

## Acts 2:1–13

- 1 When the Day of Pentecost had fully come, they were all with one accord in one place.
- 2 And suddenly there came a sound from heaven, as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting.
- 3 Then there appeared to them divided tongues, as of fire, and one sat upon each of them.
- 4 And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.
- 5 And there were dwelling in Jerusalem Jews, devout men, from every nation under heaven.
- 6 And when this sound occurred, the multitude came together, and were confused, because everyone heard them speak in his own language.
- 7 Then they were all amazed and marveled, saying to one another, “Look, are not all these who speak Galileans?”
- 8 And how is it that we hear, each in our own language in which we were born?
- 9 Parthians and Medes and Elamites, those dwelling in Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia,
- 10 Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya adjoining Cyrene, visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes,
- 11 Cretans and Arabs—we hear them speaking in our own tongues the wonderful works of God.”
- 12 So they were all amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, “Whatever could this mean?”
- 13 Others mocking said, “They are full of new wine.”

### *The Church is Born* *Acts 2:1-13*

#### INTRO:

What is happening when we turn to **Acts 2**? It is the beginning of the indwelling ministry of the Holy Spirit and the binding of believers into the body of Christ. The Lord announced the

new ministry of the Holy Spirit of God with special even miraculous events. We will consider the record and then try to describe what God is doing here.

### ***I. The Phenomena (1-13)***

#### ***II. An Explanation***

### ***I. The Phenomena (1-13)***

**Act 2:1-4** *“When the Day of Pentecost had fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. And suddenly there came a sound from heaven, as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. Then there appeared to them divided tongues, as of fire, and one sat upon each of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance”*

A. There is a great temptation to read much into the events described here in **Acts 2:1-13**. Instead, I think it would be helpful to just step back and look at the record the Lord gave us. Three things happened suddenly as the disciples waited for *“the Father’s promise”* (**Acts 1:4**). First, there was sound.

**vs.1-2** *“When the Day of Pentecost had fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. And suddenly there came a sound from heaven, as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting.”*

Having patiently waited at Jerusalem as the Lord Jesus ordered them, they now receive the promise and the first signal is a sudden very loud noise.

B. Second, there was something seen.

**v.3** *“Then there appeared to them divided tongues, as of fire, and one sat upon each of them.”*

As they sat there flames of fire appeared above their heads. The word tongue describes the fire, it does not mean the muscle in our mouths or the languages. These sat on their heads. They saw them. To the audio phenomena God adds a visual component.

C. Third, they began speaking in other languages. Now there is a linguistic experience.

**v.4** *“And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.”*

This speaking in tongues was not in some unknown languages. Somehow this event made enough noise that the Apostles and disciples came out of the room and began speaking to the gathering crowds of Jewish pilgrims and even some Gentiles. Everyone understood what the disciples said, each in their own language.

#### ***II. An Explanation***

A. What was happening here? We are told in the text itself that *“they were all filled with the Holy Spirit.”* The Lord promised in **Acts 1:4-5**.

*“And being assembled together with them, He commanded them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the Promise of the Father, which, He said, you*

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***have heard from Me; for John truly baptized with water, but you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.***

This then was that event. It was both the baptism and filling of the Holy Spirit of God.

1. Understanding these terms require us to look to see how the New Testament defines them and fleshes them out for us. First, let us consider what being baptized in the Holy Spirit means. We are told what Spirit Baptism is in **1 Corinthians 12:13**. There we read,

***“For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free—and have all been made to drink into one Spirit.”***

We must notice all the Corinthian believers had been baptized by the Holy Spirit, even the ones who did not speak in tongues or prophecy, etc. We receive the Holy Spirit at our salvation (Romans 8:9) that is when Spirit Baptism takes place.

2. While Spirit Baptism only takes place once, Spirit filling is repeated. In Acts this phrase is repeated several times when God the Holy Spirit came on individuals to enable them to serve God at that moment. The filling is described in **Ephesians 5:18-21**.

***“And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit, speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord, giving thanks always for all things to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, submitting to one another in the fear of God.”***

The evidence of being filled with the Spirit is not ecstatic utterances and so forth. It is the participles which complete the sentence.

B. This was the beginning of the New Testament indwelling ministry of the Holy Spirit of God. When Jesus was born in Bethlehem and began His earthly ministry it was not the first time He was in the world. John told us in **John 1:10**,

***“He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, and the world did not know Him.”***

However when Jesus was born at Bethlehem the Father marked the event for us with angles who appeared to shepherds, Simeon and Anna at His temple dedication and the wise men coming from the East. In the same way the Father marked the beginning of the indwelling ministry of the Holy Spirit with these events.

C. In **John 14:15-17**, Jesus described how the Holy Spirit would come.

***“If you love Me, keep My commandments. And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever—the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you.”***

The New Testament Church, which Jesus spoke about several times as He walked among us on planet earth, began with the indwelling ministry of the Holy Spirit. He united us in the body of Christ.

The important thing for us to realize from this is that we are now indwelt with the Holy Spirit if we have trusted Christ to save us. Two passages to remember are:

**Romans 8:9-10** *“But you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. Now if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he is not His. And if Christ is in you, the body is dead because of sin, but the Spirit is life because of righteousness.”*

**Philippians 4:13** *“I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.”*