

## **STUDYING THE BOOK OF ACTS** **IN SMALL GROUP DISCUSSIONS**

### **Lesson 3 - The Holy Spirit Comes at Pentecost - [Acts 2:1-13](#)**

Read the following verses in the Last Days Bible or a translation of your choice. Then discuss the questions that follow. Questions should be studied by each individual before your discussion group meets.

Materials may be copied and used for Bible study purposes. Not to be sold.

#### ***The Coming of the Holy Spirit***

**2** When it became full daylight on the day of Pentecost,\* the believers were all in peaceful harmony\* in one place.

\*Acts 2:1 – “The day of Pentecost.”\* The Feast of Pentecost, the firstfruits harvest festival, one of the three great feasts of the Jews, takes place 50 days after Passover.

“Peaceful harmony,”\* that is, *one accord*.

**2** And suddenly, down from the sky came a thundering sound like the roaring of a powerful tornado, and it filled the whole house\* where they were sitting.

\*Acts 2:2 – “And it filled the whole house,” that is, *building*.

**3** Then they saw what looked like tongues of fire that divided and came to rest upon each one of them!

**4** And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in languages\* they had never learned, as the Spirit gave them the words.

\*Acts 2:4 – “And began to speak in languages\* they had never learned.” The English term for “languages” is *tongues*. Speaking in tongues is an inspired utterance given by the Holy Spirit, whereby the spirit of the believer and the Holy Spirit is joined in verbal praise and/or prophecy (Acts 19:6). Speaking in tongues is used by the believer to speak to God (1 Cor. 14:2), at the level of one’s spirit (1 Cor. 14:14), for the purpose of praying (1 Cor. 14:14), blessing God with your spirit (1 Cor. 14:16), and praising by giving thanks to God (1 Cor. 14:17). Speaking in tongues or *glossalalia* was considered by the early New Testament believers as a sign of the baptism in the Holy Spirit (See Acts 2:4; Acts 10:45-47; Acts 19:6). In Acts 2 “other tongues” can take the meaning of foreign languages or ecstatic utterances as described in I Corinthians 12-14. In favor of the latter interpretation there was the accusation of drunkenness (Acts 2:15). Ecstatic utterances may have included foreign expressions or the Holy Spirit causing people to hear in their own languages about the wonderful things God had done (Acts 2:8, 11).

**5** Staying in Jerusalem at that time were godly Jews from every nation on earth.

<sup>6</sup>And when they heard the sound of what was happening, crowds of these Jews converged on the place. And they were stunned,\* because each of them heard these people speaking in his own language.

\*Acts 2:6 – “They were stunned,”\* that is, *confounded, bewildered, surprised*.

<sup>7</sup>Amazed and astonished, they said to each other, “Look, aren’t all these who are speaking from Galilee?”

<sup>8</sup>“How is it, then, that each of us is hearing them speak in our own native language?”

<sup>9</sup>“We’re here from Parthia, Media, and Elam. Others are from Mesopotamia, Judea, Cappadocia, Pontus, the province of Asia,\*

\*Acts 2:9 – “The province of Asia,” that is, *Western Turkey*.

<sup>10</sup>and from both Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the district of Libya around Cyrene. There are also visitors here from Rome, Crete, and Arabia (both Jews and converts to Judaism).

<sup>11</sup>“And yet we are all hearing them tell of the great things God has done, in our various native languages!”

<sup>12</sup>And they all continued to be amazed and perplexed, asking one another, “What’s the meaning of all this?”

<sup>13</sup>But others began to laugh and ridicule. “They’ve just had too much new wine,” they sneered.

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

### Lesson 3 - The Holy Spirit Comes at Pentecost - [Acts 2:1-13](#)

32. What was celebrated on the day of Pentecost? ([2:1](#))
33. What group of people was gathered together? ([2:1](#))
34. Where did a violent wind come from? ([2:2](#))
35. What did the followers of Christ hear and see? ([2:2-3](#))
36. What was the importance of the wind and fire? ([2:2-4](#))
37. When the Holy Spirit filled the believers, what did they do? ([2:4](#))

38. Who was staying in Jerusalem? ([2:5](#))
39. How did the God-fearing Jews visiting Jerusalem react when they heard Christians speaking their languages? ([2:6-11](#))
40. What languages were the Jews from Galilee speaking? ([2:9-11](#))
41. What was the topic of conversation among the crowds? ([2:11](#))
42. Besides being amazed, how did the crowd react to the unusual happening they witnessed? ([2:12-13](#))

#### **Lesson 4 - Peter Addresses the Crowd - [Acts 2:14-41](#)**

##### ***Peter Speaks to the Crowd***

<sup>14</sup>Then Peter stood up with the eleven other apostles, and with a loud and clear voice he said, “My fellow Jews, those of you who live here in Jerusalem, and all others, listen to me. Let me explain what’s happened.

