



Acts Chapter 2

– The Day of Pentecost

The Jewish Feast of Pentecost

- ▶ 50 days or seven weeks after the Passover
- ▶ An agrarian feast – the completion of the barley harvest
- ▶ The Israelites were admonished to remember their bondage on that day and to re-consecrate themselves to the Lord (Deuteronomy 16:12)
- ▶ In later Jewish tradition (medieval) came to signify the giving of the Law and formation of the nation. No mention of this in Josephus or in O.T. historians
- ▶ The offering was two rather large loaves of bread: the length of the loaf was 7 handbreadths, its width 4, its depth 7 fingers, 1/10 of an ephah, about 3.5 quarts



Wind and Fire (v. 1-3)

- ▶ Fell in the prayer room and not on the Temple!
- ▶ God ignores the formal structure for the faith structure.
- ▶ Wind and Fire are both symbols of the Holy Spirit others include Living Water, Rain, Rivers of Living Water, Oil, and a Dove.
- ▶ Both were part of Elijah's experience in the cave. They are unstructured, elemental, powerful and mysterious like the Holy Spirit.
- ▶ Both corporate (filled the Upper Room) and individual, divided tongues of fire rested on each of them in a heavenly experience of grace.



Other Tongues: Languages (v. 4-11)

- ▶ This was both a miracle of speaking “they spoke in other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance” and of hearing “each heard them in his own language”.
- ▶ An impartation of linguistic knowledge for the purpose of witnessing to God and glorifying Him (v. 11)
- ▶ A reversal of the Tower of Babel
- ▶ An indication that God values the heart languages and witnesses to people in their primary language even in spiritual experiences.



Types of Tongues in the NT

- ▶ Human languages for group witness (Acts 2:4-11)
- ▶ Angelic languages (1 Corinthians 13:1) presumably for talking to angels???
- ▶ Speaking mysteries unto God that no man understands (1 Corinthians 14:2) which results in personal edification (1 Corinthians 14:4)
- ▶ Groanings too deep for words, given by the Holy Spirit, for the purpose of prayer and intercession (Romans 8:26)



The Prophecy of Joel (v. 12-21)

- ▶ Ecstatic experience resulted in questioning the manifestation and accusations of drunkenness.
- ▶ Peter points to Joel 2:28-32
- ▶ A prophetic fulfillment of universal powerful spiritual experiences for all who believe.
- ▶ The spiritual renewal bypasses gender (both men and women), age (young and old), class (includes even servants) and Jewish tribal boundaries (is for “all flesh”)
- ▶ Visionary, prophetic and ecstatic experience is now available to all who believe through the outpouring of the Spirit.



Reconnecting Heaven and Earth

- ▶ Eden: God walks in the Garden with Adam & Eve, trees have spiritual properties. A mystical world.
- ▶ The Fall: outside the Garden, outside the mystical world, ground cursed, life is hard and fruitless, technology develops, mankind invents ways of coping. Alienation and violence increase.
- ▶ The Flood-Abraham The curse is somewhat lifted, Noah brings peace and rest and a new start, Abraham starts the life of faith, mystical experiences resume.
- ▶ Moses & Elijah – John the Baptist: occasional prophets, all goes quiet from Malachi to John. Then Jesus arrives, then Pentecost and the return of powerful spiritual experiences and reconnection of mankind to God through faith in Christ



The Holy Spirit Is Accessible To All

- ▶ Up until this point the “Holy” had been mysterious, remote and very rare.
- ▶ 400 years of God’s silence from Malachi to John the Baptist.
- ▶ Spirituality had become mere technicality, things learned by rote, empty ceremonies, petty legalism and scribal minutia. There was nothing of the miraculous.
- ▶ God was “in His box” in the Temple, up on the hill while the country was being trampled by invasion and injustice.
- ▶ Now the rare, becomes common, Heaven opens, the Spirit is poured out and a new spirituality begins.



