



February 5, 2023
“Day of Pentecost”
Acts 2:1-13
Pastor Gary Hamrick

The followers of Jesus, who numbered about one hundred and twenty, were told to wait in Jerusalem until the “Promise” of the Holy Spirit. When the Day of Pentecost came, God poured out the Holy Spirit on all who had gathered in that Upper Room. It was an AUDIBLE, VISIBLE, and VERBAL event—the sound like a rushing wind, the sight of flames of fire lighting on each person, and people speaking in “tongues.” In this lesson, we will look at the history of Pentecost and cover the AUDIBLE and VISIBLE aspects of what happened when God’s Spirit was poured out in Acts 2.

1. **Acts 2:1-13** – *“When the Day of Pentecost had fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. And suddenly there came a sound from heaven, as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. Then there appeared to them divided tongues, as of fire, and one sat upon each of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance. And there were dwelling in Jerusalem Jews, devout men, from every nation under heaven. And when this sound occurred, the multitude came together, and were confused, because everyone heard them speak in his own language. Then they were all amazed and marveled, saying to one another, ‘Look, are not all these who speak Galileans? And how is it that we hear, each in our own language in which we were born? Parthians and Medes and Elamites, those dwelling in Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya adjoining Cyrene, visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, Cretans and Arabs—we hear them speaking in our own tongues the wonderful works of God.’ So they were all amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, ‘Whatever could this mean?’ Others mocking said, ‘They are full of new wine.’”*
2. Three topics the Apostle Paul warned us in Scripture not to be ignorant about

- a. Israel and the place of the Jews in history and prophecy
 - i. **Romans 11:25** - *“For I do not desire, brethren, that you should be ignorant of this mystery, lest you should be wise in your own opinion, that blindness in part has happened to Israel until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in.”*
- b. The Rapture of the Church and End Time events
 - i. **1 Thessalonians 4:13, 16-17** - *“But I do not want you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning those who have fallen asleep, lest you sorrow as others who have no hope. ... For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord.”*
- c. The Holy Spirit and spiritual gifts
 - i. **1 Corinthians 12:1** - *“Now concerning spiritual gifts, brethren, I do not want you to be ignorant.”*
 - 1. Topics like spiritual gifts and the baptism of the Holy Spirit are non-salvation issues that should be discussed but should never cause division
 - a. **Ephesians 4:3** - *“...endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.”*

3. Waiting for the baptism of the Holy Spirit

- a. Just prior to His ascension into heaven, Jesus instructed His followers to “wait” for the baptism of the Holy Spirit
 - i. **Acts 1:4-5** - *“And being assembled together with them, He commanded them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to **wait** for the Promise of the Father, ‘which,’ He said, ‘you have heard from Me; for John truly baptized with water, but you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.’”*
- b. Jesus’ followers totaled about one hundred and twenty people at this time, including the eleven remaining disciples and Mary the mother of Jesus
 - i. The people did not know how long they would have to wait
 - 1. While they were waiting, Peter suggested that they select a replacement for Judas, casting lots to choose from two men, Joseph and Matthias; the lot fell to Matthias
 - a. This was unlikely to have been a directive from the Lord
 - i. Matthias is never mentioned in Scripture again
 - ii. God selected the next apostle Himself when he called Saul (who became Paul) in Acts 9
- c. On the day of Pentecost, ten days after Jesus’ ascension into heaven, Jesus’ followers received the baptism of the Holy Spirit

4. Historical background of Pentecost
 - a. *Pentecost* is **Shavuot** in Hebrew, meaning “Feast of Weeks”
 - b. Pentecost is seven full weeks and one day after the Feast of Firstfruits, for a total of fifty days
 - i. *Pentecost* in Greek means “fiftieth” day
 - c. Pentecost commemorated the giving of the law which Moses received from God on Mount Sinai
 - d. Pentecost was a celebration of the end of the wheat harvest
 - i. There would be an offering at the temple of two loaves of wheat bread made with leaven
 - ii. **Leviticus 23:16-17** - *“Count fifty days to the day after the seventh Sabbath; then you shall offer a new grain offering to the LORD. You shall bring from your dwellings two wave loaves of two-tenths of an ephah. They shall be of fine flour; they shall be baked with leaven. They are the firstfruits to the LORD.”*
 - iii. This was the only feast where the people were required to add leaven, which is symbolic in Scripture of sin
 - iv. The offering of the two loaves was a picture of God as the Lord of the harvest, and the ultimate harvest of souls that would come through the sacrifice of Jesus on the cross, enabling sinners to be saved
5. Why did God choose the Feast of Pentecost as the day to pour out His Spirit in this way?
 - a. God has been unveiling His plans for the world through the chronological order of the ancient Jewish feasts
 - i. Christ’s crucifixion occurred at Passover
 - ii. Christ’s resurrection occurred during the Feast of Firstfruits
 - iii. God poured out His Holy Spirit on the early Church Believers at Pentecost
 - iv. It is possible that the rapture of the Church could coincide with the Feast of Trumpets
 1. **1 Thessalonians 4:16** - *“For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first.”*
6. Contrasting the giving of the law and the giving of the Spirit
 - a. In the Old Testament, when God was giving the law to Moses on Mount Sinai, the Israelites became impatient and sinned against God by creating a golden calf to worship
 - i. As punishment, God commanded the tribe of Levi to go through the Israelite camp and kill their own people, and three thousand people died

