

Series: Acts

Sermon: Acts 2:1-13

**Passage: 2:1-13**

Illustration: "You're never gonna believe this, but..."

Need: The Holy Spirit has come to indwell the redeemed as Jesus promised and His power will enable us to represent Jesus to the lost around us.

### I. The Day (1:4-5, 8; 2:1)

- "Pentecost" = fiftieth. Jewish Feast of Weeks (Shavuot) - harvest feast 50 days after Passover Sabbath.
- Passover (14th) - Unleavened Bread (15th-21st) - Firstfruits (22nd) - Pentecost
- All were gathered - the company of about 120 (1:15)

### II. The Sights & Sounds (2:2-3)

- The sound of a mighty rushing wind & what looked like small pillars of fire resting on each of them.
- Both Hebrew & Greek use the same word for Spirit/spirit and wind. (John 3:8; Ezek. 37:9-14)
- In the OT fire denotes the divine presence: Burning bush (Ex. 3), Pillar of fire (Ex. 13), Mt. Sinai (Ex. 19), Consuming fire (Deut. 4 & Heb. 12)
- "This is the inauguration of a new work of God's grace among the sons of men, such s had not been seen in ages that had gone before." John Ritchie.
- Jesus's promised church is born (Matt. 16).
- 1 Cor. 12:13 - the baptism of the Holy Spirit; singular event for all believers.

### III. The Evidence (2:4-13)

- The newly indwelled believers were "filled" (controlled) by the Spirit within them.
- "Tongues" (vs 4 & 11) = (glossa) language not learned. "Language" (vs 8) = (dilektos) learned language.
- The Holy Spirit gave these believers the ability to communicate the "Mighty works of God" in languages they had never studied or learned. But each language was learned & understood by those in the crowd.
- This supernatural sign was evidence to the coming & presence of the Holy Spirit. (Acts 8 - Samaritans receive the HS, Acts 10 - first gentiles receive the HS, Acts 19 - disciples of John in Ephesus receive the HS) Jews were present at each occurrence. 1 Cor. 1:22
- This sign came from the Spirit's filling and not His baptism. Yet there are other instances of Spirit filling in Acts where the sign of tongues is not present - 4:8, 31; 7:55; 9:17; 13:9.
- Oasis Church understands these events in Acts to be limited "transitional" occurrences for the benefit of the Jews. Outside of Acts the NT does not indicate that new believers demonstrate this or other types of supernatural signs when they respond to Jesus and the gospel by faith. (see Appendix)
- The hearers were bewildered, amazed, astonished, perplexed - obviously supernatural.
- Some rejected the supernatural by claiming they were drunk.

### IV. "What does this mean for us?"

- God will always be right on time!
- The Holy Spirit is the common denominator of all the redeemed.
- When we submit to the Holy Spirit's control, He will work in ways that bewilder, amaze, astonish, and perplex the lost around us. But in ways that point directly to Jesus.

**\*Appendix**

On the issue of “tongues” in the NT (or any other debatable, non-essential issue)

1. What God has revealed in His Word is true, right, correct, & trustworthy. He means exactly what He says.
2. God can & will do whatever He chooses whenever He chooses.
3. God will always act in consistency with His own Word.
4. Brothers and sisters are to always act in love & grace when, in trying to understand & apply God’s Word, they disagree.
5. Some in the church over-emphasize the work of the Holy Spirit (excess).
6. Some in the church under-emphasize the work of the Holy Spirit (suppress).
7. On this & other non-essential issues it is very hard to “out run your raising.”
8. No individual, no denomination, no church has ALL the right answers theologically.
9. All experience(s) must filter through scripture, NOT the other way around.
10. Not everything done/avoided in the name of Jesus has His approval.