

Day 50 and Beyond: Be, See, Do

We have reached day 50, the day of Pentecost.

How will this day be different than every other day?

How will this season in our churches be different than any other season?

How will this years' Annual Conference be different than any other Conference?

As was stated earlier, we are approaching the dawn of a new day among the churches, faith communities and people of our Annual Conference. It is a day that will not be birthed by our plans and strategies and efforts, but by the gracious work of the Holy Spirit. Our work is a loving response to what God is doing in our midst.

These fifty days have been an opportunity for us to pray and prepare for that new day when we as a Church become a movement again.

Is that new day upon us now?



*Best of all,
God is with us*

John Wesley



Pray for guidance and discernment.

Read John 7:37-39; Acts 2:1-13 slowly and prayerfully. What words or phrases stand out for you?

John 7:37-39

On the last day of the festival, the great day, while Jesus was standing there, he cried out, "Let anyone who is thirsty come to me,³⁸ and let the one who believes in me drink. As the scripture has said, 'Out of the believer's heart shall flow rivers of living water.'"³⁹ Now he said this about the Spirit, which believers in him were to receive; for as yet there was no Spirit, because Jesus was not yet glorified.

Acts 2:1-13

When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place.² And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting.³ Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them.⁴ All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability.

⁵Now there were devout Jews from every nation under heaven living in Jerusalem.⁶ And at this sound the crowd gathered and was bewildered, because each one heard them speaking in the native language of each.⁷ Amazed and astonished, they asked, "Are not all these who are speaking Galileans?"⁸ And how is it that we hear, each of us, in our own native language?⁹ Parthians, Medes, Elamites, and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia,¹⁰ Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes,¹¹ Cretans and Arabs—in our own languages we hear them speaking about God's deeds of power."¹² All were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, "What does this mean?"¹³ But others sneered and said, "They are filled with new wine."

Reflect

In light of the last 50 days and these Pentecost texts, Answer these questions as you are able for yourself, your congregation, your circuit, your district and our Annual Conference:

Who are you (we)?

What do you (we) have?

In my (our) context, what matters to God?



Respond

Identify next steps given your reflections and using the simple framework below.



Pray that God would multiply our fire, faith and fruitfulness so that the faith communities in the California-Nevada Annual Conference might become a movement of God's mission in the world.

Bonus

If you would like to maintain this devotional pattern for the two days leading up to Annual Conference, the following passages may be interesting to use:

Monday, June 13 | Acts 2:14-36 (Peter's preaching)

Tuesday, June 14 | Acts 13:13-52 (Paul's preaching)

Wednesday, June 15 is the first day of our **Annual Conference Session**