

Acts 2:1-14

AC 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. 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 and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them.

AC 2:5 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 them speaking in his own language. ⁷ Utterly amazed, they asked: "Are not all these men who are speaking Galileans? ⁸ Then how is it that each of us hears them in his own 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?"

AC 2:13 Some, however, made fun of them and said, "They have had too much wine. "

AC 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.

The Holy Spirit is sometimes hard to work out. And references in the bible are sometimes a bit tricky to follow. Just what happened on the day we call Pentecost, fifty days after the Passover, we only have this record to go from. As many things in the bible, it is our imaginations that fill in the bits we don't understand, and we have to be careful with that, but also it is described for us in words and often words can not express a total happening.

But here the Holy Spirit becomes personal to Jesus followers. Not just his followers back in history but to his followers now – me and you.

I'll go through this passage verse by verse but even then we can't cover everything, if you have questions, feel free to pop in or email me during the week and have a chat.

1. The Holy Spirit – Becomes personal v1-4

AC 2:1 When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place

The miracle occurred on the festival known as Pentecost, which was celebrated on the fiftieth day after Passover ([Lev 23:15-16](#)). It was originally the Festival of the Firstfruits of the grain harvest it was called the Feast of Weeks because it came after a period of seven weeks of harvesting that began with the offering of the first barley sheaf during the Passover celebration. The timing may seem insignificant to us, but it does place a definite time span around the events. Part of the thing about how this is written is remembering that Luke wrote it for Theophilus and wanted him to have a clear picture of the timing and events of all he writes about. He writes in context. Too often for us the context is lost because our culture is different or even our hemisphere is different, opposite times of the year.

Here is a really good lesson I read about a few weeks ago for understanding the bible. Slow down and think about it. Don't just assume we know the story. What do the words actually say. Anyway.

That is the time space, here is what happened.

V2 - .² Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting

Its good we have had some big winds in our local weather lately – we understand this description.

Wind as a sign of God's Spirit is rooted linguistically in the fact that both the Hebrew word *ruah* and

the Greek word *pneuma* mean either "wind" or "spirit," depending on the context, and this allows a rather free association or metaphorical interchange of the two ideas.

Get the image though. A big blowing of God's Spirit. The wind blew into the house and was windy in the house. Picture it.

V3 –³ They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them.

Ok here we have more imagery.

Fire as a symbol of the divine presence was well known among the Jews. the burning bush [[Ex 3:2-5](#)],

the pillar of fire that guided Israel by night through the desert [[Ex 13:21](#)],

the consuming fire on Mount Sinai [[Ex 24:17](#)],

and the fire that hovered over the wilderness tabernacle [[Ex 40:38](#)]).

John the Baptist explicitly linked the coming of the Spirit with fire (cf. [Mt 3:11](#); [Lk 3:16](#)).

Probably didn't look like my tongue but had a similar shape. The "tongues of fire" here are probably not to be equated with the "other tongues" of v. 4 but should be taken as visible **representations** of the presence of the Spirit of God.

V4- .⁴ All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them.

This is an answer to the promise

John 14:16-18 - And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Counselor to be with you forever-- ¹⁷ the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you. ¹⁸ I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you.

And also the promise we looked at last week.

Acts 1:4-5 (ESV)

⁴ And while staying with them he ordered them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the promise of the Father, which, he said, “you heard from me; ⁵ for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.”

Now we need to look at this.

a. God’s witnesses, God’s people were promised this presence. Also promised the use of God’s power But

b. **The Holy Spirit is not power, it is God.**

It is part of the three way relationship of God that we theologically call the trinity. To say it is only God’s power demeans it to put it as not part of God.

The Holy Spirit IS God as much as the Father and the Son, you can’t take one bit out and treat it any different.

The power of God and the Power of the Holy Spirit are the same. The power that comes from the Holy Spirit is God’s power. We need to be careful how we view the Holy Spirit and not place the Spirit on a lesser level.

This brings up issues in peoples minds like Should we pray to the Holy Spirit, after all we pray to Jesus and to The Father, should we? Have a think about it. Should we worship the Spirit as God? Have a think about it?

c. But the question most asked is.

d. What is this filling of The Holy Spirit? Well we will get to look at that in the coming weeks.

Not what happens next. We have seen the time place, the event, now Luke takes us through the response to that event.

V5 –

AC 2:5 Now there were staying in Jerusalem God-fearing Jews from every nation under heaven.

Certain "God-fearing Jews" who were residing in Jerusalem from many parts of the Diaspora,(Dispersal of the Jews) together with a number of Jews and proselytes who had returned to Jerusalem as pilgrims for the Pentecost festival,

6 When they heard this sound, a crowd came together in bewilderment, because each one heard them speaking in his own language.

Two gifts here – the Holy Spirit **and** people hearing in their own language.

Hearing in their own language meant they could understand.

The gift of the Holy Spirit meant a relationship with God.

It is interesting that **when God acts people come to see** v6
God acting has a real attraction, seeing God at work is always awe inspiring.
But there is always a reason for miracles.

a. **When God acts we have to question not how but why. V12**

12 Amazed and perplexed, they asked one another, "What does this mean?"

The question is appropriate. But the miraculous does not inevitably and uniformly convince. There must also be the preparation of the heart and the proclamation of the message if miracles are to accomplish their full purpose. This was true even for the miracle of the Spirit's coming at Pentecost.

and

2. **Some wont like it – get used to it. V13**

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

No matter how hard we try, not all respond. That's life. Some people are skeptical. Some people are critical.

3. **Let me explain – the model for evangelism**

V14 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."

We are told to be witnesses. The let me explain principle is a great way of introducing Jesus to people.

A simple explanation of what we believe is often enough to prompt people to think about their relationship to God. It takes little time, little preparation and a little thought. What do we believe about Jesus – that's what we need to tell people.

We will look at just how Peter explained it all tonight.