Pentecost

In Jerusalem

Foundation

Bible passage : Acts 2

Pentecost is important for how the light of Christ was spread for various reasons:

First, because Jesus told them to wait in Jerusalem until they were baptized with the Holy Spirit (1.5) and they were empowered (1.8) to go and tell people about Jesus. The disciples of Jesus were a mixed bunch but most had no proper schooling and seemed very ordinary. But with the help of the Holy Spirit, they became very bold in telling people about Jesus.

Secondly, on the day of Pentecost they were able to speak in languages they did not previously know. There is nothing to indicate that this continued beyond that day but the visitors in Jerusalem these languages. (See the map for the different places.) It is likely that most of them spoke Greek and so unlikely that they needed to hear the gospel in their own tongue. Therefore, this seems to have been a sign from God that gained the attention of those present, showed that this was from God, and also underlined the fact that the message of the gospel and, so the light of Jesus, was not to be kept in Israel but to go out to all the nations. In the years ahead followers of Jesus would labour long and hard to learn new languages in order to share the gospel with people, and to translate the Bible into other languages. Christians still do the same today so that everyone can have opportunity to hear the good news about Jesus.

> "everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved." Acts 2:22

Thirdly, on this day 3,000 people, having heard the message about Jesus, came to faith in Him. What Peter said that day is very important as he explained the significance of what they were seeing.

Peter explained about the death and resurrection of Jesus, told them that Jesus is both Lord and Christ (v36) and also called people to respond by by repenting of their sins and being baptised (v38). He had already quoted from Joel 2:32 saying that *"everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved"*. As a result about 3,000 people believed the message and received **the light of Christ**.

The disciples were empowered to tell people about Jesus, a sign was given indicating the spread of the good news, and we see the first flood of people coming to faith. It is a bit like the disciples being a lantern but having no battery (candle, oil etc.), but the Holy Spirit empowered them and so **they began to spread the light of Christ.**

KEY TEACHING

The Holy Spirit helped the disciples to people to believe the gospel, repent and be baptised.