

ACTS

of the Holy Spirit

Session #3 – 2:1 - 21

Verse 3

They saw (horao = to see with the eyes and discern with the mind) what seemed to be tongues (tongued shaped) of fire that separated (diamerizo = equal parts) and came to rest (kathizo = settle upon/sit) on each of them. (not a nation, but individuals)



Why fire?

Matt. 3:11 – JTB said Jesus would baptize with the Holy Spirit and fire!

Fire is the biblical symbol of purity and purification!
God sends “fire from heaven” to do justice (I Kings 18)
The “burning bush” called Moses to action (Ex. 3:2)
The seven lamps of fire = “seven spirits of God” (Rev. 4:5)

Verse 4

All of them

were filled (pimplemi = take possession) with the Holy Spirit (hagios pneuma) and began to speak (laleo = using the tongue or voice) in other (heteros = strange/new) tongues (glossa) [language/dialect] as the Spirit enabled them.



[as the Spirit was giving them utterance]

(apophthegomai = a word given from another – a prophetic word or a speech prepared by someone else – this is in the passive tense meaning that the Spirit is doing something to these men, they are not doing it for themselves.)

Note: If the Holy Spirit is allowed to take possession first, then the work of speaking/acting overflows passively from there.



I. The Filling of the Holy Spirit (2:1-4)

Verse 1

When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together (unity in prayer and purpose) in one place.

“the day of Pentecost” is the Jewish Feast of Weeks. It is 50 days after Passover and celebrates Moses getting the Law on Mt. Sinai.

Also was the “first fruits” of wheat harvest that is presented to God. (Num. 28:26)

Note: **The Law** was the regulator of the heart in the OT. The **Holy Spirit** becomes the regulator of the heart in the NT!

Psa. 119:11 – The word of God keeps me from sinning.

2 Cor. 3:7-18 – The Spirit and the New Covenant sets us free!

Verse 2

Suddenly (aphno = unexpectedly)

a **sound** (echos = a loud confusing noise/roar)

like (hosper = exactly like)

the blowing of a violent wind

came from heaven

and filled (pleroo = like a flood) the whole house

where they were sitting.

Why a mighty wind?

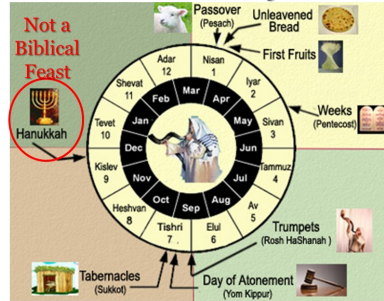
Gen. 1:1-2 – The Spirit/breath of God blows over the earth

Gen. 2:7 – The Spirit/breath of God breathed into man

Ezek. 37:9-10 – The Spirit/breath of God bringing life to dry bones

Attributes of the Holy Spirit: 1) He comes unexpectedly, 2) like sound – unseen, 3) from heaven – works for God, 4) powerful!

The Seven Jewish Feasts Throughout the Year



Why Does the Holy Spirit Matter?

1. The Spirit **convicts** the world of sin, righteousness, and judgment (John 16:8).
2. The Spirit **guides** us into all truth (John 16:13).
3. The Spirit **glorifies** and **testifies** of Christ (John 15:26; 16:14).
4. The Spirit **leads us** (Rom. 8:14; Gal. 5:18; Matt. 4:1; Luke 4:1).
8. The Spirit **sanctifies** us (2 Thess. 2:13; 1 Pet. 1:2; Rom. 5:16).
9. The Spirit **empowers** us (Luke 4:14; 24:49; Rom. 15:19; Acts 1:8).
10. The Spirit **fills** us repeatedly (Eph. 5:18; Acts 2:4; 4:8, 31; 9:17).
11. The Spirit **bears witness in us** that we are children of God (Rom. 8:16).
12. The Spirit **produces in us the fruit** or evidence of His work and presence (Gal. 5:22-23).
13. The Spirit **distributes spiritual gifts** and manifestations (the outshining) of His presence to and through the body (1 Cor. 12:4, 8-10; Heb. 2:4).
14. The Spirit brings **unity and oneness** to the body (Eph. 4:3; 2:14-18).
15. The Spirit **seals us** unto the day of redemption (Eph. 1:13; 4:30).
16. The Spirit **sets us free** from the law of sin and death (Rom. 8:2).
17. The Spirit **speaks to, in, and through us** (1 Cor. 12:3; 1 Tim. 4:1; Rev. 2:11; Heb 3:7; Matt. 10:20; Acts 2:4; 8:29; 10:19; 11:12, 28; 13:2; 16:6,7; 21:4,11).
18. The Spirit **transforms us** into the image of Christ (2 Cor. 3:18).
19. The Spirit **teaches us** (1 Cor. 2:13; John 14:26).
20. The Spirit **comforts us** (Acts 9:31).

