

Acts 2:1-13 | 12/13/15

- Pentecost and the Holy Spirit | Acts 2:1-4
 - **Read Acts 2:1-4**
 - Pentecost and the Old Testament
 - When we think of Pentecost we commonly think of the day that the Holy Spirit came down and filled the apostles. This is of course true but prior to that date it served a different purpose.
 - Pentecost was one of 7 annual feasts that were observed by the Israelites.
 - Example's: are Passover, First Fruits (Easter) Pentecost (Feast of Weeks or harvest) and the Feast of Booths (tabernacles).
 - Passover was to remember the final plague in Egypt when the death angel passed over the Israelites because they put the blood of the lamb upon their door posts.
 - This of course was foreshadowing the sacrifice of Christ.
 - First Fruits they remembered the fertility of the land that God gave them, but after Christ it has become celebrated as Easter for the resurrection of Christ.
 - At Pentecost they celebrated the grain harvest and gave to God the first fruits of this harvest. The Jews also used this day to celebrate the renewal of the covenant that God made prior to their entry into the Promised Land.
 - The festival of booths was to remember and reflect upon how God took care of them when they were wondering in the wilderness.
 - All of these feasts foreshadow Christ.
 - Passover – sacrifice of Christ, Feast of First Fruits (Easter) – resurrection, Pentecost – formation of the church and receiving of the Holy Spirit.
 - Pentecost means “fiftieth” so literally it is the fiftieth day after the Sabbath of the Passover week (first fruits or Easter).
 - Leviticus 23:16
 - “You are to count 50 days until the day after the seventh Sabbath and then present an offering of new grain to the LORD”
 - Pentecost and the modern day
 - Pentecost occurs 50 days after Easter so its either in May or June depending on the year.
 - Unlike our other Christian holidays like Easter and Christmas we don't have any secular things to help us remember like the Easter bunny and Santa clause.
 - After the receiving of the Holy Spirit Christians now remember Pentecost and celebrate it as the day that God bestowed the Holy Spirit.
 - It is also considered “the birthday of the Church”
 - This is the day that the New Testament Church began.
 - Pentecost was on the first day of the week being Sunday. So not only do we attend church on Sunday because it was the day of the week that Christ was resurrected but it is also the day of the week that the Holy Spirit came upon the apostles at Pentecost.
 - The bestowing and baptism of the Holy Spirit
 - The Holy Spirit that Jesus previously promised has now been bestowed, they have now been baptized and filled in the Spirit, God is now living within them.
 - John 14:16-18, 25-26
 - This is not to say that the Spirit of God was never at work until now we can see from other passages in Scripture that He certainly was.

- However, now they have been baptized in the Holy Spirit and received Him fully and God now lives within them permanently and forever.
 - This is a gift given to not only the apostles but to all Christians.
- The Holy Spirit could not come until after the death and resurrection of Jesus.
 - John 7:37-39
 - John 16:7
- Baptism of the Spirit and being “Spirit filled”
 - There are two instances where we see the Spirit being applied. We see it as being baptized by the Spirit and also being filled with the Spirit.
 - These are similar but different and therefore a quick explanation is necessary.
 - Baptized by the Spirit
 - To be baptized by the Spirit as Jesus said in Acts 1:5 is a onetime event.
 - This is something that takes place at conversion when one has true saving faith and they receive the Holy Spirit.
 - This is made clear when the Gentiles became Christians and also received the Spirit.
 - Acts 11:15-16
 - “As I began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell on them just as on us at the beginning. And I remembered the word of the Lord, how he said, John Baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.”
 - It takes place in the heart by God and it is the moment where we truly become a Christian.
 - You cannot be a Christian without it.
 - Romans 8:9
 - “You, however, are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, since the Spirit of God lives in you. But if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Him.”
 - Upon being baptized in the Spirit we are now members of the universal Church that is made up of all true believers.
 - The baptism of Spirit joins all Christians into the body of Christ.
 - 1 Corinthians 12:12-13
 - Ephesians 4:1-6
 - Filled with the Spirit (Spirit filled)
 - This took place at the same time at Pentecost but it is a repeatable event.
 - When we say that we filled with the Spirit is when we fully embrace God’s Spirit that is living within and God empowers us to do His good works.
 - **While being baptized in the Spirit put us in the same body of Christ, to be filled is something personal for the individual.**
 - **This is something that comes and goes.**
 - To give our full attention so God’s Spirit and to do His will as it gives us the power to go God’s work.
 - This is the power Jesus spoke of
 - Acts 1:8
 - “But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come on you, and you will be My witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”
 - When we are filled with the Spirit we don’t leave room for reckless actions

