

## Filled With the Holy Spirit

**Acts 2:1-13** When the day of Pentecost arrived, they were all together in one place. <sup>2</sup> And suddenly there came from heaven a sound like a mighty rushing wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. <sup>3</sup> And divided tongues as of fire appeared to them and rested on each one of them. <sup>4</sup> And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance. <sup>5</sup> Now there were dwelling in Jerusalem Jews, devout men from every nation under heaven. <sup>6</sup> And at this sound the multitude came together, and they were bewildered, because each one was hearing them speak in his own language. <sup>7</sup> And they were amazed and astonished, saying, "Are not all these who are speaking Galileans?" <sup>8</sup> And how is it that we hear, each of us in his own native language? <sup>9</sup> Parthians and Medes and Elamites and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, <sup>10</sup> Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, <sup>11</sup> both Jews and proselytes, Cretans and Arabians—we hear them telling in our own tongues the mighty works of God." <sup>12</sup> And all were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, "What does this mean?" <sup>13</sup> But others mocking said, "They are filled with new wine."

### ❖ Intro

- Continue our study in Acts... and in Ch. 2 and many of the issues we must address in this chapter
- **Lots of good questions...**
  - I will get to them all (keep them coming please)
- **Today's Sermon is going to be big...**
  - But I hope it is fruitful and something you can refer to over and over again...
    - I hope to have this sermon up quickly so you can go back to it... If you miss something
  - The text cause us to embark on certain side roads before coming back...

### ❖ Recap

- **Here is a simple way of understanding the coming of the Holy Spirit...**
  - Although it could be explained a little more, it would be considered correct...
  - I am going to spend a little time explaining it in more detail...
  - I have so far... sort of danced around the difference between baptism and filling... if there is one...
    - Just for simplicity sake...
- **The Spirit coming on the day of Pentecost marked a time of transition**
  - From an Old Testament way of Religion
  - To what we have today...
  - Jesus death on the cross and resurrection had already assured us of a new and better covenant
  - And the Spirit coming was the last thing that needed to be done.
  - Jesus promised to send His Spirit... But He said He had to go away first...
  - Peter said that Jesus is at the right hand, and on that day of Pentecost...
    - Peter proclaimed that Jesus had poured out His Spirit that day...
    - So, they were baptized in the Holy Spirit
- **Baptism of the Holy Spirit**
  - Is generally that initial time of Conversion
  - Or Rebirth
  - Described in Ezekiel as God putting His Spirit into us.
  - Paul describes it in 1 Cor 12 when he says
    - **1 Cor 12:13** <sup>13</sup> For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body
  - **I said generally because that is how we describe it today and how Pauls described it ...**
    - And in the book of Acts there were other situations where the same wording is used but, it does not refer to initial conversion...

- More on this in just a minute...

### ➤ Filled With the Spirit

- Those times when a person is so full of God they burst...
- And they burst into being a witness for the name of Jesus...
- **They are filled with the Spirit... and they testify about the great things of God**
  - Namely the gospel
  - And it looks differently for different people in different times and places...
- **We do notice:**
  - In the scriptures: When a person is filled with the Spirit...
  - They do extraordinary things for God and the advancement of the gospel
- **This is something we should pray earnestly for:**

### ❖ The Main Thing:

#### ➤ Pentecost – It’s Meaning...

#### ➤ The Harvest

- Men are likened to wheat
- Jesus represents himself as a grain of wheat that falls to the ground to die... So more wheat comes up

#### ➤ The Nations Represented

- <sup>5</sup> Now there were dwelling in Jerusalem Jews, devout men from every nation under heaven. <sup>6</sup> And at this sound the multitude came together, and they were bewildered, because each one was hearing them speak in his own language. <sup>7</sup> And they were amazed and astonished, saying, “Are not all these who are speaking Galileans? <sup>8</sup> And how is it that we hear, each of us in his own native language? <sup>9</sup> Parthians and Medes and Elamites and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, <sup>10</sup> Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, <sup>11</sup> both Jews and proselytes, Cretans and Arabians

#### ▪ Modern Day

- Iran, Turkey, North Africa, Crete, Rome, Arabia, Egypt, Syria, across various smaller parts of the Middle East, and also Israel

#### ▪ Likely more people came to this feast than came to Passover...

- Weather was better.

