

Acts Part 3 – Indwelling of the Holy Spirit

A sermon series by Pastor Byron Chesney Wednesday, September 9, 2015

† Acts 2:1-13

- 1 And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place.
- 2 And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting.
- 3 And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them.
- 4 And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.
- 5 And there were dwelling at Jerusalem Jews, devout men, out of every nation under heaven.
- 6 Now when this was noised abroad, the multitude came together, and were confounded, because that every man heard them speak in his own language.
- 7 And they were all amazed and marvelled, saying one to another, Behold, are not all these which speak Galilaeans?
- 8 And how hear we every man in our own tongue, wherein we were born?
- 9 Parthians, and Medes, and Elamites, and the dwellers in Mesopotamia, and in Judaea, and Cappadocia, in Pontus, and Asia,
- 10 Phrygia, and Pamphylia, in Egypt, and in the parts of Libya about Cyrene, and strangers of Rome, Jews and proselytes,
- 11 Cretes and Arabians, we do hear them speak in our tongues the wonderful works of God.
- 12 And they were all amazed, and were in doubt, saying one to another, What meaneth this?
- 13 Others mocking said, These men are full of new wine.

Through my studies of the Bible I have come to believe that the Church started with Christ and His disciples and it was empowered at Pentecost. This passage of Scripture that we just read marks a new beginning for the Church, It marks the empowerment of the New Testament Church.

Before this transitional period, the Spirit was **WITH** those of the faith but now the Spirit dwells **WITHIN** those of the faith. This could not happen until after the crucifixion of Jesus and His ascension into Heaven. We know this because our Bible tells us so: **John 7:37-39** In the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried, saying, If any man thirst, let him come unto me, and drink. 38 He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water. 39 (But this spake he of the Spirit, which they that believe on him should receive: for the Holy Ghost was not yet given; because that Jesus was not yet glorified)

The first chapter of Acts tells us that Jesus ascended into Heaven but before he did he informed the disciples of this indwelling of the Holy Ghost:

Acts 1:8 But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth. 9 And when he had spoken these things, while they beheld, he was taken up; and a cloud received him out of their sight.

And that, my friends, was when the Church age began. The New Testament church began. And, by the way the definition of a New Testament Church is a local assembly of baptized believers who have voluntarily joined themselves together to carry out the Great Commission. The church is not a building, it is a body. Those that have through faith, trusted Christ as their Savior, make up the body. Each believer was indwelt with the Holy Spirit upon trusting Jesus as Savior.

Some people may say, "well I belong to such and such part of this body of Christ." But that is not an accurate statement. You can join every church in Knoxville or the World as far as that matters and that does not make you part of the body of Christ. You don't become part of His body until you have made repentance toward God, and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ. Just like Scripture says in **Acts 20:21**: Testifying both to the Jews, and also to the Greeks, repentance toward God, and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ.

Immediately upon trusting Christ as Saviour, a believer is baptized with the Holy Ghost. Jesus himself said that in **Acts 1:4-5**: And, being assembled together with *them*, commanded them that they should not depart from Jerusalem, but wait for the promise of the Father, which, saith he, ye have heard of me. 5 For John truly baptized with water; but ye shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost **not many days hence**.

Not many days hence was referring to what we just read in Acts 2:1-4. It was 10 days later. And the New Testament Church began and believers were baptized with the Holy Ghost. And from that time on, that is how it works for every believer in Christ. This is God's plan for His Church. To be Baptized with the Holy Ghost simply means that you were immersed or placed into the body of Christ. It is not this fleshly show that the Charismatics claim where you roll on the ground, bark like a dog, and speak jibber jabber.

So, let's look at verse one of Acts chapter 2:

1 And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place.

We are not going to go into a great amount of detail about Pentecost, we've preached and taught on that before, but just a brief explanation: The word "Pentecost" is a Greek word which means "the 50th part." In this case it is the 50th day. The Feast of Pentecost occurred 50 days after the Passover. Remember the Jews were freed from Egypt's bondage after the sacrificial

lamb was slain and the blood was applied to their door posts and the death angel passed over them allowing them to live. After this the Jews celebrated Passover with a series of feasts over the next 49 days, leading up to the 50th and final day of Pentecost, which was the end of the Feast of 7 Weeks. 7-weeks = 49 days, the final day being 50.