<sup>15</sup>“These people are not drunk, as some of you claim. After all, it’s only nine o’clock in the morning!

<sup>16</sup>“But this is what God had the prophet Joel speak of when he said:

<sup>17</sup> This is what God says will happen in the last days. “I will pour out My Spirit upon people in all nations. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your young men will see visions, and your old men will have dreams.

<sup>18</sup>Yes, in those days I will pour out My Spirit on My bondservants, both men and women, and they will prophesy.

<sup>19</sup>And I will cause wonders to appear in the sky above, and signs on the earth below. There will be blood and fire and billowing clouds of smoke.

<sup>20</sup>The sun will be semidarkened, and the moon will become blood-red. All this will happen before the coming of the great and glorious Day of the Lord.

<sup>21</sup>And it will be that whoever will turn from his sins and call out to the Lord for mercy and forgiveness\* will be saved.” (*Joel 2:28-32*)

\*Acts 2:21 – “Call out to the Lord for mercy and forgiveness.”\* Literally, *call upon the name of the Lord*.

<sup>22</sup> “People of Israel,” Peter continued, “listen to me! Concerning Jesus of Nazareth, God proved that He was a Man sent from Him by the miracles, signs, and wonders which He did through Him among you. All of you know this.

23“This Man was handed over to you by the definite plan and foreknowledge of God. And using the hands of godless men, you took Him and put Him to death by nailing Him to a cross.

24“But God raised Him back to life again, delivering Him from the agony of death, because it was not possible for death to hold Him in its power.

25“And here’s what David revealed the Messiah would say and do when all this happened:

‘I know the Lord is with Me all the time. And because He is right here beside Me, I have no reason to be shaken up with fear or concern.

26So My heart rejoices and My tongue overflows with praise. And even more than that, My body will rest in hope.

27Because You won’t leave My soul in Hades, nor leave the body of Your Holy One in the grave to putrefy.

28You have shown Me the paths that lead to life, and You will fill Me with joy with Your presence.’ (*Psalm 16:8-11*)

29“Fellow Israelites, let me point out some simple facts about the patriarch David who wrote this. He wasn’t speaking about himself, because he is both dead and buried, and his tomb is still with us today.

30“But because he was a prophet, and knowing that God had solemnly promised him under oath that from a descendant of his own physical body He would raise up the Messiah to sit on his throne,

31David was able to look ahead and speak about the resurrection of the Messiah. He knew that the soul of Messiah would not be left by God in Hades, nor would God allow His body to decay in the grave.

32“God has raised this Jesus back to life again! We are all witnesses of this fact.\*

*\*Acts 2:32 – “We are all witnesses of this fact.”\* ... We saw Him several times, and talked to Him, touched Him, and ate and drank with Him after His resurrection!*

33“So, having been exalted and seated at the right hand of God, and having been given the Holy Spirit, just as the Father had promised, He has now poured out this which you are both seeing and hearing.

34“Now David did not ascend into the heavens, but he was the one who also said: The Lord God said to my Lord, “Sit here at My right hand

35until I put Your enemies under Your feet as a footstool.” (*Psalm 110:1*)

36“So let everyone in Israel know, without a doubt, that God has made this Jesus, the One you crucified, to be both your *sovereign* Lord and the promised Messiah!”\*

\*Acts 2:36 – “Messiah,”\* or *Christ*.

37When the crowd heard this, they were deeply remorseful,\* and they questioned Peter and the other apostles, “Men and brothers,” they said, “what should we do now?”

\*Acts 2:37 – “They were deeply remorseful,” that is, *cut to the heart, pierced in the heart, convicted deeply*.

38“Each one of you must repent\* and be baptized\* in the name of Jesus\* the Messiah, so that your sins may be forgiven,” Peter replied. “Then you too will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

\*Acts 2:38 – “Each one of you must repent.”\* Literally “change your mind,” in respect to sin, or from sin, and in the direction of God. Peter is following the teaching of both John the Baptist (Matt. 3:1-2) and Jesus (Matt. 4:17) in making repentance the first step to the new life.

