

The Book of Acts
Chapter 2

Acts 2:42-43

42 And they continued stedfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers.

43 And fear came upon every soul: and many wonders and signs were done by the apostles.

I. Chapter 2

A. The Meaning of Pentecost (Verse 1)

1. *Acts 2:1 And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place.*

2. The one hundred and twenty disciples, in obedience to Jesus' command in Luke 24:49-53; Acts 1:4-5, had waited and prayed in an upper room for about ten days before the day of Pentecost.

3. They had not known when the Holy Ghost would come, but had waited in faith, and on God's appointed time. And now it had fully come.

4. **{1} The Feast of Pentecost was one of Israel's annual religious feasts that marked the time of the spring grain harvest.**

5. And **"Pentecost" simply means 50** because it was observed 50 days after Passover and the Feast of First Fruits.

6. Jesus had been crucified at the time of Passover and was resurrected on the Sunday following Passover, the start of the Feast of First Fruits.

7. On resurrection Sunday and for 40 days after, Jesus was seen of His disciples on a number of occasions.

8. Then He ascended from the mount of Olives, and, after another ten days of committed prayer in the upper room, the Holy Ghost came on the Day of Pentecost.

9. So exactly fifty days after He had arisen from the dead was **{2} Pentecost, which brought not only a harvest of grain, but a harvest of souls!**

10. This is why we speak of the infilling of the Holy Ghost as the Pentecostal experience because it was first received at the feast of Pentecost.

B. The Outpouring of the Holy Ghost (Verses 2-4)

1. *Acts 2:2-4*

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

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

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

2. When the day was fully come, suddenly there was a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, which filled the house.
 3. Jesus had explained to Nicodemus that the new birth would be like the blowing of the wind, or the breath of God, (John 3:8).
John 3:8 The wind bloweth where it listeth [desires], and thou hearest the sound [speech, language] thereof, but canst not tell whence it cometh, and whither it goeth: so is every one that is born of the Spirit.
 4. God is Spirit (John 4:24) and there is only one divine Spirit of God (Eph. 4:4).
 5. When God formed man of the dust of the earth and breathed into him the breath of life so that he became a living soul (Gen 2:7), and now again, through Christ, He breathed a portion of His eternal Spirit into the souls of men and women.
 6. **{3} The Spirit of God, the Holy Ghost, is the breath of God. So when one is filled with His Spirit, he gets a portion of the very life of God within him.**
 7. And with the breath of God comes a new kind of godly life, a divine nature:
2 Peter 1:3-4
3 According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue: 4 Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.
 8. On the Day of Pentecost, the Lord breathed His Spirit into the souls of the one hundred and twenty disciples who had been tarrying in the upper room, and **{4} they all spoke in tongues when the Holy Ghost filled them.**
 9. And how blessed we are to be 2000 years after Pentecost and God continues to breathe His Spirit into the souls of believers when He fills them with the Holy Ghost.
- C. The Witness of the Holy Ghost (Verses 5-13)
1. At the same time the disciples were being filled with the Holy Ghost and began to speak with other tongues (languages), **{5} Jews from many different nations were gathered in Jerusalem to celebrate the Feast of Pentecost.**
 2. When you read verses 5-11, we see a list of international travelers from 16 different regions, **{6} who all amazed as they heard the disciples speaking in their own languages.**
Acts 2:6-7
6 Now when this was noised abroad, the multitude came together, and were confounded, because that every man heard them speak in his own language. 7 And they were all amazed and marvelled, saying one to another, Behold, are not all these which speak Galilaeans?
 3. They knew these Galileans had had no opportunity to learn their languages and could not understand the meaning of this miracle.

