

PENTECOST
JUNE 11, 2017

ACTS 1:4-5, 8

Seven Jewish feast days reveal God's redemptive plan. Each one has significance and meaning. Passover (crucifixion), unleavened bread (burial), first fruits (resurrection), Pentecost (Holy Spirit), trumpets (rapture), atonement (blood applied), tabernacles (1000 year reign).

PENTECOST

1. Celebrates the advent of the Spirit and birth of the church.
 - A. On the fourth spring feast, the Spirit fell on the 120. Cloven tongues of fire sat on each one. All were filled and spoke in tongues. **ACTS 2:1-4**
 - B. Christianity was called "The Way" for many years. **ACTS 9:2, 22:3-4, ACTS 24:14** – They were called Christians 11 years later. **ACTS 11:26**
 - C. There were no denominations back then.
2. Understanding "The Way."
 - A. To the Jew, the Torah revealed "The Way" the Israelites were to live and promote human flourishing.
 - B. Jesus called Himself "The Way." To the Jew He put Himself on the same level as the Torah.
 - C. Today, the difference between Jesus and Buddah, Krishna, Muhammed or Moses is they were "way-showers" pointing to the end goal of human flourishing, and Jesus is the way! He is the door and gate!
3. Jesus is the Head of the church. **COLOSSIANS 1:17-18 (NLT)**
 - A. The church birthed on Pentecost is what the church is supposed to look like today!
 - B. **ACTS 2:46-47** – They were saved, filled with the Spirit and all spoke with other tongues and continued the works of Jesus. **MARK 16:15-20**

THE IMPORTANCE OF TONGUES – I COR. 14:18 AMPC)

The Pentecostal church is distinguished by many things – zeal, extravagant worship, anointed preaching – but nothing distinguishes us more than speaking in tongues. Some say "what good is it? Why does it matter? What value does it add?"

1. Evidence of the Spirit Baptism. **ACTS 2:4, 10:45-46, 19:6**
 - A. Jesus received, the Apostles received, are we better?
2. Divine communication. – **1 CORINTHIANS 14:2**
 - A. Divine secrets.
3. Self edification. – **1 CORINTHIANS 14:4**
 - A. To charge up like a battery, to build up!
4. To engage the Spirit within. **1 CORINTHIANS 14:14-15 (AMPC)**
 - A. We can pray with our understanding and with our spirit.
5. To praise God in a more perfect way. **1 CORINTHIANS 14:17**
 - A. **JOHN 4:24** – We express joy and gratitude in a perfect way.
6. To build up our faith. **JUDE 20**
 - A. It takes faith to pray in tongues. Using our faith in one area will help us develop our faith in other areas.
7. To pray beyond our understanding. **ROMANS 8:26-27**
 - A. The Spirit knows what we don't. By yielding our tongue to Him, we can pray out God's perfect will.
8. To keep ourselves in God's love. **JUDE 20-21**
 - A. **ROMANS 5:5** – It's the Spirit that put God's love in us.
9. Generating miracle power. **EPHESIANS 5:17-20**
 - A. As we pray in the Spirit, we activate the Spirit within, and give place to a greater anointing.