

When the day of Pentecost arrived, they were all together in one place. And suddenly there came from heaven a sound like a mighty rushing wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. (Acts 2:1-2)

I. New Beginnings: Passover, First Fruits & Pentecost (vv. 1-13)

- a. Jesus died the Friday of Passover week and was buried before sunset, when the Sabbath began.
- b. Sunday morning, when the priest were to offer the *First Fruits*, Christ arose from the dead. The first-fruits of the ground were offered unto God just as the first-born of man and animals. (1 Cor 15:20)
- c. The Feast of *First Fruits* took place on the day after the Sabbath following Passover. Sabbath was the last day of the week. Jesus arose from the dead on the first day of the week.
- d. For the next 40 days, Jesus appeared to His disciples in His resurrected body and then ascended to heaven. Ten days later, the Sunday of the Feast of Pentecost, the Holy Spirit descended.
- e. Pentecost marks the birth of the Church where we see the beginning of a New kingdom and unity.
- f. This was no coincidence but a fulfillment of God's overall plan to establish a new body of believers.

II. The Power and Purpose of the Holy Spirit (vv.14-41)

- a. The Holy Spirit was active prior to Pentecost and worked in Creation (Gen 1:1-2), in the life of O.T. servants of God (Judges 6:34; 1 Sam 16:13, and in the life and ministry of Jesus. (Luke 1:30-37; 4:1)
- b. Among the "Church" the Holy Spirit would dwell among the people and His presence would be permanent.
- c. *Baptism* in the Holy Spirit has two meanings: 1) literal meaning "to submerge"; 2) figurative: meaning "to be identified with".
- d. *Multitude were gathered with the intent to celebrate Jewish Passover and Pentecost.
- e. We are now "joined" by the Spirit. All believers receive the Holy Spirit. (Eph 1:13-14)
- f. All those believers present at Pentecost and all those who would come to confess Christ are "baptized in the Holy Spirit."
- g. "Speaking in tongues" (*dialektos*)-means language or dialect of some country or district.
- h. *Glossolalia* - spirit-inspired utterance under these guidelines (1 Cor 12:7, 11; 14:2). The language is unintelligible both to the speaker and to hearers. It is speech directed to God.
- i. Why did God do this? At Babel, the people were unable to understand each other. At Pentecost, they heard God's praises and understood what was said.

III. "Preach Peter!"

- a. The Holy Spirit does not work to build up the person without building up *the Body*.
- b. One example of the empowering ability of the Holy Spirit among willing vessels is Peter's preaching. His message was delivered at the – "the third hour" (9:00 a.m.).
- c. Peter was a Jew preaching to Jews. Three primary points in Peter's sermons
 1. Peter explained what happened: The Spirit had come. (vv. 14-21)(Joel 2:28-32)
 2. He declared "*Jesus of Nazareth of whom you killed ...but God raised.*"(vv.22-35) (1 Thes. 1:5)
 3. Peter told them repent and believe on Jesus Christ for salvation for He is the Messiah.

IV. Thoughts to Consider Regarding the Work of the Holy Spirit Today

- a. If a worship experience does not honor Christ then it is not led by the Holy Spirit.
- b. The believer is always in control of themselves when the Holy Spirit is at work. (Gal 5:22-23)
- c. The Holy Spirit is still at work bringing people together, empowering them with gifts, to be on mission for Christ.
- d. The spirit-inspired Word of God is meant to encourage, challenge and convict.