

“A RUSHING MIGHTY WIND”

Acts 2:1-4

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INTRODUCTION

Having done all that they could do to “get things right” within their assembly, and now depending fully upon the Lord for His provision of the Holy Spirit, the disciples waited in unity of soul and body for the Lord to meet them through His Spirit.

Notice that “they were all together.” It is important for us not merely to be united with our brethren in doctrine and practice, but also to _____ be together with them so that we do not miss out on the special provisions given by the Lord to His people! Jesus’ ministry began after His physical baptism (1:22), so their ministry will begin after their Spirit baptism.

The Lord was about to act in an amazing and powerful way—what difference would it make for His people? All the difference in the world!

YOU CANNOT SERVE THE LORD WITHOUT THE BAPTISM AND FILLING OF THE HOLY SPIRIT.

I. THE RIGHT CIRCUMSTANCES (V. 1)

A. Time—“day of Pentecost”—Fifty days after the *first-fruits offering* on the day after Passover.

- This would have been a _____—the day for the beginning of the NT church.
- In Jewish tradition, this was the day on which the Lord gave the _____ (esp. 10 commandments) to Moses once reaching Mt. Sinai.
- Thus we see that Jesus is the new **Lawgiver**, and that the church is the new **people of God** for this dispensation.

B. Persons—“They were all together”.

- These disciples were unified! One *vision, mission, same core values, same doctrines*.
- The “all” here included more than the 12 apostles—must have intended all of the 120.

C. Place—One place

- They had likely been to the temple for early sacrifice and worship for Pentecost.
- Jews all around Jerusalem would likely now gather together in their small groups just as the disciples were doing here.

Now, at Jesus’ water baptism when He began His earthly ministry, there were external signs—a _____ from Heaven and the descent of a _____; here also we see signs—*noise and fire*.

II. THE SIGNS (2, 3)

A. Audible (v. 2)

- A _____ came on suddenly.
- Its origin was from Heaven.
- It is compared with a violent, rushing wind. Compare John 3:7-8—Spirit and wind; also Exek. 37:1-14—dry bones have Spirit, wind, breath come upon them.
- The wind is sudden and unseen.
- Likely only heard by the Christian disciples.
- Wind is at times used for divine presence (cf. I K. 19:11; Ps. 104:3-4).
- The whole house is filled—not merely the upper room.
- As a bath is filled with water, the house is filled with the Spirit that they all may be _____.

B. Visible (3)

1. Tongues

- Natural fire often appears to have “tongues”; these are somewhat shaped like the human tongue.
- Why the tongue?
 - Since their human tongues were going to be speaking the Gospel message to the lost.
 - Since the “gift of tongues” was about to be given to them.

2. Fire—“Like” fire. Significance of fire here?

- Fulfills John the Baptist’s prediction (Lk. 3:16—baptism of Spirit and fire).
- God’s purifying presence—purifying their _____. (Ex. 3:2; 19:18; I K. 18:38-39; Ezek. 1:27; etc.) The Spirit Sanctifies—Ezek. 1:13; Mal. 3:2-3.
- His divine _____; fire often connected with the manifestation of His presence. See Is. 33:14; Heb. 12:29—the burning zeal of His love.
- His _____ upon those rejecting His message. (See Mt. 3—fire of judgment on those who reject—like the Pharisees and scribes.)

3. Sat (rested) on each one

- These were “distributing themselves” tongues.
- Each believer had one resting upon him.
- Each one would have divine power to utter speech in divine things; they were thus spiritually transformed.
- This is as Jesus had promised (Acts 11:15-17; 1:4-5). They are ____ and **each one** members of Christ’s body (I Cor. 12:13).
- Each includes young and old, male and female, slave and free (2:17-18).

The speaking with tongues of v. 4 is really a third sign—an audible one. But, it was also God’s means of conveying His message of praise and glory to the people.

The filling with the Spirit and the resulting gifts and power are the result of this incident.

III. THE SUBSTANCE (4) (External tokens followed by internal reality)

A. Spirit Filling

- All—not a gift for a select few.
- Filling has to do with “_____” and leads to godly living.

- Filled “with” the Spirit—He takes control of one’s inner being.
- Filling results in _____ for service.
- At the same time these believers were **baptized** with the Spirit—cleansed and united to Christ’s _____. Jesus is the baptizer; the Spirit is the medium, just as the water used by John the Baptist was the medium and John was the Baptizer.
- The baptism with the Spirit occurs _____; the filling _____ times (4:8; 4:31; etc.)
- The baptism with the Spirit shows the beginning of a new relationship.
- In a sense they were also **indwelt** by the Spirit.

B. Speaking with tongues

- The Spirit began enabling them to speak with tongues.
- Tongues” are other _____—the only other valid definition of the Greek word in the NT.
- I Cor. 12 & 14 make clear that it involves a supernatural ability given by the Spirit; it is not a learned language.
- Usually, when used as a gift given to an individual for regular use in the body, only certain persons possess tongues (I Cor. 12, 14). Here _____ speaks.
- This is an example of tongues used for special **apostolic authentication** and _____ of **Spirit filling** for a temporary manifestation—not as a gift for the body of the local church.
- Some may have kept “tongues” as a gift, but most would only have had this one experience. Other similar instances within Acts: chapter 8, 10, and 19.
- The Spirit “gave them _____.” This was not some humanly contrived manifestation.
- The word “utterance” is used in the NT for some significant communication—never for ecstatic speech (gibberish). **In fact, the NT never uses “tongues” to refer to ecstatic speech.** The verb here suggests impassioned utterance or utterance with unusual fervor and enthusiasm—speech inspired by God. It is used in 2:14 of Peter’s fervent sermon—certainly not ecstatic speech! And in 26:25 of Paul’s fervent speech to Festus.
- Verses 8 & 11 make very clear the _____ nature of these utterances.
- True, tongues are easily imitated, but the Biblical tongues were clearly distinct. Note that listeners to this kind of speech at times attributed it to “madness” (26:24) or drunkenness (2:13; cf. Eph. 5:18-19).
- Tongues are not the only **inspired utterance** taking place after Spirit-filling: 4:8, 31; 13:9; Lk. 1:41, 67.
- Note the reference here to **OTHER** tongues. This word refers to different _____; it cannot be used for ecstatic speech! These are different kinds of languages, not merely different dialects. Also can refer to a “different way of speaking”—the language was unlearned.
- The use of “tongues” here helps to show the **divine intent”** to use these people to take the gospel around the _____.
- Moreover, the outward visible sign is evidence of the inward and spiritual grace given by God.

- Tongues (and prophecy) were used to communicate God’s truth—here basically _____ and thanksgiving of God. Tongues were not used here or elsewhere **to preach the _____!**

CONCLUSION

You must be baptized with the Spirit. Be saved!

You must be filled with the Spirit. Submit your life to His control.

You do not need to speak with tongues; that gift along with those of I Cor. 12, 14 passed away with the death of the apostles—to whom and through whom they were given and manifested in the early church.

DON’T GET SIDETRACKED BY FALSE CONCEPTS OF SPIRITUAL POWER;
Nor of false concepts of spiritual gifts.

Learn the lessons God wants you to learn.