Dreams and Visions (v.17,18)

- ▶ Dreams and visions give us the warning, correction, exhortation and specific instructions that we need to carry out God's will in our lives, avoid danger and trouble, and to bless others in ministry.
- ▶ Joseph 1: the seven year famine (avoiding trouble)
- ▶ Manoah: how to raise Samson (instructions)
- ▶ Joseph 2: "take the Child to Egypt" (avoiding danger)
- ▶ Paul: the Macedonian call to share the gospel (direction)
- ▶ Peter: "call not unclean" (correction)
- ▶ Revelation: exhortation to the seven churches by vision
- ▶ Must always be within the moral will of God
- ▶ Occasionally involve angels
- ▶ Sometimes need to be tested
- ▶ Are never to replace Christ. (Colossians 2)



Wisely Handling The Supernatural

- ▶ Do not quench the Spirit. Do not despise prophecies, but test everything; hold fast what is good. Abstain from every form of evil. (1 Thessalonians 5:19-22)
 - ▶ If any speak in a tongue, let there be only two or at most three, and each in turn, and let someone interpret. But if there is no one to interpret, let each of them keep silent in church and speak to himself and to God. Let two or three prophets speak, and let the others weigh what is said. (1 Corinthians 14:27-29)
 - ▶ Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, for many false prophets have gone out into the world. By this you know the Spirit of God: every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God, and every spirit that does not confess Jesus is not from God. This is the spirit of the antichrist, which you heard was coming and now is in the world already. (1 John 4:1-3)
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The Day of the Lord (v. 19-21)

- ▶ Joel says the Spirit Outpouring precedes 'the great and terrible day of the Lord'
- ▶ The Day of the Lord has multiple meanings:
 - a) The destruction of Jerusalem by Babylon (Isaiah and Lamentations)
 - b) Armageddon, a great battle, the last invasion of Jerusalem (Jeremiah, Ezekiel, Joel), Zechariah)
 - c) A cosmic day of decision and judgment (Joel)
 - d) Recompense for the haughty, proud and wicked (Zephaniah)
 - e) Punishment for wicked nations (Obadiah)
 - f) the final Judgment Day, the Resurrection (New Testament)
- ▶ Both 70 A.D. destruction of Jerusalem and the End Times.
- ▶ Perhaps an indication of a revival before the Lord's Return



Some NT References to Day of The Lord

- ▶ *Acts 2:20 The sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood, before that great and notable day of the Lord come:*
 - ▶ *1Cor 5:5 To deliver such an one unto Satan for the destruction of the flesh, that the spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord Jesus.*
 - ▶ *2Cor 1:14 As also ye have acknowledged us in part, that we are your rejoicing, even as ye also are ours in the day of the Lord Jesus.*
 - ▶ *1Thess 5:2 For yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so cometh as a thief in the night.*
 - ▶ *2Peter 3:10 But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up.*
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Calling On The Name of the Lord (v. 21)

- ▶ Joel 2:32, Acts 2:21, 9:14, Romans 10:13, 1 Corinthians 1:2
- ▶ All who call upon the Name of the Lord are saved, even in times of intense judgment.
- ▶ However more than a mere sinner's prayer but rather a lifestyle of calling upon and invoking God.
(Acts 9:14, 1 Corinthians 1:2)
- ▶ Starts with Enoch (Genesis 4:26)
- ▶ Elijah of Mt. Horeb (1 Kings 18:24,25)
- ▶ The remnant who believe (Zechariah 13:9)
- ▶ Those who call on the name are the true worshippers who endure persecution and call on God in dark times.



Jesus In God's Plan (v.22-36)

- ▶ The crucifixion of Jesus was part of God's foreordained plan, yet was carried out by wicked, disobedient people!
- ▶ God planned that Jesus would die, go to Hades, be resurrected, ascend into Heaven, be at God's right hand and from there pour out the Holy Spirit.
- ▶ Jesus would remain in Heaven until His enemies were totally defeated and subjugated.
- ▶ Peter uses Old Testament Scriptures plus the experience of the apostles and the events of Pentecost to prove this.
- ▶ Together they indicate that Jesus was clearly the Messiah and Lord.
- ▶ God work's everything, both good and evil, into His plans.



