

Acts of the Apostles - Acts 2

The Holy Spirit Comes at Pentecost

2:1 When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place.² Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting.

As Pastor Brian says the important things in the Bible occur on one of the Jewish festivals. The Day of Pentecost occurs on the Jewish festival, Feast of Weeks. It originally celebrated the giving of the Law/Ten Commandments to the Israelites on Mt. Sinai. It was celebrated on the 50th day after Passover. (Leviticus 23:15-21) Pentecost means 50th Day in Hellenistic Judaism. It occurs Post Barley and Pre-Wheat harvest. In 2019, Passover will occur on 19-April 2019 and Pentecost will occur 8-June 2019. Pentecost is a new covenant that celebrates the birth of the church or when the Holy Spirit descended upon the disciples.

Here at the beginning of the Church we find the Christians or believers together in one place. The source of the rushing wind was Heaven. The word for 'wind' is 'pneuma' which is the same word used by Jesus to explain the Holy Spirit to Nicodemus. John 3:7-8

2:3 They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. 4 All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit"

The Holy Spirit appeared to the believers in the house As a tongue of fire on each of them. This signified that they were filled with the Holy Spirit.

The following verses tell us about the Holy Spirit.

Luke 1:15 John the Baptist will be filled with the HS before he is born

Luke 1:35 Mary and the Virgin birth

Luke 3:22 Jesus baptism

Matthew 3:11 John the Baptist – baptism with water vs the Holy Spirit

John 14:16-17 Jesus tells about the HS coming the Advocate

John 16:7b Jesus says He must leave so the HS can come

John 16:13-14 More details about the coming of the HS

2:4b "and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them.

5 Now there were staying in Jerusalem God-fearing Jews from every nation under heaven. 6 When they heard this sound, a crowd came together in bewilderment, because each one heard their own language being spoken. 7 Utterly amazed, they asked: "Aren't all these who are speaking Galileans? 8 Then how is it that each of us hears them in our native language? 9 Parthians, Medes and Elamites; residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, 10 Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya near Cyrene; visitors from Rome 11 (both Jews and converts to Judaism); Cretans and Arabs—we hear them declaring the wonders of God in our own tongues!" 12 Amazed and perplexed, they asked one another, "What does this mean?"

13 Some, however, made fun of them and said, "They have had too much wine."

"These were languages that they were never taught, and they spoke these languages, speaking as the Spirit gave them utterance." Guzik

We know that they were not speaking in a new strange language by this verse because it says they began to speak in OTHER tongues.

The Greek word for 'other' used here is 'heterais'. The word 'heterais' is also used in the following verses. The following verses do not refer to something new but just another of something that already exists.

Ephesians 3:5	other generations
Luke 4:43	other towns

“Galileans had difficulty pronouncing gutturals and had the habit of swallowing syllables when speaking; so they were looked down upon by the people of Jerusalem as being provincial.”
(Longenecker)

There were so many different Jews speaking different languages in Jerusalem because it was the Festival of the Weeks. If you look into Israel's history all of Israel and Judea were exiled. When captured, they were sent all over the middle east, so they learned other languages. Luke listed all of the different people that present to verify that there were more than just a few languages.

The people around them think that those believers speaking in tongues are drunk. We know that the speakers are speaking in tongues and not the hearers are hearing in tongues because Luke told us that only the Holy Spirit came on the speakers/ believers and not all of Jerusalem. They were trying to explain the supernatural with something they could understand.

Peter Addresses the Crowd

2:14 Then Peter stood up with the Eleven, raised his voice and addressed the crowd: “Fellow Jews and all of you who live in Jerusalem, let me explain this to you; listen carefully to what I say. 15 These people are not drunk, as you suppose. It’s only nine in the morning! 16 No, this is what was spoken by the prophet Joel:

*17 “In the last days, God says,
I will pour out my Spirit on all people.
Your sons and daughters will prophesy,
your young men will see visions,
your old men will dream dreams.*

*18 Even on my servants, both men and women,
I will pour out my Spirit in those days,
and they will prophesy.*

*19 I will show wonders in the heavens above
and signs on the earth below,
blood and fire and billows of smoke.*

*20 The sun will be turned to darkness
and the moon to blood
before the coming of the great and glorious day of the Lord.*

*21 And everyone who calls
on the name of the Lord will be saved.’*

Here we see Peter stand up and start to speak. Peter said that they weren't drunk "It is 9 in the morning." This was prophesied about in the Old Testament (Book of the Law). As Jews, they would have heard these scriptures. Peter quoted the Prophet Joel. This prophecy was about the End times. This verse talks about supernatural events occur at the end times. Peter would have been like us. He looked at the times they were living in and believed it must be the end times. God meets Peter where he is. These were not believers. They were devout Jews. The verse ends with "And everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved." Does this sound like a perfect time for an altar call?

