

For the Sake of the Gospel

1 Corinthians 9:19-23

May 24, 2026 | Pastor Michael Foster

The Background of Pentecost

The Day of Pentecost was a special holiday on the Jewish Calendar. It was a celebration of the spring harvest. The day occurred 50 days after another special day: the day of First Fruits. On the day of First Fruits, the people would celebrate the first fruits of the spring harvest. These first fruits meant the rest of the harvest was coming. Seven weeks later they would celebrate the rest of the harvest. It was known as the Feast of Weeks, because it was 7 weeks after the first fruits. But it was also called Pentecost. Jesus rose again on the Jewish day of the First Fruits. In 1 Corinthians 15, Jesus is called the “First Fruits” because His resurrection was the first of many resurrections. All who believe in Jesus will be risen! And 7 weeks after Jesus rose again, there was a great spiritual harvest. On the Jewish Day of Pentecost, the Holy Spirit came to empower and indwell God’s people. And they were miraculously enabled to speak in many foreign languages, signifying God’s heart for all peoples. Today we celebrate God’s heart for all people and recommit to sharing the good news of Jesus by the power of the Holy Spirit!

Notes on the Message:

What are you willing to give up for the sake of the gospel?

“However, I consider my life worth nothing to me; my only aim is to finish the race and complete the task the Lord Jesus has given me—the task of testifying to the good news of God’s grace”.

Acts 20:24

FOR FURTHER ACTION/REFLECTION

- For more information on Firstfruits, Pentecost, and other Jewish feasts and their fulfillment in Christ: bit.ly/7FeaststoChrist
- Read Acts 2, 1 Corinthians 9, Romans 1:16, Acts 4:12, John 3:16, Acts 16:31, Acts 20:24
- Read more about the Moravians – bit.ly/AboutTheMoravians
- Read “For the sake of the gospel” – bit.ly/FortheSakeoftheGospel1
- Read “When right may be wrong” – bit.ly/WhenaRightMayBeWrong
- Listen to “Worthy of it All” – bit.ly/WorthyofitAll3
- Listen to “The Hospitality Song” – bit.ly/TheHospitalitySong
- Listen to “Worth it All” – <https://bit.ly/WorthitAll>
- Visit www.evangel.org or www.dare2share.org (especially teens) for resources to help you grow in sharing your faith.

GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What stood out to you most from the message?
2. What did you learn today in general about the Day of Pentecost?
3. Read Romans 1:16 and Acts 20:24. What can we learn from the ways in which Paul prioritized the gospel?
4. Read 1 Corinthians 9:19-23 and summarize this passage in your own words.
5. What might it look like to live out the principles of this passage in your life more fully today?
6. Share about someone who gave up something in order to share the gospel with you? What impact did they have on you?
7. What have you given up at times in order to share the gospel? Has it been worth it? Will it be worth it?
8. What is something the Lord is leading you to give up in order to share the gospel more?
9. Take some time to read about the Moravians in the article linked above. How are they a model for what God calls us all to do for the sake of the gospel?
10. Spend some time praying for God to move to bring many more to faith in Christ, pray specifically for people on your heart and in your path.

