

Pastor Jim Jackson, 10/18/26
THE CHURCH, Pt. 2—Gifted to Go for God!
Acts 2:1-21

The church was made at PENTACOST

After teaching for over a month, Jesus returned to heaven from the Mount of Olives (Acts 1:3, 12). A few days later, Pentecost happened (the Greek word means ‘fiftieth,’ celebrated 50 days after Passover, connected to the Feast of Harvest/Weeks; Lev. 23:15-21). This feast was prescribed by God to recognize the harvest was ready and was a blessing from God. *Always be thankful to God for the harvest in your life* (Eph. 5:20; 1 Thess. 5:18)! At 9 am, believers in Jesus gathered together expecting God to move in power. The Holy Spirit—as the promised Gift—came like a rushing wind, and fire shaped like human tongues hovered over each person. *Christians should always gather together expecting God to do the miraculous!*

The church was made for EVERYONE

The sound of rushing wind from the house (which may have been near the Temple) drew a massive crowd gathered in Jerusalem from all over the world for Pentecost. The Holy Spirit gave Galilean believers the ability to instantly speak languages they never learned to reach people in fulfillment of Jesus’ command (Acts 1:8). *The first purpose of God’s family was to bring more people into the Family!* The gift of languages (Gr. *glossa*, ‘the physical tongue or words made with it in the language of a people group;’ *glossary*) served two purposes—evangelism and to prove God’s presence without the sacrificial system (Acts 2:1-11; 10:43-45; 11:15-18; 1 Cor. 14:22). The Holy Spirit gave this ability to everyone in the first church to jumpstart churches around the world. When people heard the ‘wonderful works of God’ in their language, they took that message home and started churches without becoming Jewish. *God wants everyone everywhere to hear the Gospel and be saved* (1 Tim. 2:3, 4)! In later churches, not everyone got this gift, and it wasn’t in every church, so it’s not evidence of being saved or God’s presence (Rom. 12:6-8; 1 Cor. 12:11, 30; Eph. 4:7-12). There’s only one gift of ‘tongues,’ used two ways. 1. Reach the people of that language, or 2. talk to God silently in that language in a gathering where no one understands it or is able to teach the meaning (Gr. *diērmēneuō*, ‘to explain thoroughly;’ Luke 24:27; 1 Cor. 14:5). There’s no ‘private prayer/angel language,’ God understands the one He gave you (1 Cor. 14:1-5, 22-33). *God gave us gifts so we can be a gift!*