

Recap/Context

Just a recap where we got to in the Book of Acts - as it's been a while since we last looked at it...

[Powerpoint 1-Recap/Context]

In Acts chapter 1

- The resurrected Jesus appeared to over 500 people (1 Cor 15:507) over 6 weeks (40 days)
- And He told His Apostles in Acts 1:4

Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised, which you have heard me speak about. For John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.”
- So Jesus promised His apostles the Holy Spirit
- He goes on to say this about the Holy Spirit in Acts 1:8

“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.
- So it's this Holy Spirit that's going to help the apostles to be witnesses of what Jesus did on Earth - and what His death on the cross means - and what His resurrection means
- And then Jesus was gone - taken up into Heaven - the Ascension

- And then the remainder of chapter 1 - the Apostles have to elect another apostle to replace Judas Iscariot who betrayed Jesus - and that new Apostle chosen was Matthias (Acts 1:26)

Outpouring of the Spirit (Acts 2:1-4)

So finally the day arrives for the promised Holy Spirit to come as Jesus had promised

[Powerpoint 2-Outpouring]

See v1 - It's the day of Pentecost

It's a Jewish holiday - a feast day

Pentecost is a Greek name for a festival known as the Feast of Weeks (Leviticus 23:15; Deuteronomy 16:9).

Pentecost means 50th day

It's 50 days since the Jewish Passover began

The Feast of Weeks in the OT - was a time when the Jews celebrated the end of the grain harvest

Here the Apostles are witnessing - not an end - but a beginning of a new church age - of the Holy Spirit

Just like the Last Supper - the disciples are together in one place - v1

Now let's look how this outpouring of God's Holy Spirit takes place

- It's audible and visual

- They hear the sound of a violet wind
- It fills the whole house they're sitting in
- They had tongues of fire on each of their heads

We shouldn't be surprised by **wind - controlled by God**

Look up Exodus 10:13; Psalm 18:42; Isaiah 11:15 and Matthew 14:23-32

Exodus 10:13 New International Version (NIV)

¹³So Moses stretched out his staff over Egypt, and the LORD made an east wind blow across the land all that day and all that night. By morning the wind had brought the locusts;

Psalm 18:42 New International Version (NIV)

⁴²I beat them as fine as windblown dust;
I trampled them like mud in the streets.

Isaiah 11:15 New International Version (NIV)

¹⁵The LORD will dry up
the gulf of the Egyptian sea;
with a scorching wind he will sweep his hand
over the Euphrates River.
He will break it up into seven streams
so that anyone can cross over in sandals.

Mark 4:35-41 New International Version (NIV)

Jesus Calms the Storm

³⁵That day when evening came, he said to his disciples, "Let us go over to the other side." ³⁶Leaving the crowd behind, they took him along, just as he

was, in the boat. There were also other boats with him. ³⁷A furious squall came up, and the waves broke over the boat, so that it was nearly swamped. ³⁸Jesus was in the stern, sleeping on a cushion. The disciples woke him and said to him, "Teacher, don't you care if we drown?"

³⁹He got up, rebuked the wind and said to the waves, "Quiet! Be still!" Then the wind died down and it was completely calm.

⁴⁰He said to his disciples, "Why are you so afraid? Do you still have no faith?"

⁴¹They were terrified and asked each other, "Who is this? Even the wind and the waves obey him!"

And also wind **equates to life** - physical and spiritual...

Job 12:10; John 3:8 and Genesis 2:7

Job 12:10 New International Version (NIV)

¹⁰In his hand is the life of every creature
and the breath of all mankind

John 3:8 New International Version (NIV)

8 The wind blows wherever it pleases. You hear its sound, but you cannot tell where it comes from or where it is going. So it is with everyone born of the Spirit."

Genesis 2:7 New International Version (NIV)

⁷Then the LORD God formed a man from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living being.

So **wind** is symbolic of **life**!

Then there's **fire**...

Lookup Exodus 3:2; 13:21-22; 24:17; Isaiah 10:17

Exodus 3:2New International Version (NIV)

²There the angel of the LORD appeared to him in flames of fire from within a bush. Moses saw that though the bush was on fire it did not burn up.

Exodus 13:21-22New International Version (NIV)

²¹By day the LORD went ahead of them in a pillar of cloud to guide them on their way and by night in a pillar of fire to give them light, so that they could travel by day or night.²²Neither the pillar of cloud by day nor the pillar of fire by night left its place in front of the people.

Exodus 24:17New International Version (NIV)

¹⁷To the Israelites the glory of the LORD looked like a consuming fire on top of the mountain.

Isaiah 10:17New International Version (NIV)

¹⁷The Light of Israel will become a fire,
 their Holy One a flame;
 in a single day it will burn and consume
 his thorns and his briars.