- Ephesians 5:18
 - “And don’t get drunk with wine, which leads to reckless actions, but be filled by the Spirit:”
- To effectively serve God we must be filled with the Spirit and He will gladly fill us at any time.
- The apostles were frequently filled with the Spirit at numerous occasions
 - Acts 4:8
 - “then Peter was filled with the Holy Spirit and said to them, “Rulers of the people and elders:...”
 - Acts 4:31
 - “When they had prayed, the place where they were assembled was shaken, and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak Gods’ message with boldness.”
 - Acts 13:9
 - “Then Saul—also called Paul—filled with the Holy Spirit, stared straight at the sorcerer”
 - **They could not have been filled if their hearts were not in the right place.**
- The condition of our heart affects our filling of the Spirit
 - While a Christian cannot control the baptism of the Spirit as that is done by God upon our faith, the condition of our heart does affect our filling of the Spirit.
 - If we neglect the Spirit of God and we turn from Him or are caught up in everything except what God wants us to be doing it is difficult to be filled with the Spirit.
 - As in Ephesians 5:18
 - When we embrace the Spirit of God and our heart is focused on doing God’s work He will fill us with His Spirit.
- **What does being filled with the Spirit look like to you?**
- **What actions or conditions of you heart would prevent you from being Spirit filled?**
- The outward signs given by God during the receiving of the Holy Spirit
 - There were 3 outward signs that gave visible and audible proof of the bestowing of the Spirit.
 - Wind –
 - Symbol that gave an audible sign of the presence of the Holy Spirit
 - In the Hebrew and Greek, the word Spirit is the same as “wind”.
 - We see that they “heard” the wind it wasn’t something that they felt.
 - Fire –
 - Symbol that gave a visible sign of the presence of the Holy Spirit
 - In the Old Testament God’s presence was commonly manifested in fire.
 - Burning bush, pillar of fire, fire of God from the mountain top.
 - The fire was visible and had the appearance of tongues.
 - This was a visible representation of God’s presence that was now living within each of their hearts.

- Tongues (languages or inspired speech) –
 - Symbol that gave an audible sign of the power of the Holy Spirit in the believer.
 - The gift of tongues was to speak in a real language that they previously were not able to speak.
 - Not to be confused with rambling speech that cannot be interpreted.
 - **Why do you think that God displayed the Spirit in this way?**
 - We should not expect to see these outward signs today.
 - While these external and outward signs occurred for the Apostles and Pentecost we should not think that we are not Christians if this same thing does not happen to us.
 - **Why do you think that the signs are no longer given?**
 - These outward signs were given by God as proofs just as the signs of Jesus Christ.
 - But after they were shown there was not a need for that to be necessary in every case.
 - We see that these signs were also given when the first Gentiles were converted and received the Spirit.
 - Acts 11:15
 - “As I began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell on them just as on us at the beginning”
- The mighty works of God proclaimed in tongues (languages) Acts 2:5-13
 - **Read Acts 2: 5-13**
 - There were numerous Jews from many nations that were in Jerusalem at this same time with the apostles.
 - It was a busy location where the Jews from many nations would come to visit as can be seen by the 13 nations that Luke listed.
 - These were the surrounding nations all around Jerusalem.
 - The first action that the Holy Spirit performed through the Apostles was the ability to speak in known languages that they could not previously speak.
 - This is the meaning of “speaking in tongues”.
 - Jesus foretold of this in the book of Mark
 - Mark 16:17
 - “And these signs will accompany those who believe in my name they will cast out demons they will speak in new tongues.”
 - Tongues and languages
 - The Greek word used in verse 4 is “glossa” which means tongue (physical tongue in your mouth) and it also means language as is further illustrated when the Greek word Dialektos is used instead.
 - The two meanings (tongue and language) of glossa are used in Scriptures and the meaning depends on the context.
 - Physical tongue:
 - Mark 7:33, Mark 7:35 and Acts 2:3
 - As a spoken language
 - Mark 16:17, Acts 2:4, Acts 2:11
 - The translator’s choice for the English word.
 - ESV uses the English “tongue” in v. 3,4 and 11

