

Acts 2

Vv. 1 -13 Pentecost

Pentecost is the 50th day after Passover or Easter.

In Acts 1:8 Jesus promised the Holy Spirit to the disciples then ascended.

Since then, for 10 days the disciples have been waiting and praying.

With wind and fire the Spirit came to each of those gathered in prayer.

A word on wind, fire and the Holy Spirit – Genesis 1:2; Exodus 19:16-18; Acts 3:21

God's presence is made know with visible and audible manifestations

Greek pneuma; Hebrew ruah – both mean wind or Spirit.

All the characters in the birth narrative in Luke are filled with the Spirit, John the Baptist, Mary, Elizabeth, Zechariah and Simeon.

Once Jesus began his ministry, the Holy Spirit is said only to empower Jesus.

Now his followers are given this gift.

In the Old Testament, God's Spirit empowered prophets but not all – some received power and some did not.

At Pentecost, the Holy Spirit was universal; all received the power of the Spirit.

This was God's new creation – the Holy Spirit for all.

Who was present that day?

Thomas Long writes – not only was the group a diverse gathering but it was historically impossible. The Medes had been gone for several hundred years.

Perhaps Luke wanted us to understand that the creative power of the Spirit at Pentecost was transforming all people – past, present and future.

Peter's Sermon 14-41

Onlookers disparage those who receive the Spirit – they're drunk; or they are completely confused – what does this mean.

The disciples need to respond to the people.

And it is the one who denied Jesus, who failed so spectacularly is the one the Spirit leads to speak – Peter

Peter is the "poster boy" for the incredible work of the Holy Spirit. In fact the whole group is completely transformed by the Spirit.

The action of the crowd and the response by a disciple set a pattern for the rest of Acts. The church is confronted by a crowd, some of whom understand and some who do not. An apostle speaks, interpreting the gospel through a sermon.

Though there are exceptions, generally the speeches in Acts follow a pattern:

1. The coming of the kingdom is at hand.
2. The coming has taken place through the ministry, death and resurrection of Jesus.
3. Through the resurrection Jesus is exalted at the right hand of God as the messianic head of the new Israel.
4. The Holy Spirit in the church is the sign of Christ's present power and glory.
5. The messianic age will shortly reach its consummation in the second coming of Christ.
6. Forgiveness, the Holy Spirit and salvation come with repentance.

The crowd's response to Peter is immediate and specific – “what do we do?”

“Let yourselves be saved” rather than save yourself.

The Gospel Embodied in the Community verses 42-47

The community lives this way now:

1. They devote themselves to the apostle's teaching.
2. They live in fellowship
3. They gather around the table
4. They pray together