trusted in Jesus Christ as their Savior and Lord

Anniversary of the giving of the Law at Mount Sinai

[Exodus 19:1](#) chronological note, Jews begin to recognize this as well God gave the ten commandments, and entered into the covenant with Israel. Celebrated the giving of this law that was given for them to try and live up to

In the OT, one of the promises He gave them is that one day He would make a new covenant with them,

Jews struggled with the law, couldn't keep the law, couldn't rise up to the standard just like we can't even today, always rebelling against God, He would have to judge them, let them go into exile and then He would bring them back, refining them a little bit, it was a constant struggle, a repeating cycle and one of the promises God made was one day I will make a new covenant with you

[Jeremiah 31:31-34](#)

One of these days it is not going to be about the spoken law, the written law, one of these days I'm going this law and write in their hearts, put on their minds,

The OT Law was a constant reminder of their sin, constantly butting their heads against them, constantly reminding them of the guilt, but one of these days I will make things different and new

What's the connection? [Look at Hebrews 10:11, 16 -18](#)

[Paul quotes Jeremiah 31:33-34](#)

[Verse 18](#) Here is the connection - The Holy Spirit also witnesses to us, He testifies in your hearts that Jesus did what He said He was going to do, and that's give you the forgiveness of your sins

The Day of Pentecost was the anniversary of the giving of the Law,

but on the Day of Pentecost, God changed the meaning and not only gave the Law, but this time He fulfilled His promise and put it in the hearts of His people. And one of the reasons that He put it there, His presence, His Spirit, it to be a constant reminder and witness and evidence that we are forgiven

This is no accident, not anything they did or that we could do now God sovereignly chose this day of Pentecost to be the setting for the birth of the New Testament Church because the Holy Spirit is about Harvest Evangelism, it's about earnest money, its about evidence of our forgiveness in Jesus Christ.

✓ **God's Power – The Wind** [Ezekiel 37:9](#); [John 3:5-8](#)

(Hearing) (like) a rushing mighty wind (breath) – it wasn't an actual wind, (blasting breath) not just like a cool breeze, but a hurricane or tornado, it was loud so much so that others heard it to because we see a large crowd gathered. They heard it!

The ***Ruah*** – the breath of God in the OT – here in the Greek it is the word ***pneuma*** – the connotation of the wind and the Spirit.

Why the wind? This symbol reminds us that the Lord comes from heaven, He fills the world and moves at His will. He cannot be cornered or contained. He is commanded by no one and does what the will of the Father is!

✓ **God's Presence – Fire** [Exodus 3:1-6](#); [19: 16-17](#); [Hebrews 12:18-24](#)
[Matthew 3:11](#); [Luke 3:16](#) Appeared above each head what looked like

tongues of fire. They saw it. Again fire it something that cannot be contained – it spreads quickly and can never be put out!

Was not fire, as of fire, like, looked like it, looking for ways to describe the supernatural – it was the only thing they could compare it to. Notice that it rested on all of them and they could each see it above the head of each other. Left no doubt!

Moses with the burning bush [Exodus 3:1-6](#), and in [Exodus 19:16-17](#), seeing lighting, thunder, & smoke representative of the presence of God & [Exodus 24:16-18](#) – the Lord is a consuming fire! In [Isaiah 6](#) – the hot coal – the purifying presence of the Lord designed to bring up the dross in our lives and leave only the best.