

THE HOLY SPIRIT IN THE ACTS

Acts 2

We see here a waiting church that Christ has his blessing and had ascended to Heaven. Judas has been replaced by Matthias and now the believers are waiting and they are praying. This is indicated in Chapter 1:14. These call continued with one accord in prayer and supplication. At first they may have been impatient. They had witnessed a man that had come back from the grave. They had felt the touch of his Heavenly power. They had seen him go up to Heaven. They had a marvelous message and now they were to be eager to give it to others.

But the command Jesus had given, wait for the power - the witnessing power of the Holy Spirit. Chapter 1 - Verse 8. After ye receive the power and the Holy Ghost has come upon you, and ye shall be witnesses unto the uttermost parts of the earth.

Now these obedient believers are waiting. And the 2nd chapter of the book of Acts begins with Verse 1 - and the day of Pentecost was fully come.

→ Pentecost was the Jewish harvest festival. It was the time when the Jews came before God, making their offering, and thanking him for the harvest.

The word means 50th day. They started counting at the Passover and counted off 7 weeks or 49 days. The next day was Pentecost.

Jesus, the true lamb of God, was slain at the time of the Passover. He came back and remained 40 days. The believers prayed 10 days and now on the 50th day -

Pentecost was fully come. And God is ready to send his power on them.

We keep in mind that Pentecost was the time when Jews who had been dispersed and others, came back to Jerusalem and celebrated this feast.

Now at the out set of this study, I want to make something clear.

Introduction
→ I. THIS IS - PENTECOST IS SEPARATE FROM THE TONGUES AT CORINTH

As we go into this time of Pentecost, people are confused about speaking in (unknown tongues). But at Pentecost each man heard in his own language. The Gospel is for all men. It is intelligent. In his own dialect, here was a miracle in hearing and in speaking. Therefore we need to separate between the tongues at Pentecost and the tongues at Corinth. Where each man understood in his own language. The word of the Lord - that Jesus had become flesh. And that the word had become flesh and dwelt among them.

Tongues at Corinth are a different matter. They are really a problem. Paul picks it up and deals with it in I Cor. 12, 13, and 14. And Paul looks upon it as a problem there. And he says in the 13th chapter, I Cor., that "they will cease." These Corinthians had reached the place of wanting to be pure spirit. They are finished and through with the body. And some of them were rejecting the resurrection. In the 6th Chapter it tells the story about a man who has his father's wife - he is living with her. He is proud of it. And like an agnostic, he is saying that the Spirit is God - and matter is evil. And so he is thinking that he is so spiritual - that he is above sin.

The Corinthian tongues seem to be unintelligible, language of angels or

spiritualists, in which one could move above and away from the world. But in the Acts the tongue used here is moving into the world where every man lives. And where every man could understand. Yet in Corinthians there were some pagans who were being misled - and who were led to speak a dumb speech. And they were saying away with Jesus. Jesus is too worldly for us. Let him go to Hell, we have outgrown Jesus. And so the Corinthians are losing Jesus. And Paul is calling the enthusiastics back to Jesus. Now the book of Acts magnifies Jesus - and every man understood. That is why Pentecost is so unique. And that is why it is such a miracle of power - of communication. That here is God coming down.

Whereas the Corinthian tongues - they were trying to escape from the world. They wanted to get into a world of angels. They wanted to go into the spirit world. They wanted to escape this world and its wrongs.

One other thing that I would emphasize at the beginning of this - there is no trace that (Jesus) ever spoke anything that people could not understand. He did not use any tongue or language - only that which was plain. That little children could understand what he was speaking about. He needed no one to interpret what he had to say. In fact, Jesus was so plain that the people crucified him.

Therefore we must see that the matter here we are dealing with - the Holy Spirit - is not just the 3rd part of God, that we get in some special way. It is not a way that we are going to escape this world. And get up into the higher spirits. We are not going to be carried away from this earth. The Holy Spirit is not one out of three. The Holy Spirit is God's spirit and God is present in the world. And the Holy Spirit glorifies Jesus. And Jesus says something about it in the 14th chapter of John. As only one God - we have to know this.

Now the Bible says that Barnabas was a good man and (filled with the Holy Spirit). Now the matter of being (filled) and (baptized) with the Holy Spirit is the same thing. The Spirit comes into a man when he is (converted). Now the Bible says about Barnabas - what did he do when he received the Spirit. He bore witness to Jesus Christ. He sold his farm and helped the poor. He vouched for Paul. He brought Saul to a revival meeting at Antioch. He stood by John and Mark. Now that was a man that was filled with the spirit. And who had great gifts.