Jesus In Hades (v.31)

- ▶ Jesus died and went to Hades but was not “abandoned” there and did not see corruption.
- ▶ His body was preserved and rose intact at Easter
- ▶ Hades was the general term for the world of the dead
- ▶ Tartarus was the place of extreme imprisonment
- ▶ During this time Jesus proclaimed the gospel to the “spirits in prison” (1 Peter 3:18-22)
- ▶ These were from the ancient world of Noah’s time.
- ▶ Jesus now has the keys to death and Hades (Revelation 1:18)
- ▶ The Lake of Fire is for the Devil, his angels and those who take the mark of the Beast, and others who rebel against God. Revelation 19:20,; 20:10,14,15; 21:8 Mark 9:42-50)
- ▶ Christians pass through the fire, are salted by it and tested but receive a reward, though some will have little or no reward. (1 Corinthians 3:10-15, 2 Corinthians 5:10, Mark 9:49)



The Exaltation of Jesus (v. 32-35)

- ▶ Jesus then rose to the right hand of the Father and subjugated the principalities and powers (1 Peter 3:22, Ephesians 1:21, Hebrews 1:1-3)
- ▶ This involved “taking captivity captive” (Ephesians 4:8-10)
- ▶ Disarming the principalities and powers (Colossians 2:14-17)
- ▶ Breaking the curse of the Law (Galatians 3:10-14)
- ▶ Once the curse of the Law is removed the Spirit can be poured out (Galatians 3:14) thus legalism always leads to spiritual dryness.
- ▶ While Jesus is exalted and at the right hand the Father is actively subjugate His enemies to make way for the Return.



The Outpouring Of The Spirit (Acts 2:33)

- ▶ We are baptized in the Spirit, by Jesus, as a result of the Ascension, and the work of Christ on the Cross
- ▶ The Baptism in the Holy Spirit is an “outpouring” of God with visible and audible manifestations “what you now see and hear”
- ▶ It is visible even by unbelievers (though they do not understand it) and has outward signs such as tongues and prophecy.
- ▶ It can be a ‘sign’ for Jewish unbelievers that God is manifest in their midst
(Isaiah 28:11,12; 1 Corinthians 14:21,22)



Repent and Be Baptized (Acts 2:37-39)

- ▶ Repent – from unbelief concerning Jesus as the Christ
- ▶ Baptism – in water, for the forgiveness of sins
- ▶ Name of Jesus – directly implying that Jesus is God
- ▶ Matthew has a Trinitarian formula (Father, Son, Holy Spirit) Matthew 28:19,20
- ▶ Water baptism is seen as preparation for Spirit baptism, the receiving of the promised Holy Spirit.
- ▶ They generally occur together but in various order, sometimes water baptism came after Spirit baptism (Cornelius's house)
- ▶ A perpetual and universal promise not just a one-off event.



The Gift of the Holy Spirit – (v. 38)

- ▶ The Holy Spirit is a “gift” and cannot be bought with money, or earned in any way by the works of the Law.
- ▶ Acts 12:38, 8:20, 10:45, 11:17; Hebrews 6:4;
- ▶ Galatians 3:1-5
- ▶ Is received by “hearing with faith”
- ▶ Others referred to in the singular “gift” include:
 - a) the gift of righteousness (Romans 5:15-18)
 - b) eternal life (Romans 6:23)
 - c) the unspeakable gift of Christ Himself (2 Cor 9:15)



The Gifts of the Holy Spirit

- ▶ In the plural “gifts” we have numerous minor manifestations distributed as the Spirit wills.
- ▶ There are numerous “spiritual gifts” such as healing, tongues, prophecy, gifts of service etc. are imparted.
- ▶ See I Corinthians 12 & 14 and Romans 12
- ▶ These gifts are manifestations for the common good, and are all from ‘the one Spirit’ Who decides how they will operate and who will have them and to what extent.
- ▶ Gifts operate “according to the measure of faith”
- ▶ Your gift is simply what you do when the Holy Spirit is “upon you” David wrote Psalms, Peter healed and preached, Samson fought Philistines, Ezekiel prophesied etc.



