

# *Significant Lessons From The Seemingly Insignificant*

## #33 Ready For Pentecost

### THE DESCENT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT: Acts 2:1-4

And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place.

<sup>2</sup> And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting.

<sup>3</sup> And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them.

<sup>4</sup> And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.

1. Luke introduced the beginning of Jesus' earthly ministry with His baptism with the Spirit. He went out in the Power Of The Spirit. [Luke 3:21-22; Luke 4:14-15]
2. He paralleled the beginning of Jesus' heavenly ministry with the Holy Spirit baptism of His apostles. [Acts 2:1-4]
3. The same Holy Spirit who indwelt and empowered Jesus during His earthly ministry would now indwell and empower His apostles to fulfill their commission.

Acts 2:1a And when the day of Pentecost was fully come... [was being accomplished or fulfilled]

Greek- English lexicon: To arrive as the timely moment for an event to take place

- It didn't "just happen" on Pentecost. It happened on Pentecost to FULFILL its eternally determined destiny. Pentecost is the sovereign activity of God.
- The day God purposed to fulfill His promise of the coming of His Holy Spirit.
- The Holy Spirit came as the 3<sup>rd</sup> Person in the Godhead. He is God The Holy Spirit.
- The coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost was to indwell each believer, Jew or Gentile, and unite them into one.
  - ❖ Jewish believers received the baptism of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost.
  - ❖ Gentile believers received the baptism of the Holy Spirit in the home of Cornelius. [Acts 10]
- The Spirit was a preparation for service for all believers: get them ready to carry forth Christ's Gospel.
- Pentecost introduced the dispensation of the Holy Spirit. From Acts to Revelation, the Holy Spirit functions as the direct agent between God and man.
- It is a key event depicted early in Acts which sets the stage for what follows.
- This event was not brought about by the apostles and other believers.
- Those who experienced Pentecost and the filling of the Holy Spirit had been prepared for its arrival, even though they did not know exactly what it would be like.
- ❖ Jesus' teachings had prepared the way. Pentecost is the fulfillment of His promise.

John 14:26 But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you.

John 15:26 But when the Comforter is come, whom I will send unto you from the Father, even the Spirit of truth, which proceeds from the Father, he shall testify of me:

John 16:7 It is expedient for you that I go away: for if I go not away, the Comforter will not come unto you; but if I depart, I will send him unto you.

- ❖ God was preparing the way for a greater demonstration of His power in the hearts of men through the Holy Spirit.

Luke 24:52-53 And they worshipped him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy:

And were continually in the temple, praising and blessing God. Amen.

Wiersbe: "We must not conclude that this 10 day prayer meeting brought about the miracles of Pentecost or that we can experience 'another Pentecost.' Like Christ's death at Calvary, Pentecost was a once-for-all event that will not be repeated. The church may experience new fillings of the Holy Spirit, but this God-ordained day on His calendar will not be repeated."

Acts 2:1b They were ALL WITH ONE ACCORD in one place.

1. One accord = homothymadon = with one mind, with one passion

Blue Letter Bible: "A unique Greek word, used 10 of its 12 NT occurrences in Acts.

It helps us understand the uniqueness of the Christian community.

2. Homothymadon = 2 compound words = to rush along and in unison

"As the instruments of a great concert under the direction of a concert master, so the Holy Spirit blends the lives of members of Christ's body. God knits His church together with a variety of colors, flavors, strengths, visions, gifts, and callings. He brings them together with One Mind, One Accord, One Passion to make Him a glorious song."

- ❖ Their minds, affections, desires and wishes were concentrated in one object.
- ❖ Every man had the same end in view, the same one desire.
- ❖ There was no person uninterested; none unconcerned; none lukewarm.
- ❖ They were all in earnest. The Spirit of God came down to meet their united faith and prayer.

Acts 1:8 But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you

The Power Surge in Acts When the heart, mind and soul of believers reach a "point of unity" and when they are in harmony with God's setting, there will be a power surge, and things will happen.

1. Prayer & Supplication

Acts 1:14 These all continued with one accord in Prayer And Supplication, with the women, and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with His brethren.

2. Releasing of the Spirit of Fellowship & Communion

Acts 2:46 And they, continuing daily with one accord in the temple, breaking bread from house to house, did eat their meat with gladness and singleness of heart.

### 3. Praised God

Acts 4:24 And when they heard that, they lifted up their voice to God with one accord, and said, Lord, thou art God, which hast made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and all that in them is:

### 4. Experienced Miracles

Acts 5:12 And by the hands of the apostles were many signs and wonders wrought among the people; (and they were all with one accord in Solomon's porch.)

### 5. Power To Evangelize Samaria

Acts 8:5-8 Then Philip went down to the city of Samaria, and preached Christ unto them.