4. Some accused the disciples of being drunk on new wine, but of course, intoxication does not cause drinkers to speak in a language they did not know.
5. Isaiah had prophesied of this day:
Isa 28:11-12
11 For with stammering lips and another tongue will he speak to this people.
12 To whom he said, This is the rest wherewith ye may cause the weary to rest; and this is the refreshing: yet they would not hear.
6. In chapter 3, Peter also called the Holy Ghost experience, a time of refreshing:
Acts 3:19-20
19 Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord;
20 And he shall send Jesus Christ, which before was preached unto you:
7. The Holy Ghost outpouring is still happening today, including speaking in tongues, and still comes as an experience of refreshing.
8. It is important to note that the Spirit which was poured out on the saints of apostolic times, was given as the result of Jesus' death, burial, and resurrection, and was intended for the entire church dispensation.
9. As we will see in the future lessons in several other chapters in Acts, this same experience of Holy Ghost outpouring with speaking in tongues, continued to refresh the church in many different times and places in the world.
10. But it is important to note that in Acts 2, that is the only place where speaking in tongues was done in the languages of the foreign people to communicate a message in their language.
11. There were other elements of this original Acts 2 outpouring that were not repeated in other places, such as the rushing wind or the appearance of fire, but that refreshing encounter of the infilling of the Holy Ghost and speaking in tongues were repeated many other times.

II. PETER'S SERMON ON THE DAY OF PENTECOST

A. Joel's Prophecy Fulfilled (Verses 14-21)

1. *Acts 2:14-16*
14 But Peter, standing up with the eleven, lifted up his voice, and said unto them, Ye men of Judaea, and all ye that dwell at Jerusalem, be this known unto you, and hearken to my words:
15 For these are not drunken, as ye suppose, seeing it is but the third hour of the day.
16 But this is that which was spoken by the prophet Joel;
2. First, I'll mention that in Matthew 16:13-19, Jesus gave Peter the keys of the kingdom of heaven.

3. It was this authority given by Jesus, that Peter stood up and unlocked the door into the spiritual kingdom of God that day.
 4. He told the mockers that the disciples could not be drunken, because **{8} it was only the third hour of the day (about 9:00 a m.), which was the hour of prayer.** 6am was sunrise, or the first hour, 7am the 2nd hour, etc.
 5. **{7 and 10} Peter, now filled with and inspired by the Holy Ghost, explained that this demonstration was the fulfillment of Joel's prophecy (Joel 2:28-29).**
 6. *Joel 2:28-29*
28 And it shall come to pass afterward, that I will pour out my spirit upon all flesh; and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, your young men shall see visions:
29 And also upon the servants and upon the handmaids in those days will I pour out my spirit.
 7. Last week we had referred to prophecies in Jeremiah, Ezekiel, and Joel, that God would pour out His Spirit, and now Peter was inspired to use this passage in Joel to explain what they were seeing.
- B. David's Prophecy Fulfilled (Verses 22-31)
1. We are beginning to see **{9} Peter's sermon develops a two-part theme: fulfilled prophecy, and the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus.**
 2. *Acts 2:22-24*
22 Ye men of Israel, hear these words; Jesus of Nazareth, a man approved of God among you by miracles and wonders and signs, which God did by him in the midst of you, as ye yourselves also know:
*23 Him, being delivered by **the determinate counsel and foreknowledge of God,** ye have taken, and by wicked hands have crucified and slain:*
24 Whom God hath raised up, having loosed the pains of death: because it was not possible that he should be holden of it.
 3. Jesus' death on the cross was the determinate will and foreknowledge of God to atone for the sins of men.
 4. To prove that, **{10} Peter next interpreted another prophecy of the resurrection of Christ from a Psalm of David, Psalm 16:8-10.**
 5. Many of the Psalms are prophetic, and Psalm 16 was a prophecy of the resurrection of Christ:
Ps 16:10-11
10 For thou wilt not leave my soul in hell; neither wilt thou suffer thine Holy One to see corruption.
11 Thou wilt shew me the path of life: in thy presence is fulness of joy; at thy right hand there are pleasures for evermore.

