

Putting Feet to Your Faith

Acts 2:1-24

- At the beginning of the book of Acts a promise was made to the Apostles and the church > **“that they shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon them, and afterward they will be witnesses of Jesus in Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, and to the end of the earth”**. We today are the fulfillment of that promise, as because of these **120** the gospel of Jesus Christ has traveled around the world and into the ears and hearts of countless people throughout the generations.

V1-24

- **V1** they obey Jesus and return to Jerusalem and it's been ten days since Jesus has ascended into Heaven, and their praying and waiting for the Lord to fulfill His promise to them. In Jerusalem they are celebrating the **“Day of Pentecost”** which occurred fifty days after the **“feast of the first fruits”**, during which the Jews celebrated the giving of the Law, but after what is about to take place, we the believer now know it as the **“giving of the Holy Spirit to the church”**.
- Notice as their waiting scripture says they are gathered together sharing the same heart, the same love for God, and the same trust in His promise, this is so key when we are waiting and looking for a move of God to occur in our lives. **V2-4** as their praying, waiting, and looking, the sound of this mighty wind began to fill the house where they were. Now think about this for a moment, although it probably sounded like a tornado it's merely a sound and not the wind.
- **V3** after the **audio** came the **visual**, as after hearing the sound of the wind they see the brightness of fire, as tongues of fire appear over each one of them, and they were all filled with the Spirit and began to speak in other languages as the Spirit gives them utterance. Up to this point the Holy Spirit was active throughout scripture, as He worked in creation **Gen 1:26-“Let Us make man in our image”** He worked in the **OT** coming upon men like David > **1Sam 16:13**- and in the life-ministry of Jesus > **Lk 4:1**, but now two things happened after Jesus went to the cross
- **1st**- the Holy Spirit would indwelt people and not just come upon them > **Jn 20:22**- it's a debate whether it happened here or in **Acts 2**, but the main point is it happened, **2nd**- His presence will now be permanent and not temporary as Jesus said would happen in **Jn 16:7**. Just what Jesus promised in **Acts 1:8** happens, and the disciples are the recipients of the Holy Spirit pouring out on them causing them to speak in different languages, the Greek word is **“Glossa”** un-acquired language. **V5-6** this spills out into the streets as people begin to hear their language being spoken by people who had never been taught or even been to their native land wow!
- Remember this all occurs during three of the most prominent feasts of the Jewish calendar, Passover feast, feast of Pentecost, and Feast of Tabernacle, so Jerusalem is full to the brim in population. When it says devout men, it doesn't mean saved, as there are many people who are devout in what they believe being very religious but haven't experienced true salvation.

- **V7-11** they know these men are unlearned and untrained being Galileans, people from the countryside, fishermen, God uses those who man cannot understand how based upon human intellect > **Acts 4:13**- being with Jesus is more important than spending time in a university. With the speaking of tongues the Lord has now given three evidences of the Spirit coming upon the church > **Audible evidence**- a mighty rushing wind, **Visible evidence**- tongues as of fire, **Oral evidence**- Spoke in other languages, now we'll see the varying responses to God moving.
- **V12-13**- people initially were amazed, first at these Galileans who came from rural- unlearned backgrounds speaking diverse languages that they could not have possibly learned, asking "**what can this mean**" 1st response is "**Curiosity**" **V12**, 2nd response "**Denial**" **V13**, mocking and saying these men are drunk being filled with new wine; this is the most common reaction when God is working. It's still that way today, some will be interested, others will cast it away as nonsense.
- God uses the commotion of everything to get their attention but it's the words and the message out of Peter's mouth that He'll use to prick their hearts into making a decision of whether they'll want to hear more or become dismissive. **V14-21** as exciting as all this is it's still the message of the cross that will change people's hearts and minds into repenting and following the Lord. He tells them they are not drunk since its only **9am** in the morning, then he quotes the prophet Joel that what you see going on is found in scripture and a fulfillment of prophecy. This is another example that we should always begin and end with scripture to justify what they were saying/doing.
- **V22-24** second always preach Jesus, Peter stands up and sums up the life of Jesus, the death of Jesus, and the resurrection of Jesus, in less than **30** seconds, now that's some good preaching. We may start with something miraculous to get people's attention, but we should always come back to the life, death, and resurrection of Christ. During Christmas people only want the baby Jesus, not the resurrected Jesus, the One Who demands our repentance along with our worship, but we know they both go hand in hand, as you cannot have One without the other Amen!