

Brookland Baptist Church
Bible Study
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Lecture V

March 2, 2022

The Book of Acts

Acts 2:4 - 22

In our last session, the Holy Spirit made its entrance and filled the disciples and gave them *‘Tongues of Fire’*. In verse 4, we will begin with the response of the people to the outpouring of the Holy Spirit.

❖ **TONGUES — HOLY SPIRIT:**
WHAT IS MEANT BY “OTHER TONGUES” HERE?

Acts 2:4

“All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability.”

The disciples were supernaturally witnessing and preaching in the languages of the different nationalities, gathering together.

One thing needs to be noted, however: the words **“as the Spirit gave them utterance.”** They spoke in tongues **“as the Spirit gave them utterance.”** This may indicate a clear difference from the gift of tongues in (*1 Cor. 14*), a clear difference in this sense:

- The gift of tongues here in (*Acts 2*) says that the gift was supernaturally exercised by the Spirit, not by the individual believer.

Acts 2:5-11 -

“5 Now there were devout Jews from every nation under heaven living in Jerusalem. **6** And at this sound the crowd gathered and was bewildered, because each one heard them speaking in the native language of each. **7** Amazed and astonished, they asked, “Are not all these who are speaking Galileans? **8** And how is it that we hear, each of us, in our own native language? **9** Parthians, Medes, Elamites, and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, **10** Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, **11** Cretans and Arabs—in our own languages we hear them speaking about God’s deeds of power.”

When Luke writes that devout men, Jewish pilgrims who had come from *all over the world*, had returned to Jerusalem to celebrate the “**Feast of the First Fruits.**” The word “**devout**” (*eulabeis*) means reverent, worshipful, and careful. It means persons who handle spiritual matters carefully.

The words “**when this was noised abroad**” seems to be saying it was the news of the disciples’ behavior that brought the crowd together. But the Greek says, “**When this sound was heard**” (*genomenēs phōnēs*). It was apparently the sound of the thunderous blast caused by God that brought the people rushing to the scene.

The crowd heard an amazing thing — the disciples supernaturally speaking in their own tongue (**dialect, language**). Would you not be amazed or astonished to hear someone speaking your language; if you knew they were from another country?

The number of dialects and languages spoken included most of those from the known areas of the world at that time. Luke’s purpose in giving the list seems to stress that people from all over the world were present for Christ to save and to send back to their native lands as servants of His, servants to proclaim the message of the glorious Gospel.

Acts 2:12-13 –

“12 All were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, “What does this mean?”
13 But others sneered and said, “They are filled with new wine.”

All were amazed **and** astonished, marveling at what was happening. **There was a twofold reaction.**

- **First, some were attracted** perplexed and wondering, at a loss as to what was happening. But they were attracted to seek meaning in it all.
- **Second, others simply mocked**, accusing the disciples of being drunk. Can you just imagine the ecstatic joy flooding their hearts for them to behave in a way to cause such a charge!

❖ **HOLY SPIRIT, INFILLING: THE BELIEVERS WERE INFILLED.**

Acts 2:14-16 –

“14 But Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed them, “Men of Judea and all who live in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and listen to what I say.

15 Indeed, these are not drunk, as you suppose, for it is only nine o'clock in the morning.

16 No, this is what was spoken through the prophet Joel:"

The disciples were so full of the Holy Spirit, so full of God's presence and joy, they could only:

- *Act* excited.
- *Speak* about the wonderful works of God.
- *Express joy and rejoicing* in what God had done.
- *Demonstrate absolute confidence*, assurance, and conviction of God's presence and eternal salvation.
- *Bear testimony* to all who would listen.

Such behavior required an explanation. A person who demonstrated absolute confidence, assurance, and conviction of God's presence and of eternal salvation had to explain himself. Some in the world were amazed at such behavior and wished to know what it meant. An answer was required.

Others mocked, jokingly suggesting that such behavior *was crazy and foolish*, just like the behavior of a drunken man; and they, too, were due an answer.

A spirit-filled person is not under the influence of a man-made, induced excitement. Peter stood to his feet *with the eleven* other apostles: they all stood before the thousands who had gathered. Peter spoke at the top of his voice. Note the authority and forcefulness of Peter!

What a difference the Spirit had made in this man — the man who had been so *up and down* in following Jesus:

- *"Be this known."*
- *"Hearken to my words."*
- *"It is but the third hour [9 a.m.] of the day."*

Peter declared that they were not deluded; they were not acting and speaking *foolish* things like a drunken man. What was happening was just what Scripture predicted. It was the work of God; just what God had promised to man. It was the glorious Gospel promised by God

This week we will focus on the 'Last Days' and Peter's powerful message explaining that Jesus was indeed the long-awaited Messiah whom the scriptures prophesied about. Who rose from the dead and now sits at the right hand of God.

