

Acts 2:1-13

Empowered by the Holy Spirit

1 When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place.2 And suddenly there came from heaven a noise like a violent rushing wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting.3 And there appeared to them tongues as of fire distributing themselves, and they rested on each one of them.4 And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit was giving them utterance.

5 Now there were Jews living in Jerusalem, devout men from every nation under heaven.6 And when this sound occurred, the crowd came together, and were bewildered because each one of them was hearing them speak in his own language.7 They were amazed and astonished, saying, "Why, are not all these who are speaking Galileans?8 And how is it that we each hear them in our own language to which we were born?9 Parthians and Medes and Elamites, and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia,10 Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the districts of Libya around Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and tproselytes,11 Cretans and Arabs—we hear them in our own tongues speaking of the mighty deeds of God."12 And they all continued in amazement and great perplexity, saying to one another, "What does this mean?"13 But others were mocking and saying, "They are full of sweet wine."

DISCUSSION:

- Pentecost was one of the three main pilgrim festivals during the Jewish year prescribed by God. It occurred on the 50th day after Passover ("Pentecost" actually means "fiftieth"). It was supposed to be a time to celebrate the harvest and thank the Lord for His provision. It also became a time of celebrating the giving of the Law to Moses. A "pilgrim" festival was one

where families were required to come to Jerusalem if at all possible. That's why people from so many nations were present in Jerusalem that day (see v 5, 9-11). Jesus died and rose during the time of the Passover festival, which was very fitting because He came to be the sacrificial lamb. Why was Pentecost a fitting time for the giving of the Holy Spirit?

- What extraordinary signs accompanied the coming of the Holy Spirit and what do they mean?

Expositor's Bible Commentary:

Wind as a sign of God's Spirit is rooted linguistically in the fact that both the Hebrew word ruah, and the Greek word pneuma mean either wind or spirit, depending on the context, and this allows a rather free association of the two ideas (cf. John 3:8). Ezekiel had prophesied of the wind as the breath of God blowing over the dry bones in the valley of his vision and filling them with new life (Ezek 37:9-14), and it was this wind of God's Spirit that Judaism looked forward to as ushering in the final Messianic Age...

Fire as a symbol of the divine presence was well known among first-century Jews (cf. the burning bush [Exod 3:2-5], the pillar of fire that guided Israel by night through the wilderness [Exod 13:21], the consuming fire on Mount Sinai [Exod 24:17], and the fire that hovered over the wilderness tabernacle [Exod 40:38])...

Also significant is Luke's statement that these tokens of the Spirit's presence "separated and came to rest on each of them." This seems to suggest that, though under the old covenant the divine presence rested on Israel as a corporate entity and upon many of its leaders for special

purposes, under the new covenant, as established by Jesus and inaugurated at Pentecost, the Spirit now rests upon each believer individually.

- What amazed the bystanders (v7) and why did God give that ability?
- What was the content of the message they all heard? (v 11)
- What different reactions did the people have? (see v 12-13)

Acts 2:14-21

Based on the Scriptures

14 But Peter, taking his stand with the eleven, raised his voice and declared to them: "Men of Judea and all you who live in Jerusalem, let this be known to you and give heed to my words.15 For these men are not drunk, as you suppose, for it is only the third hour of the day;16 but this is what was spoken of through the prophet Joel:

17 'AND IT SHALL BE IN THE LAST DAYS,'
God says,
'THAT I WILL POUR FORTH OF MY SPIRIT
ON ALL MANKIND;
AND YOUR SONS AND YOUR DAUGHTERS
SHALL PROPHECY,
AND YOUR YOUNG MEN SHALL SEE
VISIONS,
AND YOUR OLD MEN SHALL DREAM
DREAMS;
18 EVEN ON MY BONDSLAVES, BOTH MEN
AND WOMEN,
I WILL IN THOSE DAYS POUR FORTH OF
MY SPIRIT

And they shall prophesy.

19 'AND I WILL GRANT WONDERS IN THE
SKY ABOVE
AND SIGNS ON THE EARTH BELOW,
BLOOD, AND FIRE, AND VAPOR OF
SMOKE.

20 'THE SUN WILL BE TURNED INTO
DARKNESS
AND THE MOON INTO BLOOD,
BEFORE THE GREAT AND GLORIOUS DAY
OF THE LORD SHALL COME.

21 'AND IT SHALL BE THAT EVERYONE
WHO CALLS ON THE NAME OF THE LORD
WILL BE SAVED.'

DISCUSSION:

- Note that Peter began his sermon by quoting Scripture. Why is important that the Christian message is grounded in the Scriptures?
- What did Joel prophesy would happen "in the last days?"
- How were those things fulfilled in the coming of the Holy Spirit?
- What does v 21 promise? (see also Romans 10:13)

Acts 2:22-36

It's All About Jesus

22 "Men of Israel, listen to these words: Jesus the Nazarene, a man attested to you by God with miracles and wonders and signs which God performed through Him in your midst, just as you yourselves know-23 this Man, delivered over by the predetermined plan and foreknowledge of God, you nailed to a cross by the hands of godless men and put Him to death.24 But God raised Him up again, putting an end to the agony of death, since it was impossible for Him to be held in its power.25 For David says of Him, 'I SAW THE LORD ALWAYS IN MY PRESENCE; FOR HE IS AT MY RIGHT HAND, SO THAT I WILL NOT BE SHAKEN. 26 'THEREFORE MY HEART WAS GLAD AND MY TONGUE EXULTED; MOREOVER MY FLESH ALSO WILL LIVE IN HOPE; 27 BECAUSE YOU WILL NOT ABANDON MY SOUL TO HADES, NOR ALLOW YOUR HOLY ONE TO UNDERGO DECAY. 28 'YOU HAVE MADE KNOWN TO ME THE WAYS OF LIFE; YOU WILL MAKE ME FULL OF GLADNESS WITH YOUR PRESENCE.'

