

## The Holy Spirit arrives...and things start to happen!

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### Review

1. Why study the book of Acts?
  - a. Luke 1:3-4 "...so that [we] may have certainty concerning the things [we] have been taught." [SLIDE]
2. Four things needed to happen while the apostles were waiting for the Holy Spirit [SLIDE]
  - a. Receive their commission from Jesus (**6-8**)
  - b. See (witness) Jesus' ascension into heaven (**9-11**)
  - c. Persevere in prayer (**12-14**)
  - d. Replace Judas with Matthias (**15-26**)

### Acts chapter 2 overview

1. The description of what happened on that day in **Acts 2:1-13**
2. Peter's sermon and explanation of what happened in **2:14-41**
3. The immediate effects of the event on the life of the brand new Jerusalem church in **2:42-47**

### The Holy Spirit arrives

1. **Acts 2:1-13** [SLIDES]
2. "When the day of Pentecost arrived..." (1-4) [SLIDE]
  - a. What is the day of Pentecost?
    - i. Pentecost is a Greek word that means "fifty"
    - ii. First mentioned in **Exodus 23:14-17**, and called the Feast of Harvest [SLIDE]
    - iii. Explained further in **Deuteronomy 16:9-12**, and called the Feast of Weeks [SLIDE]

- iv. By the time of the New Testament, it had become known as Pentecost, a shorthand version of Feast of [seven] Weeks [SLIDE]
  - v. What are some reasons that God may have chosen this day to send the Holy Spirit?
    - 1. Because it was a feast/festival required by God and held in Jerusalem, there would be many Jews and Jewish converts (God-fearers) there for the occasion.
    - 2. There may be some symbolism related to the harvest, and perhaps to the giving of the law on Mount Sinai (which traditionally happened on the same day of their calendar), but Luke doesn't tell us this specifically.
- b. What happened on this particular day of Pentecost? (2-4) [SLIDE]
- i. Three phenomena, or supernatural signs
    - 1. Sound like a mighty rushing wind
      - a. Not wind, but sounded like it
    - 2. Tongues of what looked like fire
      - a. Not fire, but looked like it
    - 3. They spoke in other tongues (languages)
      - a. Not their native language, or languages that they already knew how to speak
  - ii. This may be what John the Baptist was referring to in **Luke 3:15-17** [SLIDE]
  - iii. Helpful or not, here are two artists' renditions of the event [SLIDES]
  - iv. Symbolism represented by these three signs?
    - 1. Sound of mighty wind = power promised by Jesus (**Luke 24:49; Acts 1:8**) [SLIDE]
    - 2. Fire = purity (**Isaiah 6:6-7**) [SLIDE]
    - 3. Speaking in other languages = universality of the Christian church (**Acts 1:8**) [SLIDE]
3. "Now there were dwelling in Jerusalem Jews, devout men from every nation under heaven..." (5-8) [SLIDE]
- a. Literally every nation on earth? Or from Luke's perspective: the Graeco-Roman world?
    - i. The Graeco-Roman world (the Roman empire)
  - b. What brought them together?
    - i. The sound (of wind)
  - c. What did they experience when they came together?
    - i. They heard their own native languages being spoken by Galileans, who would not have known those languages.

4. Luke's list of the nations represented there that day (9-11) [SLIDE]
  - a. See the map of nations in the [SLIDE]
5. What was the response of the crowd? (12-13) [SLIDE]
  - a. "All were amazed and perplexed" (12)
  - b. Some mocked and made false accusations (13)
    - i. Always going to be doubters
6. What biblical event was reversed on this day of Pentecost?
  - a. Tower of Babel in **Genesis 11:1-9** [SLIDE]
    - i. God confused the people's language into many languages, and dispersed them around the earth
  - b. At Pentecost, God enabled them to communicate (briefly) in those many languages, to "show that the nations would now be gathered together in Christ." (Stott)

### **A brief introduction to Biblical Theology**

1. See the [SLIDE]

### **Excursus: The Holy Spirit in Acts**

1. Discovering the Holy Spirit as he is revealed in the book of Acts
  - a. Various passages [SLIDES]
2. What the Holy Spirit did, does, or is doing in Acts
  - a. Assisted Jesus(?) (1:2)
  - b. Baptized the apostles (1:5)
  - c. Gives power (1:8)
  - d. Inspired and spoke Scripture (1:16)
  - e. Fills believers with himself (once and for all, or multiple times?) (2:4)
  - f. Was poured out on "all flesh" (2:17-18)
  - g. Promised by God the Father to God the Son (2:33)
  - h. Given as a gift to believers (2:38)
  - i. Can be lied to and tested by people, with tragic results (5:3, 9)
  - j. Witnessed Jesus' death, resurrection, and exaltation (5:32)
  - k. Given to those who obey God the Father (5:32)

