

Pastor Brian's  
Midweek Message  
June 1, 2022

**“TONGUES OF FIRE”**

*They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. (Acts 2:3)*



On the Day of Pentecost God the Holy Spirit came to the followers of Jesus with the sound of a roaring rush of wind and the sight of fire that separated into tongues and came to rest on each one of them. As the disciples were gathered together in the Temple court along with 1000s of other Jewish pilgrims that would have attracted a

lot of attention and wonder. What was going on? What did this all mean? It didn't take long for those questions to be answered as they began to proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ in other tongues/languages that they had never learned. Speaking words that they themselves would not be able to understand, empowered by God the Holy Spirit they spoke words that all of those in the crowd would understand and benefit from eternally. That's the mission of the Holy Spirit, testifying to the crucified and risen Christ so that faith and salvation can be given to all as the free gift of God's grace.

I remember back in my Sunday School days, every year (it seemed) we did the same craft. We made little tongues of fire that we strapped to our heads and wore in the worship service to show that we were filled with the Holy Spirit. At least I think that's why we did it. I don't remember ever being told what that really meant, although it probably happened, and I wasn't paying attention.



Mine tongue of fire never looked quite that good. The Day of Pentecost is also known as “The Birthday of the Church”. The Holy Spirit comes and indwells all believes (those with a faith in Christ that is from the Spirit working in the proclamation of the Gospel) to be the ongoing presence of Christ in all the world. Our mission, which is the very same as the Holy Spirit's mission, is to testify to the crucified and risen Christ. We don't empower faith in others, that only comes from the Spirit, but we are to continually sow the seeds of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. The Spirit also enables us to love and care for our neighbors so that they might see the presence of Jesus in us and ask us for the reason for the hope that we have.

Again, we respond with the proclamation of the Gospel...*that God so loves the world that He gave his one and only Son so that whoever believes in him should not perish, but have eternal life. (John 3:16)*