Acts 2:16 - The promise - Joel 2:28 - And it shall come to pass afterwards that I would pour out my spirit upon all flesh. And your sons and your daughters shall prophesy. Men shall dream dreams and young men shall see visions. Here is a promise and Peter said in his sermon - this is what God has promised. That his spirit would come upon all flesh. And was going to be poured out. It is a promise just like the promise of the coming of Jesus into the world. That he was going to come and that he was going to become flesh and that he was going to dwell among us - which he did. Until his death, and his resurrection, and he went back to Glory. So in the same matter, there was the promise that the spirit was going to come.

John 14:26 - But the comforter which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, He shall teach you all things and bring all things to your remembrance whatsoever I have said unto you.

John 16:7-11 - Nevertheless, I tell you the truth. It is expedient that I go away. But if I go away, the comforter will not come. If I go not away, the comforter will not come unto you. But if I depart, I will send him unto you. And when he has come, he will reprove the world of sin and of righteousness, and

of judgement. Because they believe not on me. Of righteousness, because I go to my Father. And you see me no more. Of judgement, because the prince of this world is judged.

Acts 1:8 - But ye shall receive power after the Holy Ghost has come upon you.
And ye shall be witnesses both in Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, and the uttermost parts of the earth.

When Jesus was here - he had all power. He knew that he was not going to stay here. He knew that his followers would need his power. So he repeatedly gave the promise, that the Holy Spirit would come to take his place and would give them power to accomplish the will of God.

II. THE COMING OF THE SPIRIT AT PENTECOST

We think of the procedure here in this wonderful event.

Just - They were in one accord. Chapter 1:14. The Bible declares they were waiting and continuing in one accord in prayer. They were in fellowship. They had talked to the crucified one - they said now we must get together so we can know what to do. After Jesus had been crucified, they thought that they would come together and this is what the Scripture tells us was simply taking place. They were there with one accord. They knew this - V. 1 - it tells us when Pentecost was fully come they were all with one accord in one place. Now Luke is very precise to tell that the disciples were together.

We need to underscore - all were there - all were together, all were in one place. Now that makes a cord! Love and unity filled that early church.

This was the condition of the out pouring of the spirit.

Paul said this unity was a requirement - Eph 4:3, 6. One body, one hope, one Lord, one baptism - this is the means by which the spirit comes.

Now this is also the thing that Paul was emphasizing - that I referred to a moment ago. I Cor. 13. It is the unity of love. Paul says that the spirit works through love. And you need to seek the best gift which is love - other gifts will come. But he says a strife ridden place where there are divisions - there can be no spirit. So, there must be love.

This makes a-cord a result of the spirit's work - Eph. 2:8.

I Thess. 5:19 - Any other attitude quenches the Spirit. And destroys the unity of the spirit. The more unity we have in the church - the more Spirit in the church.

This is the only way the church grows - as the Spirit calls and bids us - so we build.

The methods we get together and the spirit flows through these methods and these plans. If we get the spirit moving in a church - then we have a church that is moving.

What I am saying is, the more we give ourselves to the Spirit - the more the Spirit can use us. We'll love the Lord, we'll love each other, we'll love the brethren, the leaders in the church will love each other. Pastor and people will love each other, and this will mean that the spirit can really work, in the church.

In order for Christians to get the blessing and the power - they must be in the right place. They cannot get it out in the world. But praying and seeking a blessing with other Christians in the church, they have a right to expect it.

“
Did you ever hear a person say, I can be a good Christian and never go to church.”

Did you ever hear a person say, well, I saw so and so that I thought was a good leader or a good Christian do something that was evil according to my standards and I'll never go back to church.”

Now you may be a good moral person - you may even get along without the church. But I would say it is likely that you would never live a spirit filled life.

Now I am not saying that the church is the only place that you might be filled with the power of the spirit. But I am saying this, it is the most likely place.

I know invalids that are great Christians. They do not get to attend church. But they make a shrine in their sick room. They pray. Read their Bible. And live close to God. They worship there.

But a healthy person seldom does that. Yes, it is among God's people that you receive the blessing and the power.

