

Power to Witness in Word and Deed

The Book of Acts

Acts 2:1–13

Read Acts 2:1–13.

The believers were together on the Day of Pentecost, also known as the Feast of Harvest (Ex. 23:16). This festival was held fifty days after Passover and was a time for the Israelites to celebrate the firstfruits of their harvest as well as their deliverance from slavery in Egypt (Deut. 16:10–12).

1. The world had never experienced anything like the coming of the Holy Spirit before. This is the beginning of the new creation.

a. How is his coming at Pentecost described? (vv. 2–3)

b. What does the wind symbolize? (Gen. 2:7; Job 33:4; Ez. 37:4–14)

c. What does the fire symbolize? (Ex. 3:1–6; 19:16–19)

2. At Pentecost, each believer is “filled with the Holy Spirit” (v. 4).

a. What images and ideas come to mind when you think of something being “filled”?

b. What did people in the past experience when they were filled with the Holy Spirit?

Lk. 1:35–38

Lk. 1:39–42; 67–68

Jn. 7:37–39

c. How does the filling of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost radically effect these believers?

Lk. 24:49

Acts 1:5

Acts 2:4b

3. How does the coming of the Holy Spirit confirm who Jesus is? (Lk. 3:15–16; Jn. 14: 16–18; * Jn. 20:21–22)
4. How is the coming of the Holy Spirit to the believers at Pentecost the fulfillment of God's overarching plan? (Lev. 26:11–12; Zech. 2:10–11)
5. There were many pilgrims in Jerusalem for the festival.
 - a. What do we know about them? (vv. 5, 8–11a)
 - b. What surprising thing did they experience? (vv. 6, 8, 11b)
6. What is the significance of this linguistic miracle at Pentecost? (Mt. 28:18–20; Lk. 24:45–48; Acts 1:8;  Gen. 11:1–9)
7. In what four ways does Luke describe the crowd's reaction to this supernatural event? (vv. 6, 7a, 12, 13)

Why do you think some people responded negatively? ( Acts 7:51)

8. After the Holy Spirit comes at Pentecost, the believers begin to courageously testify to “the wonders of God” (v.11). What do you think are “the wonders of God”?
9. When do all Christians receive the indwelling Holy Spirit? (Acts 2:38; 2 Cor. 1:21–22; Eph. 1:13–14)

If you've believed, share your story with your group.

Share a time when you were enabled to testify to “the wonders of God.” Do you realize that your testimony was evidence of the powerful filling of the Holy Spirit?

*The  symbol indicates verses for further study.