Acts 2:17-18 –

17 “ ‘In the last days it will be, God declares, that I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh, and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams. 18 Even upon my slaves, both men and women, in those days I will pour out my Spirit; and they shall prophesy.”

These are the last days, the days of God’s last work on earth. Standing there before the throng of thousands, Peter declared:

- Today, this day, the *great prophecy of Joel begins* to be fulfilled.
(*Joel 2:28-32*).

The *last days* include all the days between Christ's first and second comings; it is another way of saying “*from now on*.” Peter was reminding these Jewish listeners that from prophecies like this one recorded by Joel, *I will pour out my Spirit on all people*; they should recognize the event they had just witnessed as the work of the Spirit. It would be to all kinds of people—Jews and Gentiles, rich and poor; — not just to kings and priests.

The “**prophesying**” mentioned by Peter is likely not only a prediction of the future but also a declaration of the nature and will of God. The *visions* and the *dreams* were common means that God used to reveal Himself to all people. The point was that the insight into these visions and dreams would be the product of the Spirit's work.

At Pentecost the Holy Spirit was released throughout the entire world — to men, women, slave owners, slaves, Jews, and Gentiles. Everyone can receive the Spirit. This was a revolutionary thought for first-century Jews. Pentecost was designed to be a clear indication — to Jew and Gentile alike — that the messianic age had arrived. The Messiah had come!

❖ DAY OF THE LORD (JEHOVAH)

Acts 2:19-21 -

“19 And I will show portents in the heaven above and signs on the earth below, blood, and fire, and smoky mist. 20 The sun shall be turned to darkness and the moon to blood, before the coming of the Lord’s great and glorious day. 21 Then everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.”

There are two aspects of the concept the day of the Lord:

- 1. The first is the idea of blessing and favor to the people of God. One of deliverance and salvation, signs and wonders.**
- 2. The second aspect of the Day of Lord means judgement and punishment for Israel and defeat for their enemies.**

The Day of the Lord is to be characterized by several things:

- **Wonders (*terata*):** marvels, signs, happenings, portents (*warnings*) in heaven above, that is, in outer space; happenings and marvels that point to something unusual about to happen.
- **Signs (*semeia*):** events and happenings on earth given by God to warn that the end is at hand.
- **Blood and fire and vapor of smoke:** terrible bloodshed and explosive fire that **causes:**
 - *Mushrooming* vapors of smoke.
 - *The sun to be turned into darkness* and blotted out.
 - *The moon to be turned into a blood red.*

It is thought-provoking when we consider how closely the language resembles atomic, and nuclear warfare.

Throughout Scripture, four events are discussed as happening in the Day of the Lord:

- a.) the return of Christ,*
- b.) terrible tribulation,*
- c.) judgment,*
- d.) and the remaking of earth.*

Throughout the last days, during the whole period, **man can be saved by doing two simple things:**

- 1.)** He has to *call*: to sense the *need* to be saved.
- 2.)** He has to call upon “**the name of the Lord**”: to know and believe that Jesus is the Lord and to be ready to submit to His Lordship, to serve Him as Lord.
(Romans 10:9-10, 13).

What Peter was saying is that this salvation is available to anyone.

God's special relationship with Israel will continue, but it has been broadened to include everyone who calls on the name of the Lord. God's plans for Israel had their climax in Christ. Access to God — for all people — now comes through Jesus Christ. With these words Peter witnessed to the crowd, as Jesus had predicted.

It would be a while before these new believers understood that the “**anyone**” included Gentiles. God had to work in a special way to make Peter understand that the message was meant for the whole world, not just the Jews.

Acts 2:22 –

“People of Israel, listen! God publicly endorsed Jesus of Nazareth by doing wonderful miracles, wonders, and signs through him, as you well know.”

There is proof of this, the proof of His miracles and wonders and signs.

1. They were the works of God, the kind of works that only God could do. God Himself was working through Jesus of Nazareth.
2. The works were done (through Christ) “**in the midst of you,**” in the very presence of people. They were not done in secret. God attested and demonstrated to the world that He was working through Christ. The miracles, wonders, and signs were done both for the sake of the world and before the world.
3. “**You yourselves also know**” this. Man knows, for God has clearly shown that Jesus is approved by Him. The evidence abounds in the lives of those who have truly followed Christ down through the centuries, in the presence of the living Lord who has dwelt within their very being.