1. **Exodus 32:28** - *“So the sons of Levi did according to the word of Moses. And about three thousand men of the people fell that day.”*
 - b. After God poured out His Spirit on the Believers in the New Testament in Acts 2, Peter preached the first evangelical message, and three thousand people were saved
 - i. **Acts 2:38-41** - *“Then Peter said to them, ‘Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is to you and to your children, and to all who are afar off, as many as the Lord our God will call.’ And with many other words he testified and exhorted them, saying, ‘Be saved from this perverse generation.’ Then those who gladly received his word were baptized; and that day about three thousand souls were added to them.”*
 - c. The law shows us how sinful we are, but it cannot save us
 - i. **2 Corinthians 3:6b** - *“...not of the letter but of the Spirit; for the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life.”*
 - d. Both an abundant life and eternal life come by the Spirit, not the law
 - i. **John 10:10b** - *“I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly.”*
 - ii. **John 3:16b** - *“...whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.”*
 1. Life is found in the Spirit through faith in Jesus Christ, not by the law
 - e. Pentecost in the New Testament was a picture of the need for salvation and God’s acceptance of sinners saved by grace
7. Three phenomena associated with Pentecost in Acts 2
- a. Audible
 - i. Sound as a mighty, rushing wind
 - ii. Examples of wind mentioned in reference to the Lord in Scripture:
 1. **Jeremiah 30:23** - *“Behold, the whirlwind of the LORD...”*
 2. **John 3:8** - *“The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear the sound of it, but cannot tell where it comes from and where it goes. So is everyone who is born of the Spirit.”*
 - b. Visual
 - i. Like tongues or flames of fire lighting on each person
 - ii. Examples of fire mentioned in reference to the Lord in Scripture:
 1. **Exodus 3:1-2** - *“Now Moses was tending the flock of Jethro his father-in-law, the priest of Midian. And he led the flock to the back of the desert, and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. And the Angel of the LORD appeared to him in a flame of fire from*

the midst of a bush. So he looked, and behold, the bush was burning with fire, but the bush was not consumed.”

2. [Exodus 13:21](#) - *“And the LORD went before them by day in a pillar of cloud to lead the way, and by night in a pillar of fire to give them light, so as to go by day and night.”*
3. [Exodus 19:18](#) - *“Now Mount Sinai was completely in smoke, because the LORD descended upon it in fire.”*
4. [Matthew 3:11](#) - *“I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance, but He who is coming after me is mightier than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.”*
5. [Hebrews 12:29](#) - *“For our God is a consuming fire.”*

c. Verbal

- i. People spoke in other languages (what is known as “tongues”)
- ii. *To be continued in Pastor Gary’s next sermon...*

Discussion Questions

1. Read [Acts 2:1-13](#) to provide a foundation for your Bible study time.
2. Discuss what happened in this passage. What might it have been like to be present for this event? (See #1 above)
3. What are the three topics about which the Apostle Paul warned us not to be ignorant? (See #2 above)
4. Why did the Jews celebrate Pentecost? (See #4d above)
5. Why did God choose the Feast of Pentecost as the day to pour out His Spirit in this way? (See #5 above)
6. Contrast the giving of the law in the Old Testament with the giving of the Spirit in the New Testament. (See #6a and #6b above)
7. Read [2 Corinthians 3:6b](#), [John 10:10b](#), and [John 3:16b](#). What is the purpose of the law? Where do we find access to both an abundant and eternal life? (See #6c and #6d above)
8. What does Pentecost in the New Testament represent? (See #6e above)
9. Discuss the audible and visible phenomena the followers of Jesus experienced in Acts 2. (See #7a and #7b above)

10. What ways have you experienced the Holy Spirit's presence in your life?

11. Close your meeting by allowing the Holy Spirit to lead your time of prayer.

* Unless noted, all Scriptures quoted are from the New King James Version (NKJV)