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Steps to Empowerment Begin With Three Feasts

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Why do you think tongues of spiritual fire landed on the heads of 120 seekers in Jerusalem on the Day of Pentecost?



I wonder if it was a picture to teach us a lesson. For instance, what is the main obstacle that prevents human beings from believing in God's Word with simple, uncomplicated faith?

Could it be the brain? The brain is described as being soft as butter. But the connections that can be made in the brain through hurts in life can create unbelief that is as hard as a rock.

Sometimes God chooses to give spiritual signs to get a point across to us, "God is not dead. He is alive and well!"

For the brave early Believers 2,000 years ago, they needed all the power they could get. These Jewish believers of "The Way," 41 years later, were called Christians. For those 10 days they were actually praying while sequestered behind closed doors as they waited for Pentecost – or as they would have said it in Hebrew, Shavuot.

Historically, on Mount Sinai in B.C. 1706, God (Yahweh) instructed Moses about the importance of the Children of Israel celebrating seven annual Feasts – (Leviticus 23). God would meet with them in special ways during these Feasts or Festivals.

Pentecost is the fourth of those Feasts. So Pentecost had been celebrated for 1706 years until the actual Day of Pentecost had its ful-

fillment in the Upper Room in Jerusalem in 30 A.D.

Scripture says it this way: "When the Day of Pentecost had fully come, they were all with one accord in one place." – (Acts 2:1).

Each of these seven Feasts either has or will have its "fulfillment" or time of "fully coming." For instance, Passover or Pesach has been celebrated every year since the Children of Israel escaped from Egyptian slavery in B.C. 1706.

For the early believers of "The Way," that Feast was fulfilled by Jesus when He met with His Apostles for the Passover Feast that Jesus had celebrated every year of His life.

Only this Passover was different in that Jesus would become the Passover Lamb, the One who once and for all would make it possible for the sins of the world to be removed. – (John 1:29)

This fulfillment of Passover was the reason for all the annual Passovers that had taken place from B.C. 1706 and 30 A.D., or 1736 years.

The first three Feasts – Passover, Unleavened Bread, and First Fruits – were all fulfilled through Jesus the Christ. They represent Him as:

- Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world;
- The pure sacrifice, without blemish or sin; and
- Our resurrected Lord – the "first fruits" of God's family, who are also promised resurrection from the dead.
- The fourth Feast, Pentecost, was the fulfillment of Jesus' promise to send the Holy Spirit after His Ascension. – (John 16:7).

"Consider us in the 21st Century" ... We are presently living between the fourth and fifth Feasts: Pentecost

and Trumpets. One fulfilled and one yet to be fulfilled.

Now for us today, we can look back 3700 years and see these first two major Feasts, Passover and Pentecost, as eternally important and foundational in the formation of the Christian faith – as well as for the Jewish faith.

For the Christian's faith: to have your Pentecost experience, you must first take step No. 1 – your Passover experience. Said another way, to have your Shavuot you must first have your Pesach:

- The Lamb's blood over your heart's door (Good Friday);
- Your Unleavened Bread or sin removed (Holy Saturday);
- Your First Fruits of spiritual resurrection (Easter Sunday).

Remember the value of "The Lord's Supper" or "Holy Communion." That is the major way Christians remember the Passover and Christ's death until He returns.

Jesus said about this Holy Celebration, "Do this in remembrance of Me" – (Luke 22:19,20). This is the third of our Lord's Commandments to us.

Take some time to ask Jesus to fulfill these Feasts in you. Open your hands in a receptive position. Breathe deeply, close your eyes and speak praises to God who loves you...

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