

Bibles???

The Word of God is the Absolute Truth and the Final Authority

Turn your bibles with me to Acts 2 –

Let's pray...

In our study last week, we saw Jesus Christ ascend into heaven – and he left the disciples with the instructions to remain in Jerusalem and wait for the promised Comforter / Holy Spirit.

So Jesus departed from the disciples after 40 days –

And the disciples waited and waited and waited.

Think of the anticipation or what might have been going through their minds.

Day 1 passed by and nothing noteworthy happened

Day two came and went – nothing noteworthy happened.

Surely the Holy Spirit would come on day 3 – after all, Jesus resurrected from the dead after three days. Nope.

Day 4

Day 5

Maybe day 7 – after all God created the Heavens and the Earth in seven days – nope.

10 days – that is how long the apostles waited with the other followers of Jesus Christ.

And just like we saw at the end of chapter 1 – they were in prayer and in one accord.

[Act 2:1-13 NKJV] 1 When the Day of Pentecost had fully come, they were all with one accord in one place.

I had you make a note of the Day of Pentecost –

The Day of Pentecost (sometimes referred to as the Feast of Weeks) was one of the annual festivals that the Jews were to celebrate every year by making a pilgrimage to Jerusalem.

The others – Passover – which commemorated God's deliverance over the Egyptians and the deliverance of the First Born and then you had the Feast of booths or Feast of Tents that commemorated the journey of the Children of Israel through the wilderness as they lived in tents.

Now, getting back to the Day of Pentecost –

There is no coincidence that the outpouring of the Holy Spirit began on the Day of Pentecost -

Turn with me to the book of Leviticus 23

[Lev 23:15-17 NKJV] 15 'And you shall count for yourselves from the day after the Sabbath, from the day that you brought the sheaf of the wave offering: seven

Sabbaths shall be completed. 16 'Count fifty days to the day after the seventh Sabbath; then you shall offer a new grain offering to the LORD. 17 'You shall bring from your dwellings two wave [loaves] of two-tenths [of an ephah]. They shall be of fine flour; they shall be baked with leaven. [They are] the firstfruits to the LORD.

Fifty days after Passover – was the Day of Pentecost.

And this was the day that the Jews celebrated God's goodness – manifested by the early and later rains that made the harvest possible.

So the early rains would produce the barley grain and the later rains would produce the wheat grain –

Who was providing the rain – God.

So, it was a reminder of WHO was providing for the nation – that is what they were celebrating.

So then, they would offer the first fruits of the grain to the LORD.

Now, Jewish tradition states the God gave the 10 Commandments to Moses on the Day of Pentecost.

That is why I had you make a note of two loaves that were used for the wave offering –

What is a wave offering?

The wave offering is one where the priests would wave the offering before the Lord - because they believe that the two loaves represent the two tablets that had the 10 Commandments.

The only problem with that is that leaven in the bible is always a picture of sin –

And in Psalm 19 – it says that the Law of the Lord is perfect. (no leaven)

So what do these two loaves represent – the early church, the first fruits of the cross, the first fruits of the gospel – comprised of Jew and Gentile –

Unlike most other sacrifices, these loaves had leaven in them, a picture of the sin that would exist in a church made up of sinners saved by grace.

Who supplied the Children of Israel with rain? God

What was the product of the rain? Harvest

Who supplied the Holy Spirit? God

What was the product of the Holy Spirit? The early church as we will see by the end of the chapter that 3000 people will respond the message being preached and be saved.

So Acts 2 is a prophetic fulfillment of the feast – Day of Pentecost.

2 And suddenly there came a sound from heaven, as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting.

Where did the sound originate? Heaven.

Who heard it? Everyone that was there – it filled the whole house where they were sitting.

Now, it wasn't actual wind that made the sound.

It wasn't like someone left the windows open on a windy day and everyone's hair is blowing around in the room and papers started blowing everywhere – it simply got really loud in the room.

It is only the sound of a rushing mighty wind.

The word for wind – is the same word for "Spirit".

And here in Acts 2, we see that the Holy Spirit's presence is associated with the sound of a mighty wind.

