Learning from the Early Church

**‘Church begins: Multi-national & Spirit-empowered’**

Acts 2:1-21

NMBC 1st October 2023

We will begin with the song: **“Were you there when they crucified my Lord?”**

**Key ideas:**

1. **My life can be linked to the death & resurrection of Jesus**… How?

 It is by the **Holy Spirit**; & today we look at the historic event when

 **God made the** **‘gift’ of his Spirit to his Church at Pentecost**.

1. **God had prepared for this event**, by giving to his people in the Old Testament:

a) **Special Feast Days** to remember the two greatest events of God’s care for them:

 **The day when God rescued them from Egypt – ‘Feast of the Passover’**

now,for Christians - **‘Easter’** :remembering the **death of our Lord Jesus Christ**

 **The day when they celebrated the ‘firstfruits’ – ‘Feast of the Harvest’**

now,for Christians – **‘Pentecost’:** remembering the **gift of the Holy Spirit**

 b) **Special Promises** to prepare them for this day, when the Spirit would be given:

 **Joel 2:28** **“In the last days, God says, I will pour out my Spirit on all people**”

1. **What** **was the result of this event?**
2. Christians’ lives changed into the **likeness of Christ:**

 God gives all Christians **the fruit of his Spirit** which changes their **character**

 God gives all Christians **the gifts of his Spirit** which build his **church**

1. People from every country, culture & language, **united in Christ**

**Key verses**

Acts 2:17 **“In the last days, God says, I will pour out my Spirit on all people.”**

Acts 2:21 **“Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.”**

**Important words and phrases**

* **The Holy Spirit** –whom Jesus had described in **John’s Gospel 14:15-17 & 16:12-15**.
* **Joel** – An Old Testament prophet, several hundred years before Christ, who warned the people that God’s blessing would only come after sins had been confessed.
* **Prophecy** – which can have two meanings:

when God announces an event through someone ***in the future****,* as with **Joel**; or

when God declares truth through someone which is relevant ***in the present*** *-* **Acts 2:17-21**.