After Jesus died on the cross, was buried, and then resurrected, the Bible tells us that he was seen by his followers for **40-days: Acts 1:3 To whom also he shewed himself alive after his passion by many infallible proofs, being seen of them forty days, and speaking of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God: Then 10 days** passed from his ascension into Heaven until the Day of Pentecost had fully come, which we just read in verse one.

So that is a combination of 50-days. This signifies that Jesus had become the Passover Lamb and it is His blood that frees the lost sinner from bondage. So the timing of this event is very significant and one that was orchestrated by the Lord himself.

There are some very important comparisons I would like to give you concerning Pentecost in the Old Testament and Pentecost in the New Testament:

- **OT** Pentecost occurred 50 days from the departure of Israel from Egypt - Exodus 12:1, 2, 6, 12, 31
- **NT** Pentecost occurred 50 days after Christ arose from the dead – John 19:14, Acts 1:5, Acts 2:1
- **OT** Pentecost celebrated birthday of Israel – Exodus 19:5
- **NT** Pentecost celebrated birthday of the Church – Acts 2:41-47
- **OT** Pentecost saw the slaying of 3,000 souls – Exodus 32:28
- **NT** Pentecost saw the saving of 3,000 souls – Acts 2:41
- **OT** Pentecost is introduced in mighty way – Exodus 19:16
- **NT** Pentecost is introduced in mighty way – Acts 2:2-3

they were all with one accord in one place. Remember when we left off last Wednesday, the Bible said that there were about an hundred and twenty people present in the Upper Room. **Act 1:15 And in those days Peter stood up in the midst of the disciples, and said, (the number of names together were about an hundred and twenty,)** So, I believe this to mean that all 120 people are involved in this event, and not just the 12 disciples.

2 And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting.

Notice it said it was the **sound** of a mighty wind, it did not say it was a wind but just the **sound** of as of a wind. It not only filled the room but the Bible says that it filled the whole house! While this was the sound of a wind, this

is symbolic of the Holy Spirit. We see in our Bibles where wind is associated with the Holy Spirit and God's working power;

Ezekiel 37:9-10 Then said he unto me, Prophecy unto the wind, prophesy, son of man, and say to the wind, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live. 10 So I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived, and stood up upon their feet, an exceeding great army.

John 3:8 The wind bloweth where it listeth, and thou hearest the sound thereof, but canst not tell whence it cometh, and whither it goeth: so is every one that is born of the Spirit.

3 And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them.

The word "cloven" as used here means "separate, or divided," not "forked." It is describing the manner in which the tongues are moving. They are moving in the manner of a fire which the flames separate and divide as they burn. Just like the wind mentioned in verse 2, the fire in verse 3 is symbolic, a spiritual representation of the power of God through the Holy Spirit.

We find in our Bibles that God and fire go hand in hand.

It was a fire where God first appeared unto Moses: **Exodus 3:2** And the angel of the LORD **appeared unto him in a flame of fire** out of the midst of a bush: and he looked, and, behold, the bush burned with fire, and the bush was not consumed.

God used fire to demonstrate his presence in the life of the Israelites: **Exodus 13:21** And the LORD went before them by day in a pillar of a cloud, to lead them the way; and by night in **a pillar of fire**, to give them light; to go by day and night:

God demonstrates his power through fire:

Leviticus 9:24: And there came a fire out from before the LORD, and consumed upon the altar the burnt offering and the fat: which when all the people saw, they shouted, and fell on their faces.

1 Kings 18:38: Then the fire of the LORD fell, and consumed the burnt sacrifice, and the wood, and the stones, and the dust, and licked up the water that was in the trench.

Fire demonstrates God's purifying:

Isaiah 6:6-7: Then flew one of the seraphims unto me, having a live coal in his hand, which he had taken with the tongs from off the altar: 7 And he laid it upon my mouth, and said, Lo, this hath touched thy lips; and thine iniquity is taken away, and thy sin purged.