<sup>6</sup> And the people with one accord gave heed unto those things which Philip spake, hearing and seeing the miracles which he did. <sup>7</sup> For unclean spirits, crying with loud voice, came out of many that were possessed with them: and many taken with palsies, and that were lame, were healed.

<sup>8</sup> And there was great joy in that city.

Note: When the message of Christ and the Gospel arrived in an area, God multiplied the miracles to validate the message. [Acts 4:30, 14:3; II Cor. 12:12; Rom. 15:19]

Scripture shows that miracles diminished after the Gospel message gained acceptance.

### 6. Raised Up & Sent Out Missionaries

Acts 15:25 It seemed good unto us, being assembled with one accord, to send chosen men unto you with our beloved Barnabas and Paul,

The local church at Jerusalem sent "chosen and qualified" men to gain experience under experienced men.

Key Point: With One Accord Produces A Power Surge. These apostles had one passion: Jesus Christ. They were rushing along toward one goal: Praise Jesus Christ, Serve Him, Love His people, Bring others to Him, Glorify Him.

Results: Pagan powers are smitten. The lame are made to walk. The dead are raised to life. Thousands of souls are born again.

- Never before were men possessed with so great an impulse to speak out for Christ.
- Never before had there been such a readiness and voluntary willingness to suffer for Christ.
- Never before had a group so large known such enthusiastic and intimate fellowship.
- The world was to witness a new thing. Rather than deny Jesus Christ, the disciples went forward in Jesus' name even unto death.
- Their witness began in Jerusalem, branched out to Judea and Samaria and in time, to the uttermost part of the earth.
- How did this new constraint come?  
The Holy Spirit had come to dwell in them and endue them with power from on high.

Acts 2:1b They were all with one accord IN ONE PLACE.

1. Luke gives a basic, simple setting. The Spirit came upon them because it was the right time...Pentecost was fully come and it was the sovereign work of God.
  - ❖ Jesus Christ had fulfilled Passover on Nisan 14.
  - ❖ Jesus Christ had fulfilled First Fruits with His Resurrection from the dead.

❖ Feast of Weeks, Shavuot, is being fulfilled at Pentecost on day 50 after First Fruits. This was the ordained time for the sending of God the Holy Spirit.

2. They did not bring God down by their actions.

3. God came down unexpectedly. This was ALL God's doing.

4. Throughout the book of Acts, God sovereignly bestows His Spirit on whom He wills.

Acts 2:4 they began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.

Note: Other indications of God's sovereignty in bestowing the Spirit

Acts 2:2 And Suddenly a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind and filled all the house where they were Sitting.

1. Suddenly - The Spirit did not come after any effort on the part of the believers in Jerusalem. He came suddenly.

2. The Spirit came while they were sitting. Why does Luke tell us they were sitting? Perhaps it was because one usually sits when he is inactive or at rest.

The inference could be: they were not doing anything to induce the Spirit to come.

❖ They were obeying the Divine Command which was part of the preparation.

Acts 1:4 And, being assembled together with them, commanded them that they should not depart from Jerusalem, but wait for the promise of the Father, which, saith he, ye have heard of me.

❖ Their hearts being prepared for the 10 days of waiting were not spent in idleness.

Recall: Luke 24:52-53 And they worshipped him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy: And were continually in the temple, praising and blessing God. Amen.

Acts 1:14 "With one accord in prayer and supplication"

### The Spirit Arrives

Acts 2:1-2 And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. <sup>2</sup> And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting.

The events in Acts 2 when God poured out His Spirit to empower His small band of followers are the pivotal event in New Testament Christianity. God moved out of his old "House", the Temple, and moved into a new "House", the hearts of the believers.

Col. 2:9-10 For in Him dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily. And ye are complete in Him, which is the head of all principality and power:

The Feast of Pentecost, or Shavuot in Hebrew, was just starting in Jerusalem as the book of Acts begins. It was one of the 3 great pilgrim feasts that every Jewish male was required to attend [Deut. 16:16] in Jerusalem. Even though Luke does not explicitly state that the events of Acts 2 took place in the Temple courts, the story infers that location.

1. Luke 24:52-53 And they worshipped him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy: And were continually in the temple, praising and blessing God. Amen.

Where would these Jewish believers, who were continually in the Temple Courts anyway, have been on the day of the feast of Pentecost? They would have been at the Temple.

