

Bonus Reading

**Four Changes
Since the
“Pentecostal” Church**

God's Church Started on Pentecost, But Changed, by Design.

Two Changes *During* the First Century

Note: These reflect development intended by God.

Nowadays, There Is More than One Congregation

The church began 7 weeks after Jesus' death and resurrection, on the Jewish feast day of **Pentecost** (Lev. 23:15-22), **in Jerusalem among the Jews.** (Acts 2:1-47; 4:4, 32; 5:11)

According to the instructions of Jesus (Acts 1:8), **believers spread** into Judea and Samaria (Acts 8:1; 9:31-43), then "to the end of the earth." (Acts chapters 13-28)

The Church Now Includes Non-Jews ("Gentiles")

The **first conversion of a non-Jew** resulted in controversy among some from a Jewish background. (Acts 10:1 – 11:18)

The apostles clarified that the **Gentiles do not have to keep the Law of Moses** (Acts 15:1-33).

Continued

Two Changes *After* the First Century

Note: The first reflects development intended by God; the second a falling away predicted by God's prophets.

We have the New Testament.

Initially, people could **check the apostles' preaching against the Old Testament** (e.g., Acts 17:11).

The apostles wrote their message, **the New Testament**, by inspiration (1 Corinthians 2:7-16; Ephesians 3:3-5) and **performed miracles** to confirm it. (Hebrews 2:3-4)

Their message is **the foundation for the church**. (Eph. 2:19-20)

We no longer *need* true Bible-style miracles (Luke 16:19-31), because **prophecy** is complete, perfect. **Bible-style miracles have ceased** (1 Cor. 13:8-13), though God continues to work.

The falling away has taken place (largely or altogether).

It began in the first century A.D. (Acts 20:28-32; 1 John 4:1-3)

More apostasy was predicted. (1 Timothy 4:1-3; 2 Thess. 2:3-4)

End of reading