

Acts Pentacost 2:1-41

Introduction: Last week we saw the apostles ready themselves for the work and assignment God would soon have them for. Jesus already prefaced that the Gospel would be sent to Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, and ends of the Earth. The apostles were of one mind, they were relying on God in various ways, and they felt the need to replace Judas with Mathias for the work which was to come. Today the work begins.....

I. The Promise Is Validated by God 1-12:

Vs. 1 *"They were all together in one place observing pentecost"*

- Likely the 12 Apostles and the women.
- Pentacost = Greek name for "Festival of Weeks" (Harvest Festival commanded in Old Test.)
- 1 Day festival 50 days after Passover.

Vs. 2-4 God is Going to Validate This Promised Gift in 3 Supernatural Ways

Vs. 2 **Sound** of violent rushing wind filled the whole house....

Vs. 3 There **Appeared** tongues as of fire resting on each of them....

Vs. 4 They began to **Speak** with other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance....

What Does "Other Tongues" Mean Here?

- The greek word used here for tongue refers to known and understood ethnic languages.
- Not a native language of the Galilean Apostles, but a known foreign language of others

Vs. 5 *"Devout Jews living in Jerusalem."*

- Luke says they were born elsewhere but now living in Jerusalem.
- They understood what was being said in their own native language

Vs. 11 *".....the mighty deeds of God."*

- These observers and onlookers were likely hearing about the resurrection.

Two Dynamics of the Holy Spirit That Take Place Here:

1. **Baptism** of the Spirit

- Jesus promised this would happen to the Apostles - He told them to wait in Jerusalem.
- This is an invisible act that includes us into the Body of Christ
- Paul said w/ One baptism we are baptized into One Body.

2. **Filling** with the Spirit

- Sometimes this refers to a more general manifestation of the Holy Spirit as we submit to Him.
- Ephesians 5:18 commands us to be filled w/ the Spirit.....allow yourselves to be used by God.
- Sometimes a rare and specific empowerment by God for a unique event.
- Old Test. God supernaturally empowered His elect, but they were not indwelt.
- Speaking another language is an example of being filled for an assignment or task.

We see that the promise of the Holy Spirit was validated by God through a supernatural **audible** experience, a supernatural **visual** experience, a supernatural **empowerment** through the Apostles.

II. The Promise Is Validated by Scripture Vs. 13-21

Vs. 13 *“Others were mocking and assumed these guys were drunk.....”*

- There are skeptics in every crowd aren't there?

Read 14-21 Obviously An Explanation Is in Order For What Is Happening Through These Believers

Vs.14 *“Peter taking his stand with the eleven.....”*

- Literally *“being put forward as spokesman”*
- Peter addresses the crowds:

1. We're not drunk because its only 9:00 in the morning.

BUT

2. Men of Judea & all who live in Jerusalem....We ARE living in the last days.

- Peter addresses the crowds as fellow countrymen because Joel's prophecy was to Judah.
- Jesus promised salvation first for the Jews & then for the Gentiles.
- Peter is revealing that God's judgment has begun.
- We are living in the last days.
- What the crowds witnessed is a fulfillment of what God would begin to do in the last days.

The Character & Focus of Peter Is Being Developed Already

- We see development of an urgency regarding the last days
 - **II Peter 3:9 Acts 3:19-21**
- We see development of emboldened trust to proclaim Jesus at a moments notice.
 - **I Peter 3:15**

We can conclude that Peter was passionate about the lost.

He understood the necessity of always being willing to give the reason for your hope.

He recognized God would empower him in times like this....even when nominated as the spokesperson.

So the second validation we see is through Scripture.

“In the last days I will pour forth My Spirit upon all mankind....”

God prophesied that this would happen. God prophesied that everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.

What people experienced during this event was foretold by Joel. This was happening first for the people of Jerusalem & Judea on this day.

III. The Promise Is Validated by Jesus Vs. 22-36

Peter Focusses on 3 Proofs That Reveal Jesus As Lord & Savior

Proof #1 Jesus Was Attested to You By God with Miracles & Wonders Vs. 22

Vs. 22 *“Jesus the Nazarene was **“attested”** or **“accredited”** to you by God with miracles and wonders, and signs which God performed through Him in your midst just as you yourselves know.”*

- Attested = Perfect passive - past action with continuing results
- The miracles Jesus did continue to validate and attest to His divinity.
- Peter says, *“just as you yourselves know.....”*
- You saw these miracles and wonders, you know they are real.
- What you saw today with language is the same power of God.

