

# **Acts of the Apostles**

## **A Study of the Early Church**

### **Lesson 2 Acts 2:1-47**

#### **Introduction:**

On the Day of Pentecost, the promise of the ages was finally fulfilled. The gospel of Christ was preached, souls were saved through the redemptive blood of Jesus Christ in baptism, and the church (the Lord's spiritual kingdom) was established.

As the events of Pentecost began to unfold, the twelve apostles would have assembled in the temple courtyards and porticos. They were among thousands of other devout Jews who had come from every part of the Roman Empire to celebrate this great feast day in Jerusalem. At the third hour of the day the worshippers were suddenly distracted by the sound of a mighty wind. Then came what appeared to be flames of fire that sat upon the twelve. The Holy Spirit captured the attention of the massive crowd gathered in the house of God by providing an aural and visible demonstration of miraculous divine power.

Immediately, the twelve were filled with the Holy Spirit and began speaking in the languages and dialects of all those nations present. The confused crowd wanted to know what all this meant. They soon learned this was the fulfillment of a prophecy of Joel.

The apostles proceeded to affirm that Jesus of Nazareth was not only a man approved of God by miracles, signs, and wonders. He was the Christ (the "Anointed One" – the Messiah). However, among the mass of people listening to the apostles on this Pentecost were those who, just seven weeks earlier, had deserted Jesus in disappointment and disbelief. Their hopes in Jesus had been crushed when He was arrested and violently scourged to a point just short of death. Many who had welcomed Him as the Christ during His triumphal procession into Jerusalem, now joined others who shouted for the imposter Jesus to be crucified. In their minds, no true Messiah would be so powerless in the hands of his enemies.

Therefore, the apostles faced the daunting task on this Pentecost of proving beyond any doubt that this same Jesus was, in fact, the Christ. Speaking through the power and inspiration of the Holy Spirit, the twelve offered as irrefutable evidence (1) prophecies of David concerning the resurrection of Jesus, (2) testimony that the apostles had seen the resurrected Christ, (3) the Holy Spirit's endorsement of these truths by the things the crowd heard and saw, and (4) the testimony of God through the prophet David that Jesus was the Christ and was now sitting at the right hand God in heaven.

When the crowd heard the indisputable facts concerning Jesus and saw the visible evidence of the Spirit's endorsement of the apostles' preaching, they came to the sudden realization that they had crucified Jesus who is both Lord and Christ. In answer to their question, "*what shall we do*" (Acts 2:37), Peter replied, "*Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.*" (Acts 2:38) Three thousand gladly received the gospel message and were baptized into Christ that day.

In the days that followed, the infant church assembled daily in Solomon's Poarch, and continued in "the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers." (Acts 2:42) The apostles also continued to demonstrate the power of God through "*many wonders and signs.*" (Acts 2:43)

The disciples of Jesus also demonstrated the love of Christ within their hearts by freely sharing their material possessions with other disciples who were in need. Their love and their sense of oneness were also seen in the meals they gladly shared together from house to house. From that day forward, the Lord continued adding daily to the church those who were being saved.

Now that the good news about Jesus Christ had been proclaimed in the city of Jerusalem, it would soon spread throughout Judea and into Samaria, and eventually throughout the world. (Acts 1:8)

### **Memorization:**

*Then Peter said to them, "Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit." (Acts 2:38)*

### **Key Events of Acts 2:**

- Apostles are filled with the Holy Spirit on Pentecost.
- Peter and the apostles preach Jesus Christ.
- Three thousand are baptized.

### **The Exposition:**

#### **I. The Day of Pentecost (Acts 2:1-47)**

##### **A. The Apostles are filled with the Holy Spirit (Acts 2:1-4)**

1. What was the Day of Pentecost, and what were the other names given to this day? Use a Bible dictionary to find your answer.

2. What is the "one place" or "the whole house" where these events were taking place? Explain your answer.
  
3. What caught the attention of those present?
  
4. Who was filled with the Holy Spirit in Acts 2:1? Explain your answer.
  
5. What other passages in Acts 2 could you use to support your answer to question 4?
  
6. What does it mean to be filled with the Holy Spirit and what were the apostles able to do as a result?
  
7. How do the events in Acts 2:1-5 tie together with the promises of Jesus in Mark 9:1 and Acts 1:8?

**B. Speaking With Other Tongues (Acts 2:4-13)**

1. What groups of people were in Jerusalem at this time?
  
2. What are the "tongues" mentioned in Acts 2:4? Explain your answer.



6. How do we know the death of Christ was planned? Who planned it?
  
7. Why was it not possible for Jesus to remain in the grave?
  
8. What prophecies of David does Peter quote concerning the resurrection of Christ? How do we know David was not simply speaking about himself in these prophecies?
  
9. Who saw Jesus after He had been resurrected, and why was it impossible to deny their testimony?
  
10. What did the Holy Spirit offer as evidence that Jesus had been resurrected from the grave and was sitting at the right hand of God?
  
11. What was the testimony of God that Jesus was sitting at His right hand? Where else is this testimony found?
  
12. Why were the people so deeply moved by Peter's sermon? Explain.
  
13. What were the people told to do, and what would they receive?

14. What is the "gift of the Holy Spirit" promised here, and who would be included in this promise?

15. What else happened to those who were baptized that day and how many were there?

**D. Practices of the Early Church (Acts 2:42-47)**

1. List the four things the church continued to do and explain what each one means.

a.

b.

c.

d.

2. Why did people sell their possessions and goods? Explain why this is not the first example of "Communism" as some claim.

