



ACTS OF GOD

God's First churches

YES, NO & MAYBE:

1. I am content with the physical shape of my body.
2. God's presence resides in our church sanctuary more than within my body.
3. There are certain things that I don't eat or drink simply for religious reasons.
4. The Holy Spirit is loud and violent in His approach to getting people's attention.
5. God did not make His Holy Spirit available to everybody in the Old Testament.

NOTES:

DIG DEEPER:

Ø **READ 1 Corinthians 6:19** (New Revised Standard Version).

"19 Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, which you have from God, and that you are not your own?"

- » When you hear this text, what lessons from the past come to mind?
- What things do you associate with this passage?

§ **READ Acts 2:1-13** (NLT)

1 On the day of Pentecost all the believers were meeting together in one place. 2 Suddenly, there was a sound from heaven like the roaring of a mighty windstorm, and it filled the house where they were sitting. 3 Then, what looked like flames or tongues of fire appeared and settled on each of them. 4 And everyone present was filled with the Holy Spirit and began speaking in other languages, as the Holy Spirit gave them this ability.

5 At that time there were devout Jews from every nation living in Jerusalem. 6 When they heard the loud noise, everyone came running, and they were bewildered to hear their own languages being spoken by the believers.

7 They were completely amazed. "How can this be?" they exclaimed. "These people are all from Galilee, 8 and yet we hear them speaking in our own native languages! 9 Here we are—Parthians, Medes, Elamites, people from Mesopotamia, Judea, Cappadocia, Pontus, the province of Asia, 10 Phrygia, Pamphylia, Egypt, and the areas of Libya around Cyrene, visitors from Rome 11 (both Jews and converts to Judaism), Cretans, and Arabs. And we all hear these people speaking in our own languages about the wonderful things God has done!" 12 They stood there amazed and perplexed. "What can this mean?" they asked each other.

13 But others in the crowd ridiculed them, saying, "They're just drunk, that's all!"

- Ø What have you learned about Pentecost, and why do you think God would intentionally choose this exact date to launch His Christian church?

Ø **The roaring of a mighty windstorm** - [φερομένης πνοῆς βιαίας - pheromenes pnoés biaias] noise of driving (propelling), violent wind.

- † Why did God choose to represent Himself with a roaring sound of a mighty, violent windstorm?



NOTES:

DIG DEEPER...continued:

- ∅ Of all of the imagery that God could have chosen, why do you think He chose flames or tongues of fire that appeared and settled on each of the people present?

† History of the Temple

‡ **Around 1446 B.C. - Mt Sinai:** The portable Tabernacle/Tent of Meeting. Exodus 40:34-35. The Lord sent fire.

‡ **About 980 B.C. - Jerusalem:** Solomon builds the permanent Temple. 2 Chronicles 7:1-3. The Lord sent fire.

‡ **About 516 B.C. -** The Temple is rebuilt after it had been destroyed about 70 years earlier. But this time, there is no fire from heaven, no glory of the Lord on the temple.

» The prophets notice this and communicate that when the Messiah comes, he would rebuild the temple.

- Joel 2:28, 29 (The Day of the Lord) - "28 And afterward, I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your old men will dream dreams, your young men will see visions. 29 Even on my servants, both men and women, I will pour out my Spirit in those days."

- ∅ What do you think God was trying to say about Himself by causing everyone to speak in other recognizable languages?

† What were the people talking about in these different languages?

MY PRAYER THIS WEEK:

1. How intentional am I as a temple of God in my community?
2. What "new thing" is God trying to do in my life?
3. What new things do I see of God's infinite character now?