

# THE ACTS

## OF THE APOSTLES

### Chapter 2

#### The apostles receive the Holy Spirit

\*What is “speaking in tongues”?

\*What did Peter say to the people who crucified Jesus?

\*What do we have to do to be saved?

#### Acts 2:1-4            The apostles receive the Holy Spirit

Pentecost was another feast that the Jews celebrated, 50 days after they the Passover. It was on this day, when the disciples were all gathered together, that the Lord chose to fulfill His promise and send the Holy Spirit. A sound like a huge gust of wind went through the house, and fire-like images in the shape of tongues settled over each of the apostles. At that moment, they were “filled with the Holy Spirit,” just as Jesus had said they would be. The Spirit gave them the ability to speak other languages.

#### Acts 2:5-13            Jews of every language hear

At Pentecost, the city of Jerusalem would swell with travelers coming to celebrate the feast. Jews from all over the Middle East would be there, in huge numbers. So, when the sound of the mighty wind was heard, a multitude came rushing in to find out what was happening. What a surprise for them when they arrived! No matter what nation they were from, they heard the apostles speaking their own native language. They were very confused about what was going on.

#### **Note: Speaking in “tongues”**

*Here we see clearly what the Bible means when it talks about people speaking in tongues. Jews of at least fifteen different nations said that they heard their “own language.” When the Holy Spirit allowed a person to speak in tongues, therefore, the language that was spoken was an understandable, human dialect. Beware of those today who claim to speak tongues, but not a single person on earth can understand what they say. What we see here in Acts 2 is an incredible, miraculous event!*

#### Acts 2:14-36            The first gospel sermon

The twelve apostles stood together, and Peter began to speak to all the people. He preached the first ever sermon about Christ and how men are to be saved in His name. He began, in verses 14-21, by explaining what was going on, because everyone was confused about why the apostles were speaking languages that they had never studied before; some had even been laughing at the apostles and saying that they were just drunk. But Peter said that didn’t make sense, since it was only 9:00 in the morning, and instead offered the true explanation: what was happening was the fulfillment of a prophecy that God had made through the prophet Joel. The prophecy stated that God would send His Spirit so that men could prophesy, and would show great wonders to signify the coming of a “great and glorious day.” Like so many of the prophets of the Old Testament (and like Jesus Himself; see Mark 13:24-26), Joel used exaggeration to describe the magnitude of the importance of this day.

And this was an incredible day! The gates to heaven were opened to all men in this day, for, as the prophecy said, “everyone who calls on the Lord shall be saved.” In the next section of his sermon, Peter explained how this was possible. Notice some of his main points:

- God showed His approval of Jesus the Nazarene by miracles (verse 22). The people had seen these signs with their own eyes!

- The people had personal guilt before God, for they murdered God's chosen One (verse 23).
- Christ, though the people had killed Him, rose from the dead! This fulfilled prophecies, like the one David made (verses 24-31). David could not have been talking about himself when he made the prophecy, as the Jews would have thought, for his body did suffer decay; he was not resurrected. Therefore, David had been talking about the Christ (the Messiah). Jesus was the one that fulfilled the prophecies, and the apostles were *eyewitnesses* to His resurrection.
- Christ ascended into heaven and was causing these events to happen, just as David had prophesied.
- The conclusion: It is a fact that Jesus was the Messiah that all of the prophets had talked about. And the people were guilty of killing the very One they had waited for!

### **Acts 2:37-42                      The people's response**

When the people heard that they were guilty before God of such terrible sin, they were "pierced to the heart." It was like Peter's word was a dagger that cut right into their conscience. They asked Peter what they could do to get rid of this guilt. Peter responded: "Repent, and let each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins." Peter said that in this way they could "be saved from this perverse generation." The people who accepted what Peter had to say, and did what was commanded; 3,000 men and women were baptized. But that wasn't all. Those same people continued together with the apostles, doing according to their teaching.

#### **Note: "Brethren, what shall we do?"**

*Whenever a person realizes their own sinfulness, and that their relationship with God is cut off because of that, they ask the same question as the people on the day of Pentecost: "What shall we do?" How can we make things better with God? The question was the same 2,000 years ago, and the answer is the same as well. After we receive the word, we must repent (turn away from our sins) and be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Now you know what to tell people when they ask how to be saved, and you yourself know how to have your sins forgiven. Do not be deceived by anyone who offers you a different answer. It was the Holy Spirit speaking through Peter when he said these words, so we must trust this commandment.*

*If you already have converted to Christ, or when you do, notice the importance of following through with the commitment you make in baptism. The new believers were "continually devoting themselves" to their faith. Look at what they did in the following verses as well...*

### **Acts 2:43-47                      The believers continue together**

The new disciples continued to follow the apostles, and wondered as they saw many miracles done through them. They shared everything, even selling their possessions to help each other. They met in the temple and shared food in their houses, and in all things they gave thanks and praised God. Each day saw more people being saved.

#### **Note: How do we get in the church?**

*Wouldn't you like to be in such an open and loving fellowship with other believers? But how do we get into the church? This is a question that many people ask today, and they receive many answers. Some denominations will say you have to be baptized into their church, or that, if your name is on a list of members, you are part of their church. But verse 47 clearly says how we get into Christ's church: the Lord Himself adds us. The moment we are baptized in the name of Jesus Christ, like the people in verse 41, we are added to the number of believers, and only God knows that exact number. We are then a part of God's family, and the only thing left to do is to find other disciples to gather together with. We need to find others who have the same mindset that we do, and who also want to continue in the pure doctrine of the apostles.*

**Choose the right answer:**

\_\_\_ 1. On what feast day did God send the Holy Spirit? a) the Passover, b) Pentecost, c) the Feast of Trumpets, or d) the Feast of Tabernacles.

\_\_\_ 2. What did NOT happen when the apostles were filled with the Holy Spirit? a) there was the sound of a violent wind, b) there were tongues of fire that rested on their heads, c) they fell backwards by an invisible force, or d) they began speaking in languages that they had never studied.

\_\_\_ 3. How did Peter explain what was going on? a) the apostles had studied new languages in the school of Tyrannus, b) they were drunk, c) it was a fulfillment of a prophecy in Joel, d) it was all a joke.

\_\_\_ 4. What evidence did Peter NOT give that Jesus was the Son of God? a) God attested to Him by miracles, b) David prophesied about Him, c) the apostles were eyewitnesses of His resurrection, or d) if you pray to God, you will feel Him in your heart.

\_\_\_ 5. When the people asked what they had to do to be forgiven, what did Peter say? a) nothing, because Christ's blood saves you automatically, b) repent and be baptized in the name of Jesus, c) offer a sacrifice in the temple, or d) pray to God and accept Jesus as your Savior.

**True or false:**

\_\_\_ 1. When someone speaks in tongues, they are talking in a language that no one on earth can understand.

\_\_\_ 2. Peter avoided saying that the people had killed Christ because he did not want to offend them.

\_\_\_ 3. About three thousand people were baptized on the day of Pentecost.

\_\_\_ 4. The new believers continued together every day and shared their possessions.

\_\_\_ 5. The Lord is the one who adds people to the church.

*After you've filled out the answers, send this lesson back to the person who sent it to you with your name and address. They will correct your answers and discuss any questions or comments you have on the text.*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

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\_\_\_\_\_

*Or, send it to:*

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