Proof #2 Jesus Died & Rose According to God’s Plan Vs. 23-31

Vs. 23 Jesus was handed over by to be crucified by God’s design.

- This was part of God’s predetermined plan.
- This was by God’s design with affects continuing indefinitely into the future.
- **Acts 3:18 Acts 4:27-28 I Peter 1:20 Matthew 10:33**
- God was not caught off guard by the decision of the Jews to free Barabbas over Jesus.
- God even exercised the authority of “godless men” (Romans)
- The Roman cross became the instrument of the Jews.
- The Roman Government became the instrument of God as well.

Vs. 24 *“God raised Jesus putting an end to death & agony.....”*

- It was impossible for for Jesus to be held in death’s power.
- This is the same power enabling the Apostles to speak supernaturally.

Vs. 25-29 *“David died, was buried, and his grave is with us today.”*

- Peter quotes David and explains that David was speaking prophetically of Jesus
- Even as a great patriarch of Israel, David is still undeniably dead.

Proof #3 Jesus Sits at the Right Hand of God & Has Sent His Spirit Vs 32-36

Vs. 32 Peter reminds his audience that Jesus was raised up and witnessed by many.

- *“We are all witnesses....”*
- We saw it with our own eyes.

Vs. 33 Jesus has been exalted to the right hand of God.

- Phillipians (equality w/ God not to be grasped)
- David’s Lord ascended to Heaven

Vs. 36 *“Therefore let all the house of Israel know for certain that God has made Him both Lord & Christ - this Jesus whom you crucified.”*

So we see that the resurrected Jesus who is alive today validates the Promise of the Holy Spirit.

- Peter said that Jesus sits at the right hand of the Father.
- Jesus said I must go so I can send the Holy Spirit.....if I don’t go, He can’t come to you.
- **John 16:7** *“But I tell you the truth: it is to your advantage that I am leaving; for if I do not leave, the Helper will not come to you; but if I go, I will send Him to you.”*

IV. The Promise Is Validated by The Crowds Vs. 37-41

Read 37-41 They were convicted by the truth.

John 16:8-11 *“And He, when He comes, will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment; concerning sin, because they do not believe in Me; and concerning righteousness, because I go to the Father and you no longer see Me; and concerning judgment, because the ruler of this world has been judged.”*

Vs. 37 *“What shall we do?”*

- The crowds' response to the Holy Spirit's conviction prompted them to ask what's next?
- What do we need to do?
- **Acts 16:30-31** The Jailer will ask this same question of Paul & Silas later.

Vs. 38 *“Repent and let each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.”*

- The very Agent who is at work in these men speaking in foreign languages can fill you too.
- The mocking of these men as drunk can be forgiven of you.
- The guilt you feel for rejecting your Messiah can be washed away

Peter says the First Step is to Repent of your sins. Then turn to Jesus.

Lastly, the promise of the Holy Spirit is validated by the Crowds. They witnessed the apostles speaking in foreign languages, they heard Peter's sermon, they were convicted, and they received his word and the Body of Christ grew that day.

Vs. 41 *“Those who received his word were baptized and there were about 3000 people added the Body of Christ that day.”*

Conclusion

If we look at these validations of the Holy Spirit, we see similar patterns in our lives today.

1. The gift of God's Holy Spirit.....Our Baptism in the Spirit is likewise evidenced and confirmed.

- Our salvation is a supernatural event.
- We cannot say Jesus is Lord except by the favor and grace of God.
- It began by us hearing the same Gospel message and repenting of our sins, and turning to Jesus.
- It is our job to similarly do the same for others and point to Jesus.

2. We have prayed and had prayers answered in unexplainable ways that only God can be credited

Illustration - Rennie healing in hospital bed after prayer (hers & mine)

3. We have found ourselves in situations like Peter where the Holy Spirit enabled us to recall scripture and the Holy Spirit has given us the words to say in our time of need.

- Peter revealed how the Holy Spirit was promised by God through Scripture
- Have you ever found yourself reciting scripture that you didn't even know you knew?
Maybe it just came out when you were talking to someone?

The Holy Spirit was promised to the Apostles. When He came, He was validated in undeniable ways for the expressed purposes of empowering God's elect, and pointing the lost to salvation in Jesus.

Our lives are to do the same.