

The Holy Spirit of God has been present at the 4 great moments of our faith

The Spirit hovered over the waters of CREATION,
The Spirit filled Mary with grace to conceive the Son of God... the INCARNATION
The Spirit filled the upper room with peace on the day of the RESURRECTION
And The Spirit came on the day of PENTECOST.

Pentecost was a feast for the Jewish people, and followed 7 weeks after Passover.
It celebrated the first harvest.... And

It commemorated the giving of the 10 Commandments, the renewal of that covenant which formed them as a people.

So that is why there were so many people in Jerusalem..

That is what the disciples were celebrating in today's first reading.

They were all gathered together and that's when the Spirit came.

We are told, "They were all filled with the Holy Spirit."

What does that mean? Who or what is the Holy Spirit?

GOD IS THE HOLY SPIRIT !!

The Spirit , the presence of God, came in **WIND**

...like the wind that blew over the water at the dawn of Creation.

... like the breath of God that blew life into Adam and created the human family

And the Spirit, the presence of God, came in **FIRE**

... like the fire of the burning bush, that called Moses to lead his people to safety

... like the fire that led the Israelites through the desert to freedom

So now, God's presence,

God's Spirit breathes new life into the gathered disciples

God's Spirit creates a new community, gives birth to a Church

God's Spirit leads them into a new future with courage

Something new was happening.....

The WIND blew seeds for a new harvest

The WIND was a their back sending them out

The FIRE burned in their hearts with energy and courage

And a miracle happened...

All could understand each other, Community was formed, The church was born.

And we are that church... over 2000 years later

The Spirit of God is in us just like the first disciples.

We were filled with God's life. ... God's Spirit... when we were baptized

We were strengthened with God's Spirit.... To live Christ's life... in confirmation.

And we receive the life of God's Spirit every time we receive Holy Communion.

May that Breath of God Spirit breathe in each of us.

May the Fire of God's Spirit burn in our hearts...