Save Yourselves? (v.40)

- ▶ “Save yourselves from this perverse generation”
- ▶ Christ alone is the Savior however we have to cooperate with God’s offer of salvation
- ▶ The boat of salvation was there, but they had to choose to “get on board”
- ▶ They had to repent, believe and be baptized.
- ▶ Once they choose to step on board then the destination of the ship was certain (Heaven) because of the work of Christ upon the Cross.
- ▶ We CHOOSE to take a PREDESTINED journey!
(Ephesians 1:3-14)



Crooked Generation / Evil Age (v.40)

- ▶ Luke 11:29, John 17:15, Galatians 1:4, Ephesians 5:16, 6:12,13, 2 Thessalonians 3:3
- ▶ We live in a fallen, evil and wicked world where Jesus tells us to “beware of men” and to be “as wise as serpents and as harmless as doves”
- ▶ This world is dominated by evil principalities and powers (Ephesians 6:10-12)
- ▶ If we go with the crowd, if we are average and normal, we will be part of their wickedness and we need to save ourselves from this by standing apart and being holy.
- ▶ Romans 1:20-32; 2 Corinthians 6:14-18



Revival & Response (v.41)

- ▶ 3,000 were baptized and added to the church in one day.
- ▶ These was a “people movement” where many people within the culture was ready to believe and they did so suddenly and at one time.
- ▶ Revivals are large scale holy moments when the church is born or renewed in a certain area (Jerusalem, Samaria, Ephesus) and they tend to be confined to a certain culture and not to go much beyond it e.g., the Welsh revival, New Hebrides revival, Indonesian revival.
- ▶ All true revivals are born out of extensive prayer and godly biblical preaching.



The New Community (v.42)

- ▶ The revival was communal as well as individual. It was not just “me and God”.
- ▶ Apostle’s Teaching – anointed teaching from a leader
- ▶ Fellowship – koinonia: working together for God
- ▶ Breaking of Bread – communion, agape meal
- ▶ Prayers – seem to be group prayers at Solomon’s Porch
- ▶ Christianity works when all the members work together as one body for mutual edification and blessing.
- ▶ “Lone Ranger” types are not fully in the will of God but should submit their pride and take their place in the community of believers.



Awe, Signs and Wonders (v.43)

- ▶ *And awe came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. (Acts 2:43)*
 - ▶ Acts 3:6-9, 4:33, 5:12, 5:15-16, 9:34, 9:40;
 - ▶ **Awe:** Luke 7:16, 8:37 a trembling at the glorious work of God, a deep human reaction to the presence of the Heavenly in their midst, a sense of the unusual taking place but in a good and holy way.
 - ▶ **Signs:** point to the future or to a mystical meaning e.g. the wedding at Cana also Mark 16:17,18
 - ▶ **Wonders:** major and astonishing miracles such as people being raised from the dead. John 14:12
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All Things In Common (v.44)

- ▶ Acts 2:44, 4:32
- ▶ All things in common, no-one regarding anything as his own.
- ▶ A breaking of the spiritual sins of: stinginess, hard-heartedness, covetousness, selfishness, possessiveness, love of money, and greediness.
- ▶ An extended sense of “self” so it was not just “me and mine in our little corner” but embraced the entire Christian community. A lack of personal defensiveness.
- ▶ A movement of true generosity and open-hearted agape love.
- ▶ Everything could be used by anyone. Trust and love.



Removal of Financial Shame (v.45)

- ▶ The Holy Spirit moves Christians to relieve the poverty and financial shame of those in need.
- ▶ Acts 2:45, 4:43-47
- ▶ God does not want ANY of His children to be hungry, needy or ashamed.
- ▶ Believers are still expected to work if they are able. (2 Thessalonians 3:10-12)
- ▶ Widows had to meet certain criteria (1 Timothy 5:1-16)
- ▶ Families were expected to provide for their relatives and not to do so was to deny the faith and be worse than an unbeliever. (1 Timothy 5:8)
- ▶ Congregations are to provide for their pastors (1 Timothy 5:17,18)



Continued Growth

- ▶ Daily community and eating together
- ▶ Homes = house churches, villa churches, small groups was now too large to meet in one place
- ▶ Daily attendance at the Temple at prayer time
- ▶ Great joy in the Lord
- ▶ Praise and gratitude for what God was doing
- ▶ The new movement had favor among all the people (but not the leadership).
- ▶ New members joined the Jerusalem church on a daily basis.
- ▶ Being saved = salvation as a process as well as a one time event, we are being saved from glory to glory! 2 Cor 3:17