Now that is one reason why I do not hesitate in urging people to attend church. Even though I am a preacher, I know that there are blessings there that they can never get elsewhere. Suppose Peter, James, or John had been absent on the day of (Pentecost) - They would have missed the blessing - and they could never have been the

men of power that they were.

One accord - God never works in strife and confusion. But in the place of harmony and unity we have hundreds of different personalities in our church. Think about all the members we have in this congregation - and in every church. The different people they have. Now, they must be in accord spiritually if God is going to work among them. If we have factions and divisions - we need not expect the blessings and the power to come. And I would say this - may God help those who are always fostering these divisions. Who are always sowing seeds of discord and strife. I think I can prove that by the Bible. Prov. 6:19. God hates some people." He that soweth discord among the brethren." Now I do not want to be put in that category. Do you?

one accord
Second V. 2 - STRANGE SOUNDS

The Bible says that they were all there in one accord and they waited and they heard a strange sound. It did not come from the market place. Or the cobblestone streets out in the city of Jerusalem - but this sound came from (Heaven). This thing which is going on and is going to happen is coming down from God. And everything that God sends down from Heaven is good. He sent his only begotten Son - and this is the best gift that man ever received. Now again, he is going to send a wonderful gift from Heaven. The sound they heard was like that of a mighty rushing wind. Now we who live here in this area - we have experienced hurricanes. Now you cannot see that wind - but you can hear it coming and you can feel it when it arrives.

This was not a jet plane - and it was not just sound effects.

Third Note next, the gift was made to each individual.

V. (3-) There appeared as tongues as of fire that sat upon each of them. That is a flame of fire came down and sat upon each person present there. The giant beam of light down upon each person who was there in that assembly.

Note here, it was not to all of them in a mass group - but to each of them - to every one of them. It came to each of them. And he was distributed to each one of them because they were all filled with the Holy Ghost. And began to speak with other tongues.

Now it was distributed - and a portion carefully given to each individual. And Luke is very precise, about that, and that means you and me. The only limitation is to take and use. Dr. Stewart Arnold illustrates this with a hand full of money. He says if I take a hand full of money and scatter it out among a congregation - he says, (someone would get left out). But if I distribute it to each one, I will (not) miss a single one. And he says the word here means every one. That all of them - (not just the disciples) who were present. But that God apportions to each one individually as he wills - not in a mass. Not one here and one there. But to each one.

Now this is good news. There is (not) one person here who does not have the Holy Spirit. The (only) one that (does not have) the Holy Spirit - is the one (not yet converted).

And the Bible speaks very clearly here, about this. And it tells us that each one received the Spirit and was able to speak in other tongues. Other dialects. All of them perhaps spoke the (Greek language) - but there were other people from other empires who were there. And it was important that they hear in their own dialect and that they understand and understood the wonderful works

of God.

Now what does this mean. When it says, they spoke in other languages.
V. 4 - God gave them utterance - that (means orderly) intelligible utterance.
It means dignified speech. It means speech that could be understood. And
this was a consequence of the bold fact of the coming of the Holy Spirit.
These people needed to hear that Jesus is the Saviour.

The same word is used of Paul - Acts 26:25 - when he spoke to Festus
- he spoke a (sober word) A clear, precise, direct - with boldness of the facts.
And this is what happened to these people. Jesus, just (five) weeks or so before,
a few weeks - had been crucified. He had been buried. He arose again. And
now it was time for this news to get out. And the time had come when God needed
to begin a mighty mission. And the time had arrived for which Jesus had come
into the world to die for. That the world might receive this message and that
men in many lands might hear. And that God was saying - this is my cross. And
the Bible clearly tells us that it was about the (time) of the feast when all of
these people were here. And these men were given utterance.

The explanation of this.

V. 8 - And how here every man in his own tongue, wherein we were born.
V. 6 - That the multitude from abroad, that every man heard them speak in his
own language.

Now (there is the interpretation) of the speech and the tongues at Pentecost.
They were not unintelligible. Every man understood in his own language.

Furthermore, there is no suggestion that (any interpreters) were present.
That is one did not speak, and then someone interprets the language.

This was the feast of the Pentecost. And the Jews had gathered here from all over and this was a real bunch of people.

Luke is so clear in showing us this - V. 9-11 - he gives us the list of these men and it is important that we understand that they heard in their own dialect and understood the wonderful works of Jesus.

Fifteen nations hear the wonderful works of Lord Jesus at the same time. Now that within itself was a great miracle and this was brought about by the power of the coming of the spirit.

