

JUNE 8, 2025

There are several innovative real time translation software available for business, education, cultural exchanges and for travelers. One may purchase a real-time translation tool for as little as \$50.00. Immediate translation breaks down language barriers, making it easier for people from different cultures to connect and understand each other.

Two thousand years ago more than an immediate translation from Galilean into several other languages happened. As Jews gathered for the annual Feast of Weeks or Shavuot, the Breath of God hovered over the apostles like a new creation and breathed new life into them (Acts 2:1–4).¹ The effects of the Spirit (the roaring sound and the immediate translation of the speech of the apostles) were felt even by the Jewish pilgrims from “all the nations under heaven” (Acts 2:9–11).

This led Peter to declare, then and there, that Joel’s prophecy was being fulfilled, that God’s Spirit would be poured out upon *all* flesh (Acts 2:17; see also Joel 2:28). The whole world was being renewed and recreated by the Spirit of God.

The original Feast of Weeks or Festival of the Harvest was an agricultural celebration which later on became the occasion to celebrate the giving of the Torah on Mount Sinai.² With the coming of the Spirit, the Sinaitic Law is affirmed.

The birth, life and death of Jesus has demonstrated not only the great love of God for all of creation but also the pattern (“the Way, the Life and the Truth”³) of God’s “mo” (modus operandi), the way God sees, cares and operates in the world. If anyone is in doubt, consider the resurrection of Jesus! Ponder how God has affirmed what Jesus did.

Is that pattern replicable? Yes, by the power of the Spirit: “If the Spirit of the One who raised Jesus from the dead”—that is, the same Spirit that set off the new creation—“dwells in you,” that same One “will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit that dwells in you. (Romans 8:11).⁴ Life in God means creation gets renewed and not simply restored.⁵

¹ Any connection to Mary’s experience (Lk 1:35)?

² [What are Other Names for Shavuot? | My Jewish Learning](#)

³ John 14:6

⁴ Romans 6:1-23

⁵ See also 2 Corinthians 5:17; Ephesians 4:22-24; Revelation 21:1-27

The Spirit of God encourages, emboldens, instructs and leads us. There is no need to fear. If God is for us, who will be against us?⁶ Many. And they will persecute us, too. But that should not scare us into submission.

If we listen to the Spirit within and trust the words of Jesus, how can we miss? Being led by the Spirit is simply what the children of God do. Life in the Spirit is intentional more than natural. We are all children of God but following the Spirit is not a natural inclination: it's a conscious choice.

Philip said to Jesus, "Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied." (John 14:8) In other words, give us a sign. But the sign was always there under their (and our) noses: look at Jesus and see the Father. There is a unity and a communion to which we are all called to participate, willingly by faith. Not forced but invited.

God is available and ready to break everybody open so they can be a radically new, welcoming, and fully engaged community. Pentecost is the affirmation of God's intimacy with us. God is above us, beside us, and within us to guide us toward the work of loving and living a life like Christ.

The Spirit living and moving in us is evidence that we have all that we need. We commune with God and one another to operate as people of faith and exercise love, justice, and hope in a divided and hateful world.

Pentecost removes cultural barriers and brings people together. It does not deny differences or morph the many into uniformity but aids in hospitality, understanding and appreciation. It creates a pluralistic community. It isn't a Church's "strategic plan" to make converts and bring people in, but the celebration of the new life that God offers.

The Feast of Pentecost is the Feast of the Spirit, the feast of inclusivity, the celebration of our new home and a festival of hope and new beginnings.

It's the Spirit's invitation to come and to belong, it's the opening of the gate for all the sheep of God to come in and go out and find pasture. It's the Spirit's affirmation that no one is excluded: no one is unwanted, no one unlovable, no one unworthy, no one too sick to be healed, no one too far gone for resurrection life.

The Feast of Pentecost is the living manifestation that the new life in God, God's realm, is not an exclusive place, a place restricted to those who look the same, sound the same, think the same, move the same, believe the same.

⁶ Romans 8:17.31

Acts 2:1-21; Romans 8:14-17; John 14:8-17, 25-27

The Feast of the Spirit is the breaking of cultural arrogance, economic injustice, religious superiority, and ethnic boundaries. It's the erasure of hatred, fear and pride. It's the feast where all are celebrated and all delight in each other.

May the Spirit's presence transform us into a new creation in courage, trust and hope.
Amen.