6. Jesus died and was buried—they had witnessed that. But He also came forth victorious over death, hell and the grave, and took the sting out of physical death for all who will believe and obey His gospel (I Cor. 15:50-57).
 7. But verse 11 reveals again how the Holy Ghost is a refreshing experience: fullness of joy, pleasures for evermore! All made possible by the resurrection of Jesus!
- C. The Accomplishment of Jesus’ Death and Resurrection (Verses 32- 36)
1. And continuing with his interpretation of Psalm 16, Peter returned to the theme of resurrection of Jesus.
 2. But not only as rumor that folks in Jerusalem were hearing, but as a fact that he had himself witnessed:
Acts 2:32-33
32 This Jesus hath God raised up, whereof we all are witnesses.
33 Therefore being by the right hand of God exalted, and having received of the Father the promise of the Holy Ghost, he hath shed forth this, which ye now see and hear.
 3. Peter, by his personal knowledge, witnessed to them of the truth of the resurrection of Jesus.
 4. So here, Peter, using the keys to the kingdom, lays out in the first sermon to the first church, the gospel message which included an eye-witness account of the resurrection of Jesus Christ.
 5. **{9} In summary, the theme of Peter’s first sermon is this: By Jesus’ death, He atoned for men’s sins; by His resurrection, He won the right to bestow on them the gift of eternal life, the Holy Ghost.**
 6. And that was possible because Jesus was Lord and Christ!
Acts 2:36 Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly, that God hath made that same Jesus, whom ye have crucified, both Lord and Christ.
 7. By calling Jesus “Lord” meant He was the God of the Jews—Yahweh, and by calling Him “Christ” refers to Him coming as the Messiah, or Son of God. He was both God and man.
- D. The Requirements of the Gospel (Verses 37-41)
1. Peter’s sermon definitely had an effect on the people. It led them to have faith in Jesus and caused conviction of their sins. It led them to ask what they should do to be forgiven and be saved.
 2. That is always the desired outcome of preaching the gospel, even today.
Acts 2:37 Now when they heard this, they were pricked in their heart, and said unto Peter and to the rest of the apostles, Men and brethren, what shall we do?
 3. Jesus had commissioned the disciples to go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature, so in obedience to this commission, and in response to their

question, Peter said:

Acts 2:38 Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.

4. **{13} The gospel, which is the message by which we are saved, is the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus:**

1 Cor 15:1-4

15 Moreover, brethren, I declare unto you the gospel which I preached unto you, which also ye have received, and wherein ye stand;

2 By which also ye are saved, if ye keep in memory what I preached unto you, unless ye have believed in vain.

3 For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that (1) Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures;

4 (2) And that he was buried, and that (3) he rose again the third day according to the scriptures:

5. There is no other means by which men may be saved. Jesus' death was the sacrifice for the sins of mankind, but His resurrection was proof that He had the authority, the power, and means of saving mankind.
6. And **Acts 2:38** shows us **how to obey that gospel message**, making that sacrifice of Jesus apply to us personally. **{12} Romans 6:3-4 clearly interprets the meaning of Acts 2:38 for us.**
7. We die with Christ by repentance, which is a complete turning away from the old life of sin.
8. Then we must signify this death by being buried with Him in water baptism in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ.
9. And we come forth with Him to walk in the new life of the Holy Ghost: *Rom 6:3-4*
3 Or have you forgotten that when we were joined with Christ Jesus in baptism, we joined him in his death?
4 For we died and were buried with Christ by baptism. And just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glorious power of the Father, now we also may live new lives.
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10. Peter's preaching reached the heart that day and about three thousand were converted on that first day of the outpouring of the Holy Ghost.
- III. Conclusion: Pentecost continues (Verses 41-47)
1. In the last six verses of this chapter, **{14} Luke pictured a true Pentecostal church: The converts continued obeying the apostles' doctrine, they had unity and fellowship, and signs and wonders.**
2. **{15} Brotherly love that motivated many to sell their possessions** and put the money into a common treasury to help the needy among them.

3. And many souls were added to the church daily.