



COURAGEOUS

CHRISTIANS

Courageous Christians: Peter

The Holy Spirit Comes *(taken from Acts chapters 1 & 2)*

After Jesus left them to go back to his Father in heaven, the disciples all went back to Jerusalem to wait for the Helper Jesus promised he would send. They gathered together every day, to eat and pray and share stories.

One day the disciples were all sitting and chatting with each other. They had gathered to celebrate the Jewish harvest festival called Pentecost. Suddenly there was a noise from above them.

“What is that sound?” asked Peter.

“It sounds like a strong wind blowing!” cried John. “Look!” and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. The disciples gasped in amazement, eyes wide with excitement.

“What’s happening?!” They asked one another.

Then they saw what looked like tongues of fire which spread out and touched each person there. Each person was filled with the Holy Spirit and began to talk in other languages, as a gift from the Holy Spirit. There was so much talking and laughing that a crowd gathered beneath the windows outside.

The crowd were excited because all of them heard the believers talking in their own languages. They were astonished! “We are only visiting Jerusalem for the harvest festival! These people who are speaking in our languages are local people! We have come from miles away – some all the way from Egypt and Asia and Rome! Yet all of us hear them speaking in our own languages about the great things that God has done!” Amazed and confused, they kept asking each other, “What does this mean?”

But others in the crowd made fun of the Peter and the other disciples, saying, “These people have been drinking too much wine!”

Then Peter stood up with the other eleven disciples and in a loud voice began to speak to the crowd.



COURAGEOUS

CHRISTIANS

“Listen to me, all of you! Let me tell you what this means. We are not drinking wine as it is only nine o'clock in the morning.”

Then Peter spoke courageously and clearly about Jesus and told them all about his life and the amazing things Jesus did. He explained that Jesus really was the special one God had chosen to show the world the way to know the Father because he had been raised from the dead. When the people heard this, they said to Peter and the other apostles, “What shall we do, now we have had all this explained to us? We don't want to miss out!”

Peter said to them, “It's simple. Each one of you must turn away from your old life and be baptized in the name of Jesus, so that you will be forgiven. You will receive God's gift, the Holy Spirit. This is what God promised in that message, all those years ago, to you and your children.”

Peter spoke so courageously and persuasively that day that many believed his message and were baptized, and about three thousand people were added to the group that day. They spent their time learning from the disciples, sharing stories and meals and praying together.