29 "Brethren, I may confidently say to you regarding the patriarch David that he both died and was buried, and his tomb is with

us to this day.³⁰ And so, because he was a prophet and knew that GOD HAD SWORN TO HIM WITH AN OATH TO SEAT one OF HIS DESCENDANTS ON HIS THRONE,³¹ he looked ahead and spoke of the resurrection of the Christ, that HE WAS NEITHER ABANDONED TO HADES, NOR DID His flesh SUFFER DECAY.³² This Jesus God raised up again, to which we are all witnesses.³³ Therefore having been exalted to the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, He has poured forth this which you both see and hear.³⁴ For it was not David who ascended into heaven, but he himself says: "THE LORD SAID TO MY LORD, "SIT AT MY RIGHT HAND, 35 UNTIL I MAKE YOUR ENEMIES A FOOTSTOOL FOR YOUR FEET."³⁶ Therefore let all the house of Israel know for certain that God has made Him both Lord and Christ-this Jesus whom you crucified."

DISCUSSION:

- What did Peter claim about Jesus in v 22-24?
- Why was it impossible for death to hold onto Jesus?
- Peter quotes Psalm 16:8-11 and then recognized the prophetic nature of David saying that he looked ahead to the Messiah and that Jesus fulfilled his prophecy. Why would appealing to David be important to His sermon about Jesus?
- What was the evidence for the resurrection of Jesus that Peter gives in v 32?
- Where is Jesus now and what does His position signify? (v 33)
- What is the conclusion of Peter's sermon in v 36?
- Define "Lord" and "Christ."

Acts 2:37-40

Gives Birth of the Church

37 Now when they heard this, they were pierced to the heart, and said to Peter and

the rest of the apostles, "Brethren, what shall we do?"³⁸ Peter said to them, "Repent, and each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.³⁹ For the promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off, as many as the Lord our God will call to Himself."⁴⁰ And with many other words he solemnly testified and kept on exhorting them, saying, "Be saved from this perverse generation!"⁴¹ So then, those who had received his word were baptized; and that day there were added about three thousand souls.

DISCUSSION:

- The listeners were "pierced to the heart" and asked what they should do. The Gospel has this kind of power. Do you have confidence in the Word of God and the power of the Holy Spirit to pierce people's hearts when you share the Gospel? How boldly do you share Christ with others?
- According to Acts 1:8 what do we need to be effective witnesses?
- What did Peter tell them they needed to do to be saved?
- What does it mean to repent?
- Why is baptism important? "For the forgiveness of your sins" does not mean "so that your sins can be forgiven." Baptism is not what forgives our sins. It would be better to read it like: "Be baptized 'for' (because) your sins have been forgiven." How do we receive forgiveness for our sins?
- Those who repent and receive Christ are promised what gift? (v 38-39)
- What does Romans 8:9-11 say about those who don't have the Holy Spirit?
- Peter was persistent in his preaching as v 40 says. How persistent are you in trying to "exhort" people to be saved? Why is it important for us to be persistent in our witnessing?

FAITH SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

November 20, 2011

"Spirit-filled Preaching"

Focal Passage: Acts 2:1-41

**Cross References: Joel 2:28-32;
Psalm 16:8-11; Acts 1:8;
Romans 8:9-11; 10:13**

Central Idea: The Holy Spirit came upon the believers at Pentecost and enabled them to share the message about Jesus with power.

Lesson Idea: We need to be Spirit-empowered witnesses that boldly tell the message about Christ Jesus.

Background:

Following His resurrection Jesus walked with His disciples for forty days and taught them more about how God's plan was fulfilled in His death and resurrection. Jesus told His followers to wait in Jerusalem for the gift of the Holy Spirit. In Acts 1:5 Jesus told them that "John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now." He also told them that they would "receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth." (Acts 1:8)

During the feast of Pentecost God sent the Holy Spirit in a mighty display of His power. The followers of Christ poured out into the streets proclaiming the message about God's power as fulfilled in Christ Jesus. They were enabled to do so in foreign languages known by their listeners, but not previously studied by the apostles.

Three thousand people got saved and added to the church that day. It could really be called the birth of the Christian Church. This lesson focuses on the Spirit-filled message that Peter preached (the first Christian sermon). The content of his sermon is still the content that we must share with people today. And we need to be empowered by the Holy Spirit to share it in such a way that it will pierce people's hearts.

The lesson ends at v 41, because I plan to preach from Acts 2:42-47 for our Anniversary Sunday sermon.

Bible in a Year Readings Nov 13-20, 2011

- Nov 13: Luke 23; John 18-19
- Nov 14: Matt 28; Mark 16
- Nov 15: Luke 24; John 20-21
- Nov 16: Acts 1-3
- Nov 17: Acts 4-6
- Nov 18: Acts 7-8
- Nov 19: Acts 9-10
- Nov 20: Acts 11-12

Highlights of the Week:

- The Resurrection of Jesus
- The Great Commission
- "Feed My Sheep"
- "You shall be My Witnesses"
- Coming of the Holy Spirit
- First Christian Sermon
- Peter and John arrested
- Ananias and Saphira
- The first deacons
- Stephen: the first martyr
- The Conversion of Saul
- Cornelius and Peter

Faith Baptist Church 80th Anniversary Celebration Sunday, November 20th

Scriptures in this lesson are from New American Standard Bible. La Habra, CA : The Lockman Foundation, 1986