All symbolic of God's **presence**

And lookup Psalm 97:3; Malachi 3:2

Psalm 97:3New International Version (NIV)

³Fire goes before him
 and consumes his foes on every side.

Malachi 3:2New International Version (NIV)

²But who can endure the day of his coming? Who can stand when he appears? For he will be like a refiner's fire or a launderer's soap.

All symbolic of God's **holiness**

Back to Acts 2 - verse 4

These tongues of fire resting up them produce something

They began to speak in other tongues (languages)

Languages that they didn't previously know!

All because the Holy Spirit enabled them

Literally "as the Holy Spirit gave them utterance"

That's pretty amazing isn't it?

(pause)

As long as there's a purpose for these different languages

If I was to say:

Bereshyt bara Elohim et ha shamayim ve et ha aretz

It's not much use to you - unless you know what I'm saying is it?

Reaction of the Crowd (Acts 2:5-13)

[Powerpoint 3-Reaction of Crowd]

Which brings us to verse 5 - there were Jews from all different nations - in

Jerusalem - they all believed in God - but they were from different countries - and

so they spoke different languages - other than the language of Jerusalem at the

time which would have been Aramaic

But look at verse 6 - these people in Jerusalem heard the Apostles in their own

language

So if there was someone from Mesopotamia - they heard Mesopotamian language
From Rome - they heard Latin and so on

Look at their response

In v7 - the people were utterly amazed - how can people from Galilee speak all these different languages?

And again in v12 - They were amazed and perplexed - this wasn't supposed to be able to happen

So basically in v12-13

We have 2 responses from the crowd?

Either as in v12 - "What does this mean?"

Or v13 - the apostles must be drunk?

So we could summarize the 2 responses as

Either - Serious questioning of what is going on

OR - mockery

As we'll see next time

It's not reasonable to write off the different languages from the Apostles - as drunken behaviour - as it's only 9am (v15) - and also the people in Jerusalem - could hear the Apostles in their own nation's language - which is hardly drunken words!

So that leaves us with only one genuine response

To take this outpouring of the Holy Spirit on the Apostles as a serious matter - with a genuine purpose -

That purpose - we've already been told by Jesus in Acts 1:8 - to be Jesus' witnesses to the ends of the Earth

Let me just remind you what the Apostles were like when Jesus was arrested...

Lookup Mark 14:43-50

Jesus Arrested

⁴³Just as he was speaking, Judas, one of the Twelve, appeared. With him was a crowd armed with swords and clubs, sent from the chief priests, the teachers of the law, and the elders.

⁴⁴Now the betrayer had arranged a signal with them: "The one I kiss is the man; arrest him and lead him away under guard." ⁴⁵Going at once to Jesus, Judas said, "Rabbi!" and kissed him. ⁴⁶The men seized Jesus and arrested him. ⁴⁷Then one of those standing near drew his sword and struck the servant of the high priest, cutting off his ear.

⁴⁸"Am I leading a rebellion," said Jesus, "that you have come out with swords and clubs to capture me? ⁴⁹Every day I was with you, teaching in the temple courts, and you did not arrest me. But the Scriptures must be fulfilled." ⁵⁰**Then everyone deserted him and fled.**

The Apostles all deserted Jesus and fled the scene - when Jesus was arrested.

Something had to change - for them to be any use as His disciples - didn't it?

They had to be enabled by the Holy Spirit.

The Holy Spirit changed the Apostles from wimps to bold, brave witnesses for Jesus!

Just like that!

Our Response?

So - what about the reaction of the crowd here tonight?

How will we react?

Jesus taught that all believers in Him - must be born of the Spirit - born from above (John 3:7)

So as Christians - we have that same Holy Spirit living inside each one of us

That same Holy Spirit - can enable us - and change us from wimps to brave disciples of Jesus

Remember Jesus promised in John 14:25-26 - Look it up:

²⁵"All this I have spoken while still with you. ²⁶But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, **will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you.** ²⁷Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.

So our response must be to claim the work of the Holy Spirit living inside us...

Romans chapter 8 - is a great chapter to claim a life through the Holy Spirit

⁵Those who live according to the flesh have their minds set on what the flesh desires; but those who live in accordance with the Spirit have their minds set on what the Spirit desires. ⁶The mind governed by the flesh is death, but the mind governed by the Spirit is life and peace.

¹¹And if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies because of his Spirit who lives in you.

¹²Therefore, brothers and sisters, we have an obligation—but it is not to the flesh, to live according to it. ¹³For if you live according to the flesh, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the misdeeds of the body, you will live.

¹⁴For those who are led by the Spirit of God are the children of God.

²⁶In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us through wordless groans. ²⁷And he who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for God's people in accordance with the will of God.

So friends, will you claim the Holy Spirit - to help live your life...

Let's pray...