#### ➤ <sup>1</sup> Acts Ch 2 and the <sup>2</sup>Day of Pentecost and the <sup>3</sup>Holy Spirit Coming and the <sup>4</sup>Nations Represented...

- They Were about one thing.
- God using men to get the Gospel out to the nations through the power of the Holy Spirit

### ❖ Filled With the Spirit And Speaking in Tongues

- Verse 4 is going to take a lot of groundwork... before we ever get to where we are going
- Just like you have to lay a foundation before putting on the roof

- <sup>4</sup> And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance.

#### ➤ 1) Baptism and Filling...

- I do not mean to confuse you here... or go against what I have previously said...
  - I simply want to give you all the info... and now is the time...

#### ▪ The questions that arise are like this:

- What is the difference b/w baptism with the Spirit and filling with the Spirit?
- Is the baptism that Jesus and John the Baptist spoke of the same as what Paul speaks of in 1 Cor 12?

#### ➤ My Answers are summarized like this:

- 1) Believers are given what we can call a full measure of the Spirit when they are born again
- 2) God fills them time and time again to do marvelous works for Jesus
- 3) Sometimes the words baptism and filling are used to mean the same thing...
  - And this is why there is much confusion today...
  - In my opinion
- 4) Paul in 1 Cor. and what occurs in the book of Acts are slightly different
- Paul says: **1 Cor 12:13<sup>13</sup> For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body**
- **So...** Here we have Paul describing our conversion in terms of being baptized into the body...
  - **And I think it would be** fair to say that Jesus and John the Baptist is speaking of this when it is said that Jesus will baptize us with the Holy Spirit...
  - **But,** It is in the sense of the future church as a whole while something a little different would occur to the disciples...
- **Baptism with the Holy Spirit elsewhere is described...**
  - **In Luke 24:49** It is described as being clothed with power from on high
  - **In Acts 1:4** It is the promise of the Father
  - **In Acts 1:5** it is baptized by the Spirit
  - **In Acts 1:8** it is you will receive power
- **So... We see that in these cases... Initial Salvation is not in view...**
  - Rather there is a special power the disciples are given to take the gospel to the world...
  - And it is obvious from scripture that the disciples already were born again and had the Spirit
- **Finally... the last bit of proof I needed to show me that the terms baptism and filled can be used**
  - Interchangeably and with different meanings is here in verse 4
  - The Spirit comes in verses 2 and 3 and he is described... (Bout to look at this)
  - And we know this to be the fulfillment of the promise of the Father...
  - ... And what Jesus told them in ch 1... to wait for the baptism of the Spirit...
- **Verse 4 (explaining the baptism of the Holy Spirit)**
  - **<sup>4</sup> And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit**
  - The Baptism of the Spirit is described as being filled with the Spirit...
- **In Conclusion...**
  - Except for what Paul says about baptism into one Spirit...
    - Baptism in the Spirit referred to a special empowerment for the preaching of the gospel
    - Given to the disciples in the book of Acts
  - Yet, It is ok to say we are baptized with the Holy Spirit when we repent and believe
  - And it is ok to say we are filled with the Spirit at different time and ways
  - Just understand... that simplicity does not answer everything... and context is key...

## ❖ The Spirit Revealed Himself In this Way

- **<sup>2</sup> And suddenly there came from heaven a sound like a mighty rushing wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. <sup>3</sup> And divided tongues as of fire appeared to them and rested on each one of them.**
- **Wind and Tongues and Fire**
  - All very significant I suppose
  - I always assume God is very intelligent...
  - And He does what He does with important reasons behind it...
  - Especially what we read in Scripture
  - So, the revealing of the Spirit in this way was not accidental but purposeful
- **When Jesus was baptized the Spirit descended upon Him like a dove...**
  - And I think this was significant...

- I think we see the Spirit reveal or manifest Himself in this way to show the Peace that Jesus brings
- The angels announced at His birth that peace had come to men that God was pleased with

#### ➤ **Wind**

- Power... Think... hurricane... It is meant to signify His power

#### ➤ **Tongