



Our Read-Ahead for: 16 April 2023

“The Holy Spirit Comes”

Monday: I will Not Leave You Orphaned (**John 14:18-24**)

Tuesday: Abide in Me (**John 15:1-7**)

Wednesday: The Coming of the Advocate (**John 16:1-11**)

Thursday: Raised Up and Freed from Death (**Acts 2:22-28**)

Friday: The Promise of the Spirit (**Acts 2:14-21**)

Saturday: The Promise Received (**Acts 2:29-36**)

Sunday: The Day of Pentecost (**Acts 2:1-13**)

The Holy Spirit Comes
Lesson Text: **Acts 2:1-13**
Bible Background: **Acts 2:1-36**
Devotional Reading: **John 15:1-7**

Keep in Mind: *They were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance. (Acts 2:4, KJV)*

Aim for Change

By the end of the lesson, we will **UNDERSTAND** that God wants all people to know His love, **APPRECIATE** the value of living by faith, and **COMMIT** to a closer walk with God.

In Focus

Today's story illustrates how the empowerment of the Holy Spirit at work in one faithful heart can reach out to lost, hurting souls and unite a community.

Focal Verses

Acts 2:1-13~KJV

1 When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all with one accord in one place.

2 Suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting.

3 There appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them.

4 They were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.

5 There were dwelling at Jerusalem Jews, devout men, out of every nation under heaven.

6 Now when this was noised abroad, the multitude came together, and were confounded, because that every man heard them speak in his own language.

7 They were all amazed and marveled, saying one to another, Behold, are not all these which speak Galilaeans?

8 How do we hear every man in our own tongue, wherein we were born?

9 Parthians, and Medes, and Elamites, and the dwellers in Mesopotamia, and in Judaea, and Cappadocia, in Pontus, and Asia,

10 Phrygia, and Pamphylia, in Egypt, and in the parts of Libya about Cyrene, and strangers of Rome, Jews and proselytes,

11 Cretes and Arabians, we do hear them speak in our tongues the wonderful works of God.

12 They were all amazed, and were in doubt, saying one to another, What does this mean?

13 Others mocking said, these men are full of new wine.”

The Lesson

I. The People, Places and Times

Pentecost. The origin of Pentecost precedes Jesus Christ. It's one of the seven feasts of Jehovah and one of the three major Pilgrimage Feasts. Pentecost, also called the “Feast of Harvest” and the “Feast of First-fruits”, is celebrated fifty days after Passover on the Jewish Sabbath. Pentecost is symbolically related to the Jewish holiday Shavuot or the Feast of Weeks, which celebrates Moses receiving the Ten Commandments on Mount Sinai. God presented these holy feasts to Moses; and the Israelites were required to observe them annually (Leviticus 23:5–21).

In the New Testament, Pentecost takes on additional meaning. Christians celebrate Pentecost as a commemoration of the descent of the Holy Spirit and the outpouring of the gifts of the Spirit. The parallel between Passover and Pentecost is apparent; Passover represents the Jews' freedom from Egyptian slavery, while Pentecost represents man's freedom from slavery to sin.

Background

The celebration of Pentecost, as depicted in Acts 2:1–21, was prophesied in the Old Testament by the prophet Joel (Joel 2:28–32). Some biblical scholars believe the Day of Pentecost marked the beginning of the Christian church. The celebration united Jews from many nations; sixteen are mentioned. Empowered by the Holy Spirit, the apostles, who were Galileans, preached the Gospel to the Jewish nations in their native languages.

In Depth

- 1. Manifestation of the Holy Spirit (Acts 2:1–3)** There were two important factors that existed on the Day of Pentecost: (1) the apostles were all gathered in one place, and (2) they were all in one accord. They knew beforehand this was going to happen, they were in complete agreement with it, they anticipated the Spirit's advent. Compliance with the Holy Spirit and with each other was necessary for the success of the events which were about to unfold.

The manifestation of the Holy Spirit was an audacious, supernatural event. The Holy Spirit arrived like a strong gush of wind. It was so loud it filled where they were sitting; it was heard and felt by everyone present. The surrounding area likely also heard the arrival of the Holy Spirit. However, to signify that this was a supernatural event, the fixation was on this specific place.

There was also visible evidence of the presence of the Holy Spirit in the form of what appeared to be flames that sat upon them. These flames, were like the flames on the burning bush Moses witnessed, they burned but did not consume the host (Exodus 3:2–5). In both cases, the flames represented the presence of the Spirit of God. At Pentecost, the flames were not unapproachable as in the bush in the wilderness. The flames sat on the head of each believer.

- 2. Filled with the Holy Spirit (Acts 2:4–5)** Any person who receives salvation also receives the Holy Spirit (Romans 8:9). However, to have the indwelling of the Holy Spirit and to be filled with the Spirit are two different things. After Jesus' death and resurrection, the apostles received the Holy Spirit (John 20:22), but the filling of the Spirit would take place on Pentecost. Upon being filled with the Spirit, the apostles spoke in tongues (Acts 2:4), and it caught the attention of a multitude of Jewish people who came for the festival. It was especially strange to them because they all heard their own languages being spoken.

- 3. Empowered by the Holy Spirit (Acts 2:6–12)** On the Day of Pentecost, the apostles were graced with the gift of speaking in tongues. In this event, these Galileans preached the Gospel of Jesus Christ in the native languages of the Jewish people. This was a miracle, an unexplainable and unlikely event that amazed and confused the crowd, and led them to inquire about this strange occurrence. It is simply beyond human comprehension.

- 4. Doubting the Holy Spirit (Acts 2:13)** On the Day of Pentecost, there were hecklers and sceptics. Hecklers, and the doubters in the crowd mocked the whole affair. They wanted to undermine the miracle they were witnessing and explain it away, claiming the apostles were drunk. The sceptics were probably as amazed and confused as everyone else.

Possibly to hide their own lack of understanding, they tried to explain a supernatural event as a human occurrence.

II. Take Aways

III. Closing Prayer