Now, it doesn't mean that His presence will always be associated with a mighty wind.

To Elijah – in 1 King 19 – it wasn't the sound of a mighty wind that God used to speak to Elijah – it was a still small voice – the NASB translation states that it was a sound of a gentle blowing.

Later on in the book of Acts, we are going to see the presence of the Holy Spirit associated with an earthquake.

Other times we will see His presence associated with the laying of hands – (Acts 9)

Ananias lays hands on Paul – and he was filled with the Holy Spirit.

Paul lays hands on Apollos in Acts 19 – and he was filled with the Holy Spirit.

So we have to be careful in not trying to limit the work of the Holy Spirit.

3 Then there appeared to them divided tongues, as of fire, and [one] sat upon each of them.

So first, they hear the sound of the presence of the Holy Spirit – then the disciples see a manifestation of His presence in what appears to be flames sitting on top of each one of the disciples in the room.

[Mat 3:11 NKJV] 11 "I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance, but He who is coming after me is mightier than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.

In the Old Testament, fire was the way that sacrifices were consumed on the altar.

It was the way in which the animal was given to God, as it was totally burnt up in the flames.

The Holy Spirit works in much the same way in our lives, consuming the "me", and leaving only the "Him".

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

I first want you to notice that the Holy Spirit was in control the entire time.

The Holy Spirit gave them the ability to speak in a tongue that they had not learned on their own.

Everything was done in order – notice that it doesn't say that everyone was rolling on the floor as they were speaking in tongues.

I have heard people say that they don't ever want to speak in tongues because they have seen the abuses that go on in some of the churches and they think that they are going to be at work and all of a sudden lose control and start babbling – that is not what speaking in tongues is.

The Holy Spirit does not take over our bodies against our will.

God is a God of order –

Also, not everyone who is filled with the Spirit is given the gift of tongues.

There are churches today that say that if one doesn't speak in tongues – that shows that he/she is not filled with the Spirit – Not true.

The gifts are for the edification of the church – if we all had the same gift, then we wouldn't need each other. (1 Cor 12)

God equips us with different gifts so that we will have a need for one another.

Turn with me to 1 Corinthians 14

Because just like there are abuses in the church today with the gift of tongues – there were abuses in the early church.

Paul dedicates three chapters to the subject of speaking in tongues.

And here in chapter 14 – we find the purpose.

[1Co 14:1-5 NKJV] 1 Pursue love, and desire spiritual [gifts], but especially that you may prophesy. 2 For he who speaks in a tongue does not speak to men but to God, for no one understands [him]; however, in the spirit he speaks mysteries. 3 But he who prophesies speaks edification and exhortation and comfort to men. 4 He who speaks in a tongue edifies himself, but he who prophesies edifies the church. 5 I wish you all spoke with tongues, but even more that you prophesied; for he who prophesies [is] greater than he who speaks with tongues, unless indeed he interprets, that the church may receive edification.

When one is given the gift of tongues, he is speaking to God and not to man.

So I have made the point that the scriptures tell us that if someone is going to speak in tongues – there must be someone with the gift of interpretation in the room.

If the person who claims to have the gift of interpretation – if he or she says, Thus sayeth the Lord or Little Children – we know that they don't have the gift of interpretation because the message is to man.

The gift of tongues is all about offering prayer and praise to God as the Holy Spirit gives praise and honor to God, through our mouth, bypassing the limits of our puny, human mind.

5 And there were dwelling in Jerusalem Jews, devout men, from every nation under heaven. 6 And when this sound occurred, the multitude came together, and were confused, because everyone heard them speak in his own language.

Because it was the Feast of Weeks / Pentecost, there were Jews gathered from all around the region.

They hear the sound – most likely the sound of the rushing wind or maybe they heard the news of that there were guys with fire on their heads speaking in strange languages.

They come to get a closer look at what's going on – and they are confused because even though they come from different regions of the Mediterranean – each one of them is able to understand what the apostles and the rest of the disciples were speaking in each of their language.

7 Then they were all amazed and marveled, saying to one another, "Look, are not all these who speak Galileans? 8 "And how [is it that] we hear, each in our own language in which we were born?