Do you see this glorious truth at Pentecost. So Pentecost is not something that you ought to be frightened at. Or that you ought to be afraid of. And Pentecost is not something that people ought to shy away from. It is not something that we as Christians have to leave to somebody that misinterprets this. These men hear in their own language. About two months before Jesus had been crucified and raised from the grave. And now this was the great moment.

God made an impact upon the world. There was going to be no longer delay in getting the news out of the Gospel. And he did so, in sending power upon these Christians that were waiting. And he empowered them to explain who Jesus is. And what he does. And the Holy Spirit meets the need.

Now the Holy Spirit does things beyond my understanding and your understanding.

But I don't reject this story because I can't understand it.

How Jesus died on the cross and loved me. I really can't understand all of that and I can't explain it. But I can believe it.

There were people who said in V. 13 - that these people were drunk with wine. But Peter says no, this is not what it means. He says, it means that what Joel said - that God was going to come and before a force in the testimony of his people. And so the wind symbolized his presence. The wind and the spirit and breath are the same thing - as the breath that came upon the dry bones in the valley. The breath of God came down on the day of Pentecost. And the whole city heard about this wonderful work.

And the fire - the presence of God. The unique presence of God, in the fire. Remember Moses in the book of Exodus, the bush was not consumed. It was God who came to see him that day out in the desert. And he came in that fire.

The pillar of fire in Exodus is also God's mighty presence with his people in the wilderness.

Had not Jesus said, I am the light of the world. I am the light. And so here is the fire.

Now what did this mean to his people - they were cut to the heart. This changed their attitude towards God. And it changed their attitude toward Jesus Christ. V. 37 - It says, they were pricked in their heart - their conscience. Now that is part of the Holy Spirit. No man ever received the Holy Spirit or salvation without being convicted by the power of the spirit.

There are (special things) the spirit does.

Memory
2
First, he brings all things that Jesus said to our remembrance. Now Jesus had taught his disciples 3 1/2 years. He wanted them to put down in writing for us - so the Spirit caused them to remember these things. And they understood. And of course, he makes us remember too.

We remember many things today. We remember a Christian mother, or a father who prayed. We remember the experiences of grace that have come to us. We remember that as we keep our lives clean, we stay close to God. Now the Holy Spirit is the one that comes and brings this to our memory.

Conviction

Second, he comes to (convict) men of sin, righteousness, and judgement to come. No man is ever saved if the Holy Spirit does not do his work. Now there are men who are deep in sin and you may preach to them. And they may go away unconvicted. It is (not) the preacher that convicts - but the Holy Spirit that does that.

Comfort

Third he comes to (comfort). Jesus said if I go away - I am going to send one that will cheer you on. I will send you one who will abide with you forever. And he will be all sufficient.

Empower

Fourth, he comes to (empower) us for service. No man is adequate within himself. But if he turns his life over to God's spirit - then he is able to do work. I have felt that time and time again as I have tried to prepare sermons and messages week after week. I have not felt adequate in my own life, but somehow God, through the power of the Spirit gives the needed power to understand and to do. I think the same thing is true with a person who tries to teach a Sunday School Class. To sing in the choir, or tries to (make a talk) in the church, or to speak to someone in the interest of the Lord. He needs the help of the Spirit and the Spirit gives him that help. As the congregation gathers on Sunday Morning - the Holy Spirit will empower the people to minister in His name.

Guide

Fifth, the Spirit will (guide) the Christian. He will let you know which way to take. You will not need a fortune teller or a crystal ball. But simply go to God in prayer - James 1:5 says, (if any man lacks wisdom, let him ask of God who gives liberally). And it shall be given unto him. So the spirit will guide you and

lead you.

D. L. Moody was in New York City and he had prayed earnestly for power to preach. And he said that the Holy Spirit came unto the point that he had to cry out to God to stay that power.

The 120 were in that Upper Room and they spoke in other languages so that all of these could understand the Gospel.

Now some people get their authority right here for speaking in (unknown tongues). But this (was not) an unknown tongue or an unknown language. These languages were known to these foreigners.

Remember Paul said I Cor. 14:19 - (yet in the church I had rather speak five words with my understanding - that by my voice I might teach others also. Than 10,000 words in an unknown tongue.)