II. Speaking in Tongues (2:5-13)

Verse 5

Now

there were staying in Jerusalem
God-fearing (eulabes = devoted/serious) Jews
from every nation under heaven.

Devout Jews would be gathering from all parts of the Jewish world to celebrate the Feast of Weeks in Jerusalem which took place on the “Day of Pentecost (50 days after Passover).

Many of these people would have gathered for the Passover in Jerusalem and may have witnessed the crucifixion of Christ and the rumors of his resurrection!

Verse 6

When they heard this sound,

This event was not a private moment! Everyone heard it both inside the room and outside the room. The speaking in other tongues was not kept in private – it overflowed into the public areas – probably out into the street and into the temple region.

a crowd came together (The miracle gathered people)
in bewilderment, (sygcheo = confused + amazed)
because each one heard them
speaking in his own language.

(dialektos = native interpretation of language)

The miracle of tongues is further explained by the use of dialect rather than language. This is much more difficult and complex.

How many languages in the world? How many dialects?

6,912 languages (most spoken Mandarin Chinese) 39,491 dialects

Verse 7

Utterly amazed, (existemi = Lit. To stand out/beside oneself)
they asked:

Three Wonderful Questions:

- 1) "Are not all these men
who are speaking
Galileans?"

The Source question. Where is this coming from?

Remember that all the disciples were from the Galilean area except Judas who was the lone Judean. Galileans were considered “country” people – uncultured, uneducated, and lower class.

This event is the reversal of the tower of Babel! Back in Genesis God used diversity in language to divide people – here he is using diversity of language to unite people from all over the world.

Verse 8

- 2) Then how is it
that each of us hears them
in his own native language?

[Lit. the dialect in which we were born]

The functional question – How are these uneducated men able to do this miracle?

Answer – As the Spirit gives them utterance!

The miracles of God always point to the source not to the delivery system. The strangers knew this moment had divine designs – in other words they were forced to consider forces outside of human ability – supernatural forces.

Verse 9

- 1) Parthians,
- 2) Medes
- 3) and Elamites;
- 4) residents of Mesopotamia,
- 5) Judea
- 6) and Cappadocia,
- 7) Pontus
- 8) and Asia,

Verse 10

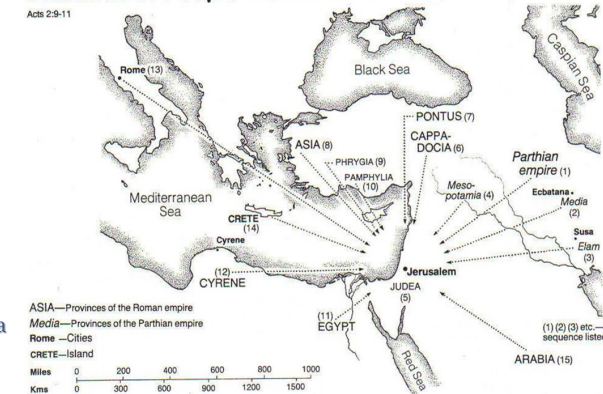
- 9) Phrygia
- 10) and Pamphylia,
- 11) Egypt
- and the parts of Libya
- 12) near Cyrene;
- 13) visitors from Rome

Verse 11a

(both Jews and converts to Judaism);

- 14) Cretans
- 15) and Arabs--

Countries of People Mentioned at Pentecost



Verse 11b

we hear them

declaring the wonders (megaleios = magnificent)
of God
in our own tongues!"

We don't have the actual text of these statements made during this initial phase. However, we can see that The Holy Spirit is doing here what He always does – to declare the wonderful deeds of God and give him glory.

Note: The first outpouring of the Spirit was in praise and adoration to God and for God!

