



**Acts – Can I get a Witness?
Wk. 4 The Events of Pentecost
By Pastor Jody May 09/04/2022**

Acts 2:1-13 ESV

The Coming of the Holy Spirit

2 When the day of Pentecost arrived, they were all together in one place. **2** And suddenly there came from heaven a sound like a mighty rushing wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. **3** And divided tongues as of fire appeared to them and rested on each one of them. **4** And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance.

5 Now there were dwelling in Jerusalem Jews, devout men from every nation under heaven. **6** And at this sound the multitude came together, and they were bewildered, because each one was hearing them speak in his own language. **7** And they were amazed and astonished, saying, "Are not all these who are speaking Galileans?" **8** And how is it that we hear, each of us in his own native language? **9** Parthians and Medes and Elamites and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, **10** Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, **11** both Jews and proselytes, Cretans and Arabians—we hear them telling in our own tongues the mighty works of God." **12** And all were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, "What does this mean?" **13** But others mocking said, "They are filled with new wine."

[INTRODUCTION] There was this game that was very popular in my day back in school and for me it just never got old!

The first form of this game I could remember was called **"PSYCHE"**! It is that family favorite game where you would work hard at making someone crave something you had, they would beg, you acted like you gave in, and when they reached for coveted item you yell, PSYCHE! The name of the game has changed over the years to most recently but it's still the same. You should try that sometime with your kids, dad can I have \$5 to go to the store, and you get to answer with a smile, "well sure, NOOOOOO!" It's called **bait-n-switch**, you think you have a chance at getting something good and then it's like **PSYCHE!**



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Kind of like being told that getting the COVID vaccine would keep you from getting the disease, "**PSYCH**", no it only lessens symptoms in some people and won't make you sick IF you are already healthy and at least 30?!

No one likes to be the victim of bait-n-switch. Well, have I got good news for you today! You see we serve a living God, that has never pulled a bait a switch on anyone, and the thing that **we desire the most**, to be ok with God, to find a way to **deal with our sins**, our God promised He would fix it, and He HAS delivered!

In the days of the prophets hundreds of years before the book of Acts was ever written God promised that He would resurrect, bring back to life a spiritually dead people, a sinful people, His people, and He would do it by sending His Spirit upon them. The Prophet Ezekiel wrote this from his captivity in Babylon (592-570 BC) to encourage the Jews and to let them know that better days were ahead.

Ezekiel 37:9-10;13-14 ESV

⁹Then he said to me, "Prophesy to the breath; prophesy, son of man, and say to the breath, Thus says the Lord GOD: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe on these slain, that they may live." ¹⁰So I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived and stood on their feet, an exceedingly great army.

¹³And you shall know that I am the LORD, when I open your graves, and raise you from your graves, O my people. ¹⁴And I will put my **Spirit** within you, and you shall **live**, and I will place you in your own land. Then you shall know that I am the LORD; I have spoken, and I will do it, declares the LORD."

Then shortly after this proclamation upon the return of the exiles (520 BC) Joel makes this great statement.

Joel 2:28 & 32 ESV

The LORD Will Pour Out His Spirit

²⁸ "And it shall come to pass afterward,
that I will pour out my **Spirit** on all **flesh**;
your sons and your daughters shall prophesy,



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your old men shall dream dreams,
and your young men shall see visions.

³² And it shall come to pass that **everyone** who **calls** on the **name** of the **LORD** shall be **saved**.

God was going to **NOT JUST** save the Jews, He was broadening it to include **all the nations (EVERYONE/ALL FLESH)**! The Spirit of God would enter into the man causing those individuals to see Jesus, witness His sacrifice, and believe He took the penalty for our sins, and those that called on Him show they have indeed been saved!

This is definitely good news. Here is the main point of the passage today, and friends you would do well to thank God and praise Him for this for the rest of your life, knowing that it was by Grace Alone are you saved!

Main Thought for the day:

The Gospel is for the Nations.

2,000 years ago on Pentecost, in that upper room, when God fulfilled His promise and commitment to all mankind. He sent His spirit, no **bait-n-switch**, no game of "**PSYCH**," just the offer of Salvation to people who were to be saved by His Spirit and all required of us was Faith Alone...

So that you and I would know that the promise had come, God provided not just Luke's historical account by eyewitnesses, but he recorded the specific signs in this story so you too would come to believe the promise had come. It was recorded and then preserved for you, to show you that the same Spirit that came 2 millennia ago, is still here and He is the one that is still saving us!

I know this for sure this morning, if you can hear my voice that is because God desired to have you here, because He wants to do something in your life, and it will happen one of two ways today. There will either be an increase of faith in you because His Spirit is already upon you, or He can breathe life into a dead heart giving them His Spirit which is shown by the calling out to Jesus to



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save them. Our God does not lie He is not a God of deception, He leaves the bait-n-switch to people who play at politics.

