

¹When the day of Pentecost arrived, they were all together in one place. ²And suddenly there came from heaven a sound like a mighty rushing wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. ³And divided tongues as of fire appeared to them and rested on each one of them. ⁴And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance.

⁵Now there were dwelling in Jerusalem Jews, devout men from every nation under heaven. ⁶And at this sound the multitude came together, and they were bewildered, because each one was hearing them speak in his own language. ⁷And they were amazed and astonished, saying, "Are not all these who are speaking Galileans?" ⁸And how is it that we hear, each of us in his own native language? ⁹Parthians and Medes and Elamites and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, ¹⁰Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, ¹¹both Jews and proselytes, Cretans and Arabians—we hear them telling in our own tongues the mighty works of God." ¹²And all were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, "What does this mean?" ¹³But others mocking said, "They are filled with new wine."

Sermon Discussion Questions

Getting Started:

1. What was most challenging, helpful, or troubling in the sermon?

Digging Deeper:

1. See Lev 23:15-21 and Deut 16:9-12. What was the *feast of weeks*, also known as *First Fruits* or *Pentecost*, about?
 - a. See 1 Cor 15:20 and James 1:16-18. What's the significance of describing believers as first fruits? For help, see Jer 31:33 and Rom 12:1.
2. See Exo 3:2-3, 13:21-22; Deut 4:24; 1 Kgs 18:38; what does the image of 'fire' in the OT teach about God's nature?
 - a. "Heaven and divine presence come powerfully to the earth to indwell God's people" When are the moments in your life you knowingly or unknowingly wish the presence of God did not follow you?
3. "I keep hearing the words 'being filled with the Holy Spirit' what does that mean!?" how would you explain? See Numb 11:16-17; Acts 2:38, 4:8, 31, 9:17; Eph 3:14-19 for help.
 - a. See Luke 3:7-16. What's the difference between Spirit filled and good moral living? How can you tell the difference?
4. See Acts 2:5-11. A friend asks you, "Tell me (astound/amaze/perplex me) about a mighty work of God in your life" How would you respond?
 - a. What challenges and factors in our lives makes us see God's works as 'minimal' instead of 'mighty'? What 'mighty' work has God done through Jesus for you, and what difference does that make for you tomorrow at work/school/home?
 - b. Where does doubt live in your faith? (think specifically: finances, evangelism, parenting, profession purpose, marriage, satisfaction in life.)

Empowered by the Holy Spirit:

- c. Pray: Where is obedience to Jesus delayed, partial or denied? Pray for the Holy Spirit to lead you in repentance, belief and joy.