

Acts 2:1-13 “The Day of Pentecost”

1 When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. 2 And suddenly there came from heaven a noise like a violent rushing wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. 3 And there appeared to them tongues as of fire distributing themselves, and they rested on each one of them. 4 And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit was giving them utterance. 5 Now there were Jews living in Jerusalem, devout men from every nation under heaven. 6 And when this sound occurred, the crowd came together, and were bewildered because each one of them was hearing them speak in his own language. 7 They were amazed and astonished, saying, “Why, are not all these who are speaking Galileans? 8 And how is it that we each hear them in our own language to which we were born? 9 Parthians and Medes and Elamites, and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, 10 Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the districts of Libya around Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, 11 Cretans and Arabs—we hear them in our own tongues speaking of the mighty deeds of God.” 12 And they all continued in amazement and great perplexity, saying to one another, “What does this mean?” 13 But others were mocking and saying, “They are full of sweet wine.” ACTS 2:1-21

I. The Arrival of the Holy Spirit (1-4)

The Setting (1)

-“day of Pentecost” (Jewish Feast that took place 50 days after Passover)

The Arrival of the Holy Spirit (2-4)

Jesus promised a time when the Holy Spirit would come and fill Christians and empower them for gospel ministry. And this was that day! Amazing signs took place to authenticate the reality of this special and wonderful moment.

GREAT SOUND (2): And suddenly there came from heaven a sound like a mighty rushing wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting.

GREAT SIGHT - TONGUES OF FIRE (3): And divided tongues as of fire appeared to them and rested on each one of them.

GREAT ANOINTING - CHRISTIANS FILLED WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT (4a) And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit

-“filling with the Holy Spirit” is the fulfilment of Acts 1:4-5, 8.

GREAT SPEECH IN OTHER LANGUAGES (4b) and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance.

WHAT DID THEY SPEAK ABOUT?

-v 11: “mighty works of God”

-Probably telling about Jesus and the mighty work of his death and resurrection.

II. The Astonishment the Holy Spirit brought (5-13)

The Devout Crowd (5)

5 Now there were Jews living in Jerusalem, devout men from every nation under heaven.

THE SPIRIT SEEKS TO MEET PEOPLE AT THEIR POINT OF NEED

The Diverse Crowd (6)

6 And when this sound occurred, the crowd came together, and were bewildered because each one of them was hearing them speak in his own language

-16 groups of peoples, many with different native languages.

WHY THIS DETAIL ABOUT DIVERSITY? This is the beginning of the fulfilment of Acts 1:8!

THE SPIRIT IS GIVEN TO ALL

The Dumbfounded Crowd (7)

7 They were amazed and astonished, saying, “Why, are not all these who are speaking Galileans?”

-“Amazed and astonished”=Something amazing is taking place here. Something supernatural!

THE SPIRIT WORKS IN MYSTERIOUS WAYS

The Delighted Crowd (11b-12a)

we hear them in our own tongues speaking of the mighty deeds of God.” 12 And they all continued in amazement and great perplexity

All these people were hearing Jesus' followers "telling in our own tongues the mighty works of God"

THE SPIRIT WORKS IN MYSTERIOUS WAYS

The Divided Crowd (13)

13 But others were mocking and saying, "They are full of sweet wine."

There will always be critics

THE SPIRIT WORKS IN MYSTERIOUS WAYS

III. The Actions of the Holy Spirit (5-13)

WHY TONGUES?

- 1 Supernatural SIGN confirming that what was happening really was from God!
- 2 H.S. really must be the one empowering Christians if they are speaking in foreign languages the gospel.
- 3 Speaking in tongues happens at key moments in Acts (gospel reaches Samaritans [Acts 10:46; 19:6])

HOW SHOULD ONE THINK ABOUT THIS QUESTION?

1. **Speaking in tongues refers to speaking in another human dialect.** Not a non-human (angelic) dialect—this is clear in our passage.
 - Stott: to understand what tongues refers to in NT, this passage is clearest in stating what is happening (more than 1 Cor)
 - If we see it today, then we should expect miraculous foreign language
2. **Apostles taught that not every Christian is gifted to speak in tongues,** but different gifts to different people (1 Cor 12:8-11) It is false to say you do not have the Holy Spirit if you fail to speak in tongues due to diversity of gifts.
3. **Anyone who becomes a Christian has experienced what is called the 'baptism of the Holy':** TITUS 3:4-7
 - Evidence that you have experienced 'baptism of the Holy Spirit' is faith in Jesus, repentance, and a holy life.

DOES DAY OF PENTECOST MATTER TODAY? YES! 2 Reasons...

- 1 **Because the Holy Spirit came on Pentecost...we have another reason to rejoice in Jesus—what he said came to pass!**
 - Jesus promised that the HS would come and fill believers, and He did!
 - All of Jesus' promises are true: promise to forgive you of sins and give you eternal life are true.
 - His warnings of hell for those who reject him are true.
 - Let's delight in Jesus together and trust that his promises are true.
- 2 **Because the Holy Spirit came on Pentecost...we can have hope in our own gospel ministry.**
 - All of the ministry that took place in Acts was because of the Holy Spirit.
 - All gospel ministry today—and through age of church—is possible only because and through the Holy Spirit.
 - Let's remember this and let it give us confidence in our ministry and church plant TODAY!
 - Our hope is not programs, gimmicks, or human effort, but God, who through the HS, changes hearts!