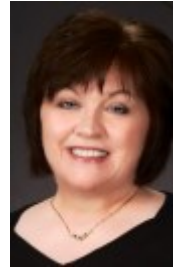


As we Spring into May with all its celebrations, I wanted to take this opportunity to reflect on the birthday of the church, Pentecost. Please read Acts 2:14-21 to get the full context of this article.



### “When the Holy Spirit Does Something Not in the Bulletin”

Our movement, (aka the church Jesus is building) began with phenomenology: tornadic sounding winds, tongues of fire descending on people, men and women speaking in foreign languages they could not themselves understand. This was not a pre-scripted ceremony as one might expect at say, a Passover celebration. This was live reality television. Things were happening that were not in the bulletin. The Holy Spirit did not come with an announcement of his arrival. He just arrived.

Note the two very divergent responses from those present.

1. Amazed and perplexed, they asked one another, "What does this mean?"
2. Some, however, made fun of them and said, "They have had too much wine." As it was then, so it is now. When the boundaries of one's experience with God are stretched, it reveals two basic responses: self-abandonment or self-protection. The former marvels in stunned awe. The latter mocks with sarcastic antagonism. To be sure, much of what gets passed off as Holy Spirit phenomenology these days may be dramatic expressions of human personality, but how we respond says much more about us than it does about them.

Written by J.D. Walt

When it comes to the phenomena surrounding the Holy Spirit do you tend to be one who responds with abandonment and awe or with skepticism or suspicion or even cynicism and sarcasm?

What is it about you that makes you respond in this way