2. Acts 2:6-12 states that huge crowds of people from every nation gathered to hear Peter speak. Where would there have been room for great crowds of people, who were in Jerusalem for the Feast of Pentecost, during the time of day that the Temple services would have been held? It would have had to have been somewhere in the Temple area.
3. In Acts 2:15 Peter told the crowd gathered that it was 9:00 in the morning. This would have been the time for the morning Pentecost service in the Temple. Certainly the disciples and the crowd would have wanted to be present for the Pentecost services.
4. In Acts 2:2, the sound of a violent wind filled the whole house where they were sitting. The Temple is frequently called, "The House" in the Old Testament [II Samuel 7:5]. Acts 7:47, the Temple is called, "The House". They were sitting at the Temple!
5. In Acts 2:41, it says that 3,000 people were baptized in response to Peter's preaching. The only place in Jerusalem with that much water to baptize 3,000 people would have been at the southern entrance to the Temple, where there were located numerous "mikvah". These were ritual baths used by the worshipers to ceremonially cleanse themselves before entering the grounds of the Temple. [Luke 2:22; Acts 21:24] This area could accommodate the swollen masses of pilgrims that converged on the Temple during the feasts. There is evidence Pentecost happened in or around the southern stair entrance to the Temple grounds.

### The Spirit Arrives

Acts 2:1-4 And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place.<sup>2</sup> And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them.<sup>4</sup> And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost and began to speak with other tongues [languages], as the Spirit gave them utterance.

1. Note the brevity of this account. There is no emphasis on the sensational, no lengthy or embellished description of the unusual phenomenon.
2. Nothing is said about how those on whom the Spirit descended felt.
3. The emphasis: Those who witnessed the event & the occasion it brought for the proclamation of the Gospel.
4. The spectacular event was primarily for the edification of those who witnessed this miraculous time.
5. This is a unique event. Only here...
  - The sound of a mighty rushing wind
  - The appearance of something like tongues of fire being distributed on those present
  - A large gathering of devout Jews from various parts of the world
  - Those looking on hear the praises of God in their own native tongue or language.
  - An auditory and a visual manifestation accompany the baptism of the Holy Spirit

Acts 2:2 suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind,

Wind is a symbol of God's Spirit in OT & NT. Hebrew = ruah Greek = pneuma

1. Hebrew & Greek: Word for spirit is also the word for wind
  2. This was primarily a picture of invisible power which exerts incredible power.
  3. In Ezekiel 37:1-14 God commanded the prophet to prophesy to the winds to breathe on a valley of dry bones. When he did, the breath of life came into them.
- ❖ God said He will put His Spirit within His people and they would come to life.

Ezek. 37:4-6, 9-10 Again he said unto me, Prophecy upon these bones, and say unto them, O ye dry bones, hear the word of the LORD.<sup>5</sup> Thus saith the Lord GOD unto these bones; Behold, I will cause breath to enter into you, and ye shall live: <sup>6</sup> And I will lay sinews upon you, and will bring up flesh upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and ye shall live; and ye shall know that I am the LORD. Then said he unto me, Prophecy unto the wind, prophecy, son of man, and say to the wind, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live. <sup>10</sup> So I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived, and stood up upon their feet, an exceeding great army.

4. These four winds, which the prophet calls breath, are the divine breath of the Holy Spirit, the breath that caused the first man to live, when "the Lord God formed man of the dust of ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul" [Gen. 2:7].
5. Job 33:4 The spirit of God hath made me, and the breath of the Almighty hath given me life.
6. John 3: Jesus told Nicodemus he must be born of the Spirit.

John 3:8 The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear the sound thereof, but cannot tell whence it cometh, and whither it goeth: so is every one that is born of the Spirit.

7. The Holy Spirit is a mighty power. We cannot see Him; we can only see His effects.
  - One of His most powerful effects: He imparts spiritual life to those who were dead in their sins.
  - Energizing power that quickens men. Apart from Him men remain spiritually dead
8. Seems the sound like a mighty rushing wind signaled the descent of the Holy Spirit in a mighty way.
  - The sound came from heaven.

Pentecost introduced the dispensation of the Holy Spirit. From Acts to Revelation, the Holy Spirit functions as the direct agent between God and man. Pentecost introduced Him in a new way.

1. Holy Spirit was active before Pentecost in the Old Testament.
  - Gen. 6:3 Striving against sin
  - Ex. 28:3, 31:2-5; 35:21-35 Endued people with skill
  - Judges 3:10, 34; I Sam. 10:6 Empowered people for service
  - Num. 24:2; II Sam. 23:2; II Chron. 20:14 Caused men to speak God's message

The Holy Spirit came as the Third Person in the Godhead, co-equal with the Father and the Son.

- He is called *God*.      Isa. 6:8,9; Acts 28:25-26; Jer. 31:31-34; Heb. 10:15; Acts 5:1-4  
II Cor. 3:18
- He possesses the essential attributes of *God*.
- The Holy Spirit is eternal.    Heb. 9:14
- He is omniscient                I Cor. 2:9-11
- He is omnipresent              Ps. 139:7-10
- He is omnipotent                Job 26:13
- His coming was the presence of the Living *God* to abide with us forever.