- l. Empowered Stephen while speaking to the Jews **(6:10)**
- m. Can be resisted by non-believers **(7:51)**
- n. Fell on Samaritan believers (same as baptized?) **(8:14-20)**
- o. Given through the laying on of the apostles' hands **(8:14-20)**
- p. Spoke to certain believers **(8:29)**
- q. Carried Philip away from the Ethiopian eunuch **(8:39)**
- r. Comforted the church during and after persecution **(9:31)**
- s. God the Father anointed Jesus with the Holy Spirit **(10:38)**
- t. Fell on Gentiles in Caesarea who heard the word, as a gift poured out on them, and they spoke in tongues and extolled God **(10:44-47)**
- u. Spoke through New Testament prophets (Agabus) **(11:28)**
- v. Spoke to the gathered church in Antioch **(13:2)**
- w. Sent Paul and Barnabas as missionaries **(13:4)**
- x. Influenced the apostles' and elders' thinking **(15:28)**
- y. Forbade Paul and his companions from going to Asia (at that time) **(16:6-7)**
- z. Is the Spirit of Jesus **(16:6-7)**
- aa. Came on new believers in Ephesus and they spoke in tongues and prophesied **(19:2, 6)**
- bb. Constrained Paul to go to Jerusalem, and testified to Paul about what awaited him **(20:22-23)**
- cc. Made some men overseers (elders) in the Ephesian church **(20:28)**

3. Three key things out of all these passages **[SLIDE]**

- a. The Holy Spirit is a Person, the third member of the Trinity
  - i. He is not simply a mysterious force or power
  - ii. He is the spirit of God
- b. The Holy Spirit is given to believers
  - i. Referring to what we often describe as “indwelling,” or “having the Holy Spirit”
  - ii. Seems to be different than being filled with the Holy Spirit
- c. Being filled with the Holy Spirit
  - i. Sometimes the same people are filled more than once
  - ii. Some people seem to be filled for longer periods of time, such as Stephen

- iii. In **Acts 1:5** Jesus told the apostles that they would be baptized with the Holy Spirit “not many days from now.” I’m assuming he was referring to the day of Pentecost when “they were all filled with the Holy Spirit.”
- iv. What does this tell us?
  - 1. Baptism of the Holy Spirit and being filled with the Holy Spirit are probably the same thing
  - 2. May not happen to all believers
  - 3. Is not an ongoing experience
  - 4. Personal example: the sermon I preached the Sunday after the December 26, 2004 Southeast Asia tsunami that killed approximately 250,000 people
- v. Looking outside of **Acts**:
  - 1. In **Ephesians 3:19** Paul prays that his readers would, among other things, “be filled with all the fullness of God.”
  - 2. In **Ephesians 5:18-19** Paul tells us, “...do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery, but be filled with the Spirit, addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with your heart...”
    - a. In the parallel passage in **Colossians 3:16** Paul writes: “Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God.”
    - b. There is a link between the “word of Christ” and the “Spirit.” If you want to be filled with the Spirit, be filled with Christ’s word, Scripture.
  - 3. In **1 Peter 4:13-14** Peter writes: “But rejoice insofar as you share Christ’s sufferings, that you may also rejoice and be glad when his glory is revealed. If you are insulted for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the Spirit of glory and of God rests upon you.”
    - a. We are promised the Holy Spirit in times of great need
- vi. Highly recommend listening or watching the sermon “How to Seek the Holy Spirit” by John Piper, preached on February 2, 2018 at the Bethlehem Conference for Pastors (see the link under Resources)

### Excursus: Tongues in Acts

- 1. Tongues as they are mentioned in the book of Acts
  - a. Various passages **[SLIDES]**

2. What were these “tongues?”
  - a. Same Greek word in each occurrence.
    - i. “divided tongues as of fire” **(2:3)**
    - ii. “other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance” **(2:4)**
    - iii. “in our own tongues” **(2:11)**
    - iv. “and my tongue rejoiced” **(2:26)**
      1. Peter quoting David from Psalm 16
    - v. “they were hearing them speaking in tongues and extolling God” **(10:46)**
      1. Cornelius and the other Gentiles after Peter preached to them, they believed, and the Holy Spirit fell on them
      2. How did Peter and the other Jews with him know they were extolling God? Were they extolling God while speaking in tongues?
    - vi. “they began speaking in tongues and prophesying” **(19:6)**
      1. Former disciples of John the Baptist (followers of his teachings)
      2. After Paul told them about Jesus they were baptized (water?), Paul laid his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came on them, and they spoke in tongues and prophesied.
      3. Again, were speaking in tongues and prophesying two separate, distinct events? Did they prophesy in the tongues?
  - b. In the **Acts 2** event there were many human languages (tongues) spoken, understandable by the native speakers of those languages who were in Jerusalem at that time.
  - c. In **Acts 10** and **19** we are not told any other details about what these tongues were, whether human languages or a so-called “heavenly” language.
    - i. Stott points out that we have tongues explained to us in **Acts 2**, and so it may be wise to use that explanation to understand tongues when they are not explained in other passages.

### The take-away for us

1. What happened on the Day of Pentecost in Acts 2 was a unique and unrepeatabe event. The Holy Spirit only arrived once...but he has stayed and is in and available to all believers from then until now and into the future. The coming of the Holy Spirit changed everything, in a manner of speaking. There is no church as we know it without the Holy Spirit.
2. Being filled with the Holy Spirit is possible for any Christian, but not guaranteed without effort on our part. It is something to be desired and sought after. God will not deny the one who is humbly, earnestly, and truly seeking him and his Spirit.

## Resources

1. *The Message of Acts*, John Stott
2. <https://www.crossway.org/articles/3-ways-to-define-biblical-theology/>
3. [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2004\\_Indian\\_Ocean\\_earthquake\\_and\\_tsunami](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2004_Indian_Ocean_earthquake_and_tsunami)
4. <https://www.desiringgod.org/messages/how-to-seek-the-holy-spirit>