Verse 12

Amazed (existemi = continued to be beside themselves)
and perplexed, (diaporeo = at a loss to explain)
they asked one another,

3) "What does this mean?" (thelo = purpose)

The last question is the point of the whole experience. What does this mean to me? How am I to react to this moment? Miracles that entertain are pointless in the long run, but when we allow truth to penetrate our being is when we find transformation rather than just information.

Verse 13

Some, however,
made fun of them (diachleuazo = mock, deride, or scoff)
and said,

"They have had too much wine."

It's amazing that it did not take long to be seen as "crazy" or "drunk" just because you follow the lead of the Holy Spirit!

2 Cor. 5:13 – Paul writes "if we are out of our mind..."

Jesus' family said he was "out of his mind" (Mark 3:20,21)

Ultimately Paul reminds us all that "if any one of you thinks he is wise by the standards of this age, he should become a "fool" so the he may become wise. For the wisdom of this world is foolishness in God's sight." (I Cor. 3:18-21)

One of the greatest limitations to the Holy Spirit's work is our need for control and our fear of what people will think!

III. Peter's Sermon – Part 1 (2:14-21)

Verse 14

Then Peter

stood up with the Eleven,
raised his voice
and addressed the crowd:

At this point there is only one voice. Peter is most likely speaking the common language of commerce (Koine Greek) during this sermon.

Notice the courage and boldness of Peter! This was not the full sermon, but the important parts (2:40 – "many other words...")

*"Fellow Jews [men of Judea]
and all of you who live in Jerusalem,
let me explain (gnostos = clearly known) this to you;
listen carefully (enotizomai) to what I say (rhema).*

Verse 15

*These men are not drunk,
as you suppose.
It's only nine in the morning!*

Most would not eat or drink prior to the 3rd hour of the day (9 a.m.) because before this is prayer time and fasting was common.

Note: The appearance of the Holy Spirit appears to coincide with the "morning watch" prayer time. There are several instances in the Book of Acts where the Holy Spirit shows up during normal prayer time sessions.

Verse 16

Peter builds his sermon around three Old Testament passages:

No,

*this is what was spoken
by the prophet Joel:*

The prophet Joel, was one of the 12 "Minor Prophets" (Hosea through Micah), and he prophesied about the judgements of God. He spoke of "the day of the Lord" being a present reality and a future reality. In other words, God was judging Israel in Joel's day but that there would be a ultimate "day of the Lord" for the entire world in the end times.

Verse 17

1) Joel 2:28-32

In the last days, (The last days begin with the ascension of Christ)

God says,

A) *I will pour out* (ekcheo = bestow or distribute) *my Spirit on all people.* (sarx = flesh)

1) *Your sons and daughters*

will prophesy, (propheteuo = utter forth in God)

2) *your young men*

will see visions, (horasis = seen from God)

3) *your old men*

will dream dreams. (enypnion = vision in sleep

state)

Verse 18

4) *Even on my servants, both men and women,*

B) *I will pour out my Spirit in those days, and they will prophesy.*

Unlike the Old Covenant where only certain people had the role and/or function of prophet. Through the power of the Holy Spirit, anyone can have that ability in the body in order to fulfill the purpose of God in the body.

Prophecy is not predictive as much as it is proclamation of God's word in such a way that God's purpose is fulfilled.

Visions and dreams are not predictive as much as they are discernments regarding direction, encouragement, and convictions.

Verse 19

C) *I will show wonders* (teras = happening that causes wonders/unexplainable events) *in the heaven above*

There will be confirmations of God's prophetic word through wonders from heaven.

D) *and signs* (semeion = miracles that confirm) *on the earth below,*

1) *blood* (haima = human blood)

2) *and fire* (pyr)

3) *and billows of smoke.* (kapnos)

Verse 20

4) *The sun will be turned to darkness* (skotos)

5) *and the moon to blood* (haima)

before the coming of the great and glorious day of the Lord.

Joel is speaking now of the final day of judgment as reported in Revelation.

Verse 21

E) *And everyone* (pas = all – inclusive)

who calls (epikaleo = to seek refuge in or accept as divine) *on the name of the Lord*

will be saved.' (sozo = saved from sin through Christ)

A radical promise made in Joel!

Not a corporate identity anymore as with the "Nation of Israel" but a personal choice made by individuals.

We see the ultimate limitation of the Spirit's work in the world. Only persons who are under the lordship of Christ are able to partake of the Spirit's power. (This will be clarified in **Acts 2:38** – "*Repent and be baptized every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.*")

Prayer Concerns: