

Living Out Our Faith - Pt3
Acts 2:1-47

V1-12

- It's interesting that the outpouring of the Holy Spirit occurred during the Feast of Pentecost. This was one of the 3 great feasts of the Jewish religious calendar - the Feast of Passover, Feast of Pentecost and Feast of Tabernacles. In **John 5:39** Jesus said, "You search the Scriptures and think you have eternal life and these are they which testify of Me." He says in **Hebrews 10:7** (KJV), "Lo I come in the volume of the book."
- Jesus was crucified during the Feast of Passover, which celebrated God's deliverance out of Egypt. It symbolized how they took the blood of a spotless lamb and placed it on the door posts of their house till He passed over them in judgment. Now after spending 40 days with the disciples, Jesus planned the calendar to fall exactly during this time when the Jews would offer the first fruits of their harvest. It is here that Luke writes in verse one that the Day of Pentecost was fully here. What does that mean? They had celebrated this day many times before but Luke is emphasizing that the true spiritual fulfillment of bringing in God's harvest was about to take place.
- The 120 disciples are there when suddenly without provocation they hear a sound of a strong wind, similar to a tornado. But it's not a wind just the sound. If it had actually been a wind that was proportional to the sound they would have all died right there in the room. However, it was just the sound and this sound filled the whole house.
- Verse 3 - after the audio came the visual. The sound of the wind before the sight of the fire, for the Spirit of the Lord always precedes the work of the Lord. Here's a spiritual nugget: Man says if I can see it, I'll believe it but God says believe it and then you'll see it.
- Verse 4 - it happened just as Jesus said in **Acts 1:8**. They began to speak with other tongues. There is a lot of confusion based upon this verse, but it's quite simple. The word used for tongues is glossa in the Greek language, and it means an un-acquired language. Also in verse 6 when it says they heard them speak in their own language - the Greek word for language is dialektos, and it's where we get our English word "dialect." So from this we can derive that the disciples spoke in a known language, and since it was known there was an interpretation.
- The apostle Paul picks up on this in **1 Corinthians 14:27-28** and says if there is no interpretation then there should be no one speaking. In some circles of Pentecostal churches they have a portion of the service devoted to people speaking in tongues and there is no interpretation, and consequently we see no basis for it.
- Verse 5 - while this is going on, devout people, men who made the pilgrimage to Jerusalem, witness this phenomenon and they're amazed. They realize these people are Galileans, who were known for having strong backs, not for their linguistics. Realizing this was not a common occurrence, being both astounded-amazed and confused-perplexed, they begin to ask questions - what does this mean? The peculiarity of the situation may have gotten their attention but it is about to move from who is speaking to what is being said.

- God may use something of a sideshow event to get someone's attention but eventually He is going to settle them down so they can hear the exact message intended for them. The key is to use every situation no matter how bizarre as praise and yea party for God.

V13-39

- There will always be varying responses to God's moving - some will be generally interested, while others will cast it away as nonsense. The commotion may have gotten their attention but the words began to prick their hearts. People either will want to hear more or become real dismissive.
- Peter stands up - ah the strength and empowering of the Holy Spirit. Just two months earlier he couldn't stand up to a little slave girl questioning him at a barn fire. Now he's able to stand up and speak before thousands.
- He begins his rebuttal by first saying it's absurd to say we're drunk since it's only 9a.m. But what I will say is what is going on which is found in the book of Joel. Here's a lesson - always begin and end with Scripture folks!
- Verse 16-21 - this is the fulfillment of prophecy. Peter has become quite the expositor. In chapter one Peter quoted Psalms, now he's quoting Joel. Second, he preaches Jesus. He sums up the life of Jesus, the death of Jesus, and the resurrection of Jesus in less than 30 seconds. Now that's good preaching!
- In verse 25 Peter quotes Psalms again (**Psalm 16:8-11**). David spoke prophetically, yet Peter is saying its Jesus being spoken of personally. David's body remains in the grave while Jesus' tomb is empty.
- Verse 33 - Peter also says you are witnesses of this power by being here. People witness the power and love of God just in seeing how Jesus has changed you. Verse 34-36 - therefore your greatest King looked for another to redeem him and that is Jesus whom you beat, rejected, and crucified. Verse 37 - they were cut to the heart.
- This is part of the Holy Spirit's mission outlined in **John 16:7-9**. He takes what Peter said and uses it to convict hearts. This caused them to ask Peter and the apostles, what shall we do?

V38-47

- Often at this point we allow our feelings to get in the way and say it's alright. No it isn't. Until they've truly given their lives to the Lord, only until then, is it right folks! Otherwise they are still in their sins. Peter doesn't make that mistake. The first word out of his mouth was repent. It means to change directions, have a change of heart; reverse the direction of your life in conduct, perspective, outlook, and decision making. Second, he says make a public stand with an outward confession of faith by being baptized, then you'll receive the baptism of the Holy Spirit just as we did. Always let people know that what God gave you is also available to them.
- Verse 40 - they didn't stop there but continued to share the word with those who desired to hear it, and some responded. An interesting note about verse 41 - on the day the law was given (**Exodus 32**) 3,000 died, but on the day the Holy Spirit was given 3,000 were saved - not coincidental.
- Verse 42 is how a church grows personally and corporately - Doctrine, Fellowship, Breaking bread, and Prayers. Teaching, exhortation, accountability,

prayer, for others and for yourself. This led to a healthy fear of God and an outpouring of God's power through them. They surrendered to God and He flowed through them to impact others.

- People didn't lack for anything as everyone's needs were met not by man but by God (v44-45). Unity, joy, and favor marked the early church and caused them to stand out (v46-47).