1 Corinthians 3:13 Every man's work shall be made manifest: for the day shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire; and the fire shall try every man's work of what sort it is.

Fire represents God's judgment:

Hebrews 12:29 For our God is a consuming fire.

Genesis 19:24 Then the LORD rained upon Sodom and upon Gomorrah brimstone and fire from the LORD out of heaven;

Revelation 20:14-15 And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. 15 And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.

and it sat upon each of them. This statement is showing that the Holy Ghost affected every person in that room. It "sat" upon each of them. This is the Holy Ghost Fire that Jesus is referring to in **Acts 1:5** For John truly baptized with water; but ye shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost not many days hence. So this is the baptism of the Holy Ghost.

4 And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.

Right now the Charismatics are jumping up and down saying; "see there we told you so!" The Church of God folks are rejoicing. The Pentecostals are dancing... but let's not get ahead of ourselves...What does the Bible actually say about these tongues? Pay very close attention to how this is worded. It says "*and began to speak with OTHER tongues.*" The word OTHER means "Different" or "Alternative." something other than their usual tongue. Now look at verse 5:

5 And there were dwelling at Jerusalem Jews, devout men, out of every nation under heaven. **6** Now when this was noised abroad, the multitude came together, and were confounded, because that every man heard them speak in his own language.

And there is the key. "**every man heard them speak in his OWN language.**" Now the Charismatics are looking away, the Church of God folks are backing off, the Pentecostals stopped dancing... They were speaking in KNOWN languages. Languages unknown to the people that were speaking them but known to those that heard them. Suddenly Peter who most likely only spoke in Aramaic and Hebrew, suddenly could speak in Egyptian language or some other known foreign language. These were not some type of "heavenly language" or "angelic language" they were speaking in, but they were known, documented languages. It would have been like me, an English only speaking person all of a sudden was able to speak Russian, German, or Japanese. It's not talking about that junk you see on the community TV network of these so-called women preachers getting up saying things like: "Got-A-Chevy-Want-A-Nova."

7 And they were all amazed and marvelled, saying one to another, Behold, are not all these which speak Galilaeans? **8** And how hear we every man in our own tongue, wherein we were born?

This was so miraculous that all of those that were there visiting from foreign countries were amazed that suddenly these people were speaking in their own language! This was not normal for these simple Galileans. Remember these were not college educated men. In fact if you flip forward 2 chapters you will read this: **Acts 4:13** Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were unlearned and ignorant men, they marvelled; and they took knowledge of them, that they had been with Jesus.

And then the Bible lists all of these different languages that these men spoke: **9** Parthians, and Medes, and Elamites, and the dwellers in Mesopotamia, and in Judaea, and Cappadocia, in Pontus, and Asia,**10** Phrygia, and Pamphylia, in Egypt, and in the parts of Libya about Cyrene, and strangers of Rome, Jews and proselytes, **11** Cretes and Arabians, we do hear them speak in our tongues the wonderful works of God.

Now notice the reason they were speaking in foreign languages; they were speaking the "**wonderful works of God.**" The wonderful works of God is what God had done in the gift of His Son Jesus Christ who came and died for the sins of men and was buried and arose again. These are the wonderful works of God and the reason the Lord allowed them to speak in these foreign tongues, so they could spread the Gospel to everyone in every language.

Now, we aren't going to cover it in this study because we have covered it already not long ago in a sermon, but the gift of tongues as was given here to these men is no longer a valid gift for men today. The tongues were given as a sign gift to the Jews because the Bible says that they require a sign: **1 Corinthians 1:22** For the Jews require a sign, and the Greeks seek after wisdom: The sign gifts of that day are no longer valid, these include; speaking in tongues, interpreting tongues, miracles, and healing.

12 And they were all amazed, and were in doubt, saying one to another, What meaneth this? **13** Others mocking said, These men are full of new wine.

Well, of course they were amazed and in doubt. This is something that has never happened before. They can't believe their eyes or ears. So some of them think these people are drunk and talking out of their heads.

And that is where we must end it tonight. We will pick back up in verse 14 next Wednesday Lord willing.

† All Scripture from the Authorized King James Version