



Title: The Power of Pentecost

Text: Acts 2:1–13

CONTEXT |

In these verses Luke records the miraculous events that surrounded the empowering of the Holy Spirit that Jesus promised for the early church. Jesus appeared to his disciples over a period of 40 days (1:3) then left them for 10 days until the Jewish Festival of Weeks, also known as Pentecost in Greek (literally means “fiftieth” because it takes place 50 days after Passover). Pentecost was the best attended of the 3 Jewish festivals where Jews were expected to come back to Jerusalem. It is a time of great celebration of the Spring harvest. It is amazing to see how the OT Feasts pointed to and were fulfilled in Christ! This diverse population of Jews who had travelled to Jerusalem help us to better understand what’s really going on at Pentecost.

MAIN IDEA |

The Holy Spirit distinguishes God’s children and empowers their witness.

KEY VERSES |

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

Acts 2:4 ESV

DISCUSSION QUESTION IDEAS |

- Based on what we have read in Acts so far, what is the purpose of the Holy Spirit?
- What does the Holy Spirit do in the life of believers today?
- Do you have any testimonies of ways that you have seen God work miraculously to advance the gospel?
- Pentecost was God’s promise fulfilled, but is there anything we can do today to put ourselves in better position to see His power move through us more obviously (or consistently)?
- How do the responses of the crowds in verses 12-13 encourage your evangelistic efforts? What about your parenting?

EXPLANATION |

Many people are distracted by the miraculous “tongues” spoken by the believers in Acts 2, but this amazing miracle is the fulfillment of what Jesus promised his disciples in the gospels and in Acts 1:8. “Tongues” means languages. These men and women spoke the known languages of all the Jews gathered in Jerusalem for Pentecost. This was a unique experience that is unlike any other in history. Therefore, our response should not be to make the same thing happen to us. However, we serve the same God who is able to work just as powerfully today. So, what is God doing in and through His people that we should strive to see Him do in and through us?

He clearly identifies his followers and enables them to communicate the gospel powerfully and intelligibly to all those gathered in Jerusalem. The focus of the text is not the languages they spoke, but the fact that the Spirit enabled simple people to communicate the gospel across cultural and language barriers.