2:22 "Fellow Israelites, listen to this: Jesus of Nazareth was a man accredited by God to you by miracles, wonders and signs, which God did among you through him, as you yourselves know. 23 This man was handed over to you by God's deliberate plan and foreknowledge; and you, with the help of wicked men, put him to death by nailing him to the cross. 24 But God raised him from the dead, freeing him from the agony of death, because it was impossible for death to keep its hold on him. 25 David said about him:

*"I saw the Lord always before me.
Because he is at my right hand,
I will not be shaken.*

*26 Therefore my heart is glad and my tongue rejoices;
my body also will rest in hope,*

*27 because you will not abandon me to the realm of the dead,
you will not let your holy one see decay.*

*28 You have made known to me the paths of life;
you will fill me with joy in your presence.'*

29 "Fellow Israelites, I can tell you confidently that the patriarch David died and was buried, and his tomb is here to this day. 30 But he was a prophet and knew that God had promised him on oath that he would place one of his descendants on his throne. 31 Seeing what was to come, he spoke of the resurrection of the Messiah, that he was not abandoned to the realm of the dead, nor did his body see decay. 32 God has raised this Jesus to life, and we are all witnesses of it. 33 Exalted to the right hand of God, he has received from the Father the promised Holy Spirit and has poured out what you now see and hear. 34 For David did not ascend to heaven, and yet he said,

*"The Lord said to my Lord:
"Sit at my right hand*

35 until I make your enemies a footstool for your feet."

36 "Therefore let all Israel be assured of this: God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Messiah."

Peter says "miracles, wonders and signs" were used by Jesus in His earthly ministry. Peter credited those listening to his sermon with the crucifixion of Jesus. Peter did not sugar coat his message, he even called them wicked. This doesn't sound like someone trying to convince them to become converts. "You killed Jesus!" Even today, we helped killed Christ. Mel Gibson felt that he contributed to the crucifixion of Christ. So much so, that his hand appears in the Passion of the Christ holding the hammer and pounding in the nails. Romans 3:23 says "*for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God*". According to Peter, this was not by accident, it was according to God's plan and foreknowledge.

Peter moves right on to the Resurrection. He didn't prove it, he just proclaimed it. Peter quotes David in Psalm 16:8-11 show that these verses were not about him but this was a prophecy about the coming Christ or Messiah. Peter says that David died and was buried and his tomb is here to this day. David was a Shepherd and King but Peter credits David with being a Prophet. According to Peter, if the prophecy was about David, his body would not have decayed and wouldn't still be in the tomb. Peter is making Jesus the unifying link between the Old and New Testaments. Peter uses another reference from the Psalms (Psalm 110:1) to point out that not only was Jesus the Christ or Messiah but that He was sitting at the right hand of God. In verse 36, Peter puts it all together for them. " God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Messiah.

The source of Peter's knowledge about who Jesus was in Matthew 16:13-17 was God and the source of Peter's knowledge about who Jesus was in these verses was the Holy Spirit. These sources are the same.

2:37 When the people heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and the other apostles, "Brothers, what shall we do?"

38 Peter replied, "Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. 39 The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off—for all whom the Lord our God will call."

40 With many other words he warned them; and he pleaded with them, "Save yourselves from this corrupt generation." 41 Those who accepted his message were baptized, and about three thousand were added to their number that day.

Those who heard Peter's message were moved by the Holy Spirit or cut to the heart. You must respond to the Gospel message. You can either accept it and move closer to God or reject it and your heart is hardened to it. Peter tells them to repent and be baptized. Peter told these men that they had put the Messiah to death. Yet there is room at the cross for them.

Peter says in verse 39 that the promise of God is for "You and your children and for all who are far off—for all whom the Lord our God will call." About 3000 accepted the message and were baptized that day.

The Fellowship of the Believers

2:42 They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. 43 Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles. 44 All the believers were together and had everything in common. 45 They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need. 46 Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, 47 praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.

The final six verses in Chapter 2 give us a blueprint of the things that a church should be doing. From these verses, we can make a list of these things.

- Studying God's word
- Fellowshipping
- Eating together

Prayer
Spending time together
Sharing property and wealth with anyone in need.
Meeting together in church
Eating together in their homes
Praising God
Enjoying their time together
As a result, God blessed their number