Just so you know I am not lying about that, these Signs today we are going to look at will show the Spirit has come and that He is here with us now. They will be: 1st signs that could not be ignored, 2nd signs that bring out the devout, and 3rd signs that reveal God's plans of redemption.

1. Signs that can't be **IGNORED!**

The Coming of the Holy Spirit

2 When the day of **Pentecost** arrived, they were all together in one place. **2** And suddenly there came from heaven a **sound** like a mighty rushing wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. **3** And divided tongues as of fire **appeared** to them and rested on each one of them. **4** And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to **speak** in other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance.

Pentecost is a holiday, one of the **3 major feasts** days that Jews celebrated. Just like we have Thanksgiving and then a month later we feasts on Christmas and then usually most Christians feast on Easter. For the Jews this was there second big party of the year.¹

It comes on the 50th day after Passover and it celebrates the presentation of the first sheaf reaped of the barley harvest. Jews back in that day also called it, "**The Feast of Weeks**" (Ex. 34:22; Deut. 16:10). It was also called, "**The Day of the Firstfruits**" (Num. 28:26; Ex. 23:16) and symbolized the importance of bringing to God exactly that, the firstfruits of what God had given the Jewish people, the inheritance of their land.²

It has also been noted that this day possibly symbolized the day that God gave the law, to the people through His OT representative Moses, at Mt. Sinai (Ex. 19:1). That is all to say this was an **important day** for Jews to **review** their

¹ Jeremiah K. Garrett, *3 Jewish Feasts of the Old Testament You Should Know*, (Sept. 15, 2014), <https://seedbed.com/3-jewish-feasts-old-testament-know/>, Web Sept. 01, 2022.

² F.F. Bruce, *The Book of Acts, Revised Ed.* (Grand Rapids, Michigan: Eerdmans Pub., 1988), 49.



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covenants with God, how to be as His people through the law, how to worship through proper offerings, and how to remember that without God they would not be there at all, still lost in the wilderness without a home.

It is this day that God has set up, He waited on, to send His Spirit, so that people would know that the things in the OT, the law, the observances, the practices and beliefs all pointed to a better day, where God would no longer be withheld from His people by their own sin.

The **first sign** is the day on which the Spirit comes, **Pentecost**. God always does a thing with sovereign intent and when you study the scriptures close enough you will see why.

Jesus is killed on Passover as the last Passover lamb. That was not a coincidence, we have preached that before. He times His triumphant entry just days before His crucifixion. On that Friday there would be in the temple priests that were slaughtering lambs and on that same day He would be slaughtered by Jews and Gentiles alike to be a once and for all sacrifice. Now **50 days** later the **fruit** of Jesus labor is produced.

Jesus equated the gift of His life's blood as the way in which the New Covenant, the promises of Ezekiel and Joel, will be offered. **Luke 22:20** - *²⁰ And likewise the cup after they had eaten, saying, "This cup that is poured out for you is the new covenant in my blood."*

His blood initiated the New Covenant by which we receive a new heart ([Jer 31:31-34](#); [Ezek. 36:26-27](#)), which is the sign that the Spirit of God has come upon you. This was the **once and for all** Pentecost, to point out that the fruit of Jesus' labor has matured, it has been reaped, and it has produced the Salvation for all men, **Regeneration**. The Mosaic Covenant/Law also being observed that day had been upheld perfectly by Christ so that His sacrifice was enough, the Old Covenant of Works (law) was accomplished and again the fruit of that labor was the Spirit.

These are no coincidences these were plans initiated by God to show you that Jesus' earthly work was complete.



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Now, quickly please note that along with Historical signs, that can be tracked in scripture God provides physical signs that people could notice.

sound like a mighty rushing wind,
divided tongues as of fire **appeared** to them
speak in other tongues

These were things that if you were out of the practice of Judaism, say another person from a different land you would at least notice these signs, signs that can't be ignored. There was sound like a mighty rushing wind, appearance of tongues of fire and they could hear these other languages.

Without going into too much detail these are familiar signs of God's presence in Spirit form that we see all throughout the OT. God is always showing up in Spirit like fire or wind (burning bush, pillar of fire to lead at night, fire at Mt. Sinai, noise like thunder, lots of other experiences by the prophets hearing wind blow by). Physical signs of something happening in the spiritual world that can't be explained, things that everyone can see and that cannot be ignored.

[Illustration] Listen I just encountered an unsupernatural event the other night that I knew could be explained but I couldn't ignore that!

These signs don't happen anymore though, that is over. This was for a special time, **a once in history event**, the Spirit has arrived and has never left. It was recorded for you for this reason, **stop doubting God's presence and move with commitment, JUMP!**

[CHALLENGE] Many of us though, have this problem we are still waiting for a sign to happen to tell us what to do. We wish we still had the Lots (dice) like last week so we can roll seven. We even do silly things like test God, which we should not do (Deut. 6:16), if I turn the corner and the light is green it means I should call that person, or if I can find my keys in the next 5 minutes it must mean that God wants... Look we all do silly things like that from time to time **but that is not living by the Spirit**. The Spirit has come, the signs have been



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given, now it is up to you: **(Review)** be around people that see Jesus like you do, it is up to you to read the Bible to understand the story of redemption, and then you are to **believe the Spirit is with you, and JUMP!**

God is not going to pull away from you and be like PSYCH! He doesn't do that, He gave you His Spirit now go and enjoy Him in your life. Now let's look at this second sign that demonstrates the Gospel is for all nations.

2. Signs that bring out the DEVOUT MEN.

⁵Now there were dwelling in Jerusalem Jews, **devout** men from every nation under heaven. ⁶And at this sound the multitude came together, and they were bewildered, because each one was hearing them speak in his own language.

Real quick let's look at the men that just happen to be nearby when God starts to move, when His Spirit, is stirred up! There were Jews that were devout.

Devout - 2327 εὐλαβής (*eulabēs*), ἐς (*es*): adj.; ≡ Str 2126; TDNT 2.751–

LN 53.8 **pious**, devout, godly, God-fearing (Lk 2:25; Ac 2:5; 8:2; 22:12+)³

It means they were careful to observe God's law, they were reverent, had a healthy respect for God. Luke uses the same word to describe the men that buried Stephen the first martyr of the early church: "*Devout men buried Stephen and made great lamentation over him.*" (Acts 8:2)

These would have been men that did not fear Saul, nor the Sanhedrin, the ruling class of Jews, but they wanted to treat Stephen's body with respect as a fellow Jew. They were more concerned with pleasing God and not pleasing men.

Luke also used this word to describe the man Simeon, who was waiting to see the Messiah, and when Jesus was presented at the temple as a baby, he was blessed with seeing him, and died a happy man.

³ Swanson, J. (1997). [Dictionary of Biblical Languages with Semantic Domains: Greek \(New Testament\)](#) (electronic ed.). Oak Harbor: Logos Research Systems, Inc.



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These types of spiritual leaders were men that took God worship very seriously. It means these men in Jerusalem at the time of Pentecost weren't just there for holiday festivities, they were actively engaging in the holiday as worshippers of God, celebrating and offering their firstfruits of the harvest season at the temple. They were serious enough that they came from miles away, long distances from their homes. **Religion was not a show for them, it was something to be lived out.**

God had chosen these men to be in Jerusalem at this time so that they would begin the process of taking the Gospel into the nations for they were from the nations. That's what the word means there in the text,

Nation - ἔθνος (*ethnos*). n. neut. **nation, people**. *A body of persons united by kinship, culture, and common traditions.*⁴

These were men that represented Jews that had been displaced and were now speaking the languages and sharing the customs of those they lived around, while remaining devout. Again, this is no coincidence this is very deliberate.

This is what we witnessed in the book of Titus over the summer. That church on Crete was birthed by some of these men here at Pentecost. God is very particular that when He begins new works, works that are accompanied by the power of the HS, **He supplies for that work devout men** that take their worship seriously. This is definitely a sign that shows the Gospel is for all the nations.

[CHALLENGE] Family, today let this be a challenge for you as well. Perhaps you have wondered in your life what could you be doing for God, what is your niche in the Kingdom, how do you help in the church? Could it be that God is waiting on you to **develop a sense of devotion to Him**? Are you living in such a way that people notice that religion is not something you play at, your **FAITH is a way of life!** Are you waiting for Him to bless you first with a special purpose, before you take your purpose of living for His glory alone seriously?

⁴ Minard, M. (2014). [Gentiles](#). D. Mangum, D. R. Brown, R. Klippenstein, & R. Hurst (Eds.), *Lexham Theological Wordbook*. Bellingham, WA: Lexham Press.



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Family the more you pursue Him the more you will find Him (Luke 11:9), again stop waiting for a sign. The only sign you will get you have received, and it was the picture of Jesus' devotion to the Father (**High and Lifted Up**), and that's all you need. He showed the world it was worth every drop of His blood, it is enough, live for Him, be devoted for He has been eternally devoted to you.

3. Signs that demonstrate GOD'S REDEMPTION!

⁷And they were amazed and astonished, saying, "Are not all these who are speaking Galileans?"

Galileans, that is code for wrong side of the track people, uncultured, uncivilized, uneducated people, they were probably wearing MAGA hats. These were not city folk; they lived out in the country and did jobs that city folk stayed away from. You see God's redemption was not about starting with the rich, the favored, and the wise. Jesus was the cornerstone that was rejected and had become the stumbling block of the elite. Jesus brought the Kingdom through honest people that were untainted with societal perks.

That's another great thing about the gospel, it doesn't see income, ethnicity, birth parents, past deeds as a qualifier for Salvation. To God all men are sinners, and the Spirit goes where it wants, and will elect who He wants, to save by the will of the Father when He wants (Jn 3). All come to God the same way, **broken**, and all experience the same thing, **restoration**. The Gospel makes all men equal, that is God's **Redemption**. God's Spirit, Joel said, was for all men, the sign of the Spirit is this type of redemption.

⁸And how is it that we hear, each of us in his own native language? ⁹Parthians and Medes and Elamites and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, ¹⁰Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, ¹¹both Jews and proselytes, **Cretans** and Arabians—we hear them telling in our **own tongues** the **mighty works** of God."



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As you can see these devoted men, were from all over the place. From the North, South, East, and West. The unbelievable thing was they were hearing the disciples speak in their native tongues.

This is no guttural, undiscernible, mumblings as can be practiced in some denominations of today, these are actual languages with specific dialects to multiple different regions. These verses have been taken out of context by some to say that speaking in tongues is a sign of Salvation, but in such churches, they never offer a translation for they are not actual languages. And as Paul stated in

1 Corinthians 14:27-28 ESV

If any speak in a tongue, let there be only two or at most three, and each in turn, and let someone interpret. ²⁸ But if there is no one to interpret, let each of them **keep silent** in church and speak to himself and to God.

AND it is not just the fact that they were speaking in different languages but that they were proclaiming God's plan of Redemption, the Gospel. They were proclaiming the Mighty Works of God.

Mighty Works - μεγαλειον (*megaleion*), ου (*ou*), τό (*to*): n.neu. [BAGD adj.][served by 3483]; ≡ Str 3167–LN 76.8 **mighty act.**, wonders, powerful deeds (Ac 2:11+; Lk 1:49 v.r. NA26)⁵

The very first thing that God's Spirit proclaims, are the mighty works of the OT, Creation, fall, flood, redemption through Noah, a new line, God's redistribution at Babel to keep down concentrated sin, calls a people to bear His name, promises made to Abraham that he is the first of many, and it goes on and on and we will see that whole story when we get to Stephen's sermon. The Spirit proclaims for all that would hear the great works of a steadfast and faithful God.

The Spirit wants to talk about God not about you, He wants to point out God's greatness not man's achievements, He wants to encourage you with the goodness of God seen in what He has already done in the Son, so you can trust in His blessings tomorrow. If you want to know where the Spirit is, if you

⁵ Swanson, J. (1997). [Dictionary of Biblical Languages with Semantic Domains: Greek \(New Testament\)](#) (electronic ed.). Oak Harbor: Logos Research Systems, Inc.



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want to know if the people of a certain church are regenerated, they will not be able to stop talking about the Great Works of God!

Can you picture the scene it's almost impossible to imagine, the day, the sound, the sight, the foreign dialects rattling off at the same time the Gospel of a resurrected man, who came to die for sinners and has set men free. Then you have to imagine the overwhelming joy and elation of the disciples who were receiving this power it must have been a site! The promise of God has come true, His Spirit has come. Yes, it would have caused quite a scene!

God was redeeming lower to upper class people of all ethnicities to send them back out in the world so all men would here! But as great as this was, of course you will have nay-sayers, just like bots and fake twitter accounts that try to stir up dissension.

[CHALLENGE/APPLICATION]

4. How to answer amazement and silence the critics; how to deal with the signs.

¹² And all were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, "What does this mean?" ¹³ But others mocking said, "They are filled with new wine."

First, we **can't do anything** about people who **say we're crazy**. As you will see in Acts the Apostles were never swayed by anyone's opinion about them, they weren't politically correct, and they endured all types of public berating and beatings. Point is you don't worry about the critics; people will talk, let them talk.

Second, you **build on the amazement** of those that want to **see more**. The way that faith grows is that God wants us to take on the hard challenges. If the church has nothing to give as a testimony for their faith, then what are we calling people to?



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So, here are three things we can do right now to build on what God has already put in our life. If you know Jesus, then you should be in a constant state of His goodness and love in your life, let's build on it:

- Let's do something challenging and send out our own missionary.
- Let's do something different and support biblical interpretation.
- Let's act on faith and prepare for the future, and take Spanish...

Family, today God has sent us the Spirit, and He has sent Him so that we may share with others the Mighty Works of His Son who has brought Salvation to the World. Let's do our part and add to the amazement of those coming to know our God.

[PRAYER]

[COMMUNION]

[BENEDICTION]

Go in the name of the Father, that has sent us the Spirit as He promised to reveal His Mighty Works

Go in the name of the Son, that revealed to us the greatness of God in His work culminating in His sacrifice.

Go in the name and power of the Holy Spirit, and be devout followers of Christ, be constantly amazed, and give all people the Gospel.