Galileans were known to uncultured and poor speakers –

It would be like pulling someone from the backwoods of Kentucky and having them speak perfect Spanish or perfect Chinese.

I remember hearing a pastor (John Courson) telling the story of an event that he had organized up in the mountains above Southern California – it was a conference.

And there were about 150 attendees -

And because they rented out the main conference room in the hotel – the management also required that the bar in the room had to be rented out as well.

And because there was a bar – there was also a bartender – and he had nothing to do so he just sat there bored out his mind as the conference went on.

As the group was praying and waiting on the Lord, one of the attendees stood up & gave an utterance in tongues, then sat down.

The leader asked for the interpretation, but no one gave one.

So the pastor reminded them that according to 1 Cor. 14, unless there was an interpretation, there shouldn't be any more attendees speaking out in tongues.

Once again – everything is in order -

A short time later when the meeting concluded, the bartender came over to the pastor who organized the event & with tears streaming down his face asked to see the man who had spoken in tongues.

You see, the bartender was Iranian and the tongues had been in perfect Farsi.

And he said that the bartender said the praise rendered to God was so eloquent & moving he had to meet the man who possessed such a close relationship with God.

And later that evening that bartender heard for the first time, the gospel.

And he responded by accepting Jesus Christ as His Lord and Savior that day.

9 "Parthians and Medes and Elamites, those dwelling in Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, 10 "Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya adjoining Cyrene, visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes (Jewish converts), 11 "Cretans and Arabs--we hear them speaking in our own tongues the wonderful works of God."

There are at least 15 different nations mentioned here – that means at least 15 different dialects and probably more that were heard that day.

And what did they hear????

The wonderful works of God – they heard praise!!! Worship!!!

They didn't hear preaching, because preaching is directed to men.

Nowhere in the scriptures do we ever find an instance of someone using an unknown language to preach the gospel.

12 So they were all amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, "Whatever could this mean?" 13 Others mocking said, "They are full of new wine."

While most of the crowd responded to the outpouring of the Spirit with a positive interest, some mocked and said they were drunk.

Church, when the Holy Spirit comes upon a person & they give themselves over to freely worship God, it will appear a bit extravagant to those who think maintaining a cool exterior is the most important thing in life.

I had two cousins that were gang members –they would drive around and break into cars and homes – and by the grace of God, they accepted Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior.

And after a few months - my aunt was ready to throw them out of her house because she didn't understand why they were up late at night reading the bible – she didn't understand why they were praying all the time and singing worship songs.

She would say that wished that they would simply return to the way they were.

She believed that they had gone crazy.

She was just like these witnesses to what had happened on the day of Pentecost.

I am reminded of King David when they brought the Ark of the Covenant to Jerusalem, David takes his royal robe off and starts dancing before the Lord in his underwear – His wife Michal watches through the window and the scriptures tell us that she despised him in her heart.

When David comes inside the palace she ridicules him for being undignified (2 Sam 6)

David response – “I was doing it for the Lord – not for you”

And then the scriptures tell us that Michal became barren.

Church, don't be a Michal.

Don't be like those mockers at Pentecost.

Paul tells us –

(Eph 5:18 NKJV) And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit,

The 120 were not “under the influence” of alcohol, but of the Spirit of God.

And so should we.

Amen

Let's pray...

To Receive Christ do the following:

Admit, "I am a sinner."

Confess and be willing to turn from your sin.

Believe, by faith that Jesus Christ died for you on the cross.

Receive, through prayer, Jesus Christ into your heart and receive eternal life.

Dear Lord Jesus,

I know that I am a sinner and need Your forgiveness. I believe that You died on the cross for my sins. Please forgive me for my sins and cleanse me by Your blood. I accept You by faith as my personal Lord and Savior. Give me a thirst for Your Word and Help me to follow You all of my days. In Jesus' name I pray, Amen.

[Num 6:24-26 NLT] 24 'May the LORD bless you and protect you. 25 May the LORD smile on you and be gracious to you. 26 May the LORD show you his favor and give you his peace.'