Suppose right here today there were some Russians, Chinese, Japanese, Spanish, and God gave one of us the power to preach the Gospel in the Russian language. Or the Italian language or the Spanish language. Now this would give us a small (picture of Pentecost). God gave these people this peculiar talent for a purpose. He is a God of order. And he would never have hundreds of people running around jabbering in a tongue that no one could understand. He is not that kind of God.

Some of these strangers were amazed. They said, here they are speaking in our own language. They said, maybe these people are drunk. No, this was the prophesy that was being fulfilled.

Finally notice in V. 42-47 - He tells us what these people did after they had received the Spirit and power.

First, they continued steadfastly. V. (42.) I like that. These people did not say it is all over now - we can go back to the old way of life.

They were steadfast in doctrine. Some people say it doesn't make any difference what you believe, just so you are sincere. Now that doesn't go when you go to the medicine cabinet does it? You take out a bottle of cough syrup or that which you believe is cough syrup. And it may be some poison. You might be sincere but that wouldn't be alright.

Next, they continued steadfast in fellowship. They stayed together in church. They were there. And that is the way your life can be blessed.

Next, they stayed steadfast in breaking of bread. This do in remembrance of me - as they remembered the Lord's body which was given for them.

Next, steadfast in prayer. They prayed. They shared everything they had. They went to church. They visited among those that had needs. Now this is a great cure of any backslider. Just because he has his name on the roll. Surely Christ and his church ought to mean more than that to you. If you will go to church, give God a part, and pray - then your heart will be filled with joy. There will be faithfulness in your life.

Now in summary, I would like to give you four things that I think happened on the day of Pentecost. What the Lord promised - The Holy Spirit, he will perform. Now we do not have to beg for the Holy Spirit or plead for the Holy Spirit. I want you to learn how to trust him that he will bless you and work through you. Because Jesus said the Father will not give you a stone if you ask for bread.

He is eager to give what he can give and he is eager to give you what you need and you won't have to beg for it. And if you have the desire to empty yourself totally - so that the Spirit can fill you - then it is like the oak leaves that hold on in the winter time. Many times, when the sap rises in the Spring and forces them off. So it is with the coming of the Spirit in a man's life. Sometimes we talk as though if we could get in one accord, if we could pray hard enough, if we could work hard enough, if we could become obedient hard enough, that the Holy Spirit would finally come.

Now God's program is that the Holy Spirit has come already. And you are never going to get the whole church in one accord.

You remember the shepherds - they did not produce the coming of Christ. They were only incidental. They just happened to be a part of it. They were just participants in it. Jesus was going to come anyway and the Holy Spirit was going to come into this world and he was going to send it.

Now if we have a hang up on tongues, unknown, we are going to miss the significance of Pentecost. And we are really going to by-pass something that is wonderful here because the (unknown tongue) does not appear here in the original language. And so the factor that many people build a doctrine on this is a mis-translation because the Bible does not say this. Now in summary I give you four things that happened at Pentecost.

1/ (First,) the Holy Spirit came to (authenticate Jesus Christ as Lord.)
Acts 2:33, 36, The Holy Spirit wanted to let the world know that here was a Messiah. John the Baptist had said the Holy Spirit is going to come. And he will baptize you with fire. And so what God had done here - he was going to authenticate. So that we don't get hung up on tongues - we find out what God intended to do.

2 (Second,) the Holy Spirit came to identify the church as the redemptive instrument of God. V. 5-11.

3- (Third,) the Holy Spirit came to unify and energize the disciples of our Lord for their world wide task - V. 37-47. To unify these disciples.

4 (Fourth,) the Holy Spirit came to incarnate in the church. V. 4. I Cor. 3:16.
The church became the instrument to carry out this.

Wesley Revivals - Middle age people converted - not read or write. 40 yr old -
2 weeks learned read Bible & preach from it.
any one inadequate for any of tasks work to which he is called, He H.S.
give you depth.

Fruit of Spirit in your life, evidence you are of God. Authentic test is do
you have " " " " " " ?

Devil can duplicate every gift of God except Fruit of Spirit.

Proctor - Engineer - Fast train steep grade - Brakes failed - Soon out
of control - River & bridge - not stand impact wild train - Engineer, Conductor jumped off -
Hit - gave way - plunged - all crew found except Engineer - someone said he probably
run off into the woods - they found neither - "no my leg was faithful, He never
left that train. When you left the wreck you will find him there"
Engine lifted - at his foot hand still on Throttle -
That's kind of faithfulness we owe Christ & his Church - being fruits of Spirit.