“Be Baptized.” Christian baptism differs from proselyte baptism (required for entrance into Judaism) in that it is not self-administered. It differed from John’s baptism in being “in the name of Jesus Christ,” and in symbolizing the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus. It conveyed the convert’s death to his pre-Christian life of sin and his rising from the grave of water to walk in newness of life (Romans 6:3-6). It could be administered by a deacon (Acts 8:13), a layman (Acts 9:17-18; Acts 10:48) an apostle (1 Cor. 1:14-16), or by any Christian (Matt. 28:19).

“In the Name of Jesus Christ.” All that Jesus stands for, including His authority, teaching and His life.

39“Because God’s promise is to you and to your children, and even to all those in distant lands and times, to all whom the Lord our God will call.”

40He continued to earnestly advise and urgently warn them at great length, finally saying, “I plead with you: Save yourselves from this immoral generation!”\*

\*Acts 2:40 – “Save yourselves from this immoral generation!”\* That is, *perverse, corrupt, or evil generation*.

41Then those who gladly received his message were baptized. About 3,000 people were added to the number of Christ’s followers that day.

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

### Lesson 4 - Peter Addresses the Crowd - [Acts 2:14-41](#)

43. When Peter stood up to speak, who stood up with him? ([2:14](#))
44. Whom did Peter address and what command did he give them? ([2:14](#))
45. What was Peter’s defense? ([2:15](#))

46. What were the believers experiencing? ([2:16-21](#))
47. Why did Peter quote from [Joel 2](#)? ([2:17-21](#))
48. What did Peter say about Jesus of Nazareth? ([2:22-24](#))
49. How was God in control of Jesus' life, death, and resurrection? ([2:22-24](#))
50. How did Peter explain Christ's work as Messiah? ([2:25-35](#))
51. What testimony of the apostles did Peter give? ([2:32](#))
52. Who sent the Holy Spirit? ([2:32-33](#))
53. How did the hearers respond to Peter's words? ([2:37](#))
54. What did Peter tell his audience to do? ([2:38-40](#))
55. What happened to those who accepted Peter's message? ([2:41](#))
56. What effect did Peter's sermon have? ([2:41](#))
57. How many were added to the fellowship of believers that day? ([2:41](#))

## **Lesson 5 - The Fellowship of the Believers - [Acts 2:42-47](#)**

### ***Life Among the Lord's Followers***

<sup>42</sup>And they were unwavering in their constant attention to the teaching of the apostles. They also fellowshiped together, and shared their meals together in fellowship and in prayer.

<sup>43</sup>A profound sense of awe gripped everyone,\* and many miraculous signs and wonders were being performed through the apostles.

**\*Acts 2:43 – “Profound sense of awe gripped everyone.” ... *even the unbelievers* ...**

<sup>44</sup>There was also a deep sense of unity among the Lord's followers, and they shared what they had with each other.

<sup>45</sup>From time to time,\* they sold their possessions and goods, and gave to others according to their need.

**\*Acts 2:45 – “From time to time.” Implied from the imperfect tense.**

<sup>46</sup>Every day they faithfully met in the Temple courts in great harmony. But they met in various homes for their meals, eating their food together joyfully with sincere thanksgiving.

<sup>47</sup>They were constantly praising God, and always enjoying the favor of all the people. Every day the Lord kept adding to their number those who were being saved.

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

### **Lesson 5 - The Fellowship of the Believers - [Acts 2:42-47](#)**

58. What were the activities of the early church? ([2:42](#))
59. How did the new believers approach what they did? ([2:42](#))
60. What unusual deeds did the apostles do? ([2:43](#))
61. How did people respond to what was going on? ([2:43](#))
62. What life-style did the early believers adopt? ([2:44-45](#))
63. Why might the early Christians have had "everything in common"? ([2:44](#))
64. How were the goods distributed among the early believers? ([2:45](#))
65. How often did the believers meet? ([2:46](#))
66. Where did the early believers meet? ([2:46](#))
67. How did the early Christians meet together? ([2:46-47](#))
68. What did the Christians do when they met together in homes? ([2:46-47](#))
69. What was the spirit of the believers in all they did? ([2:46-47](#))
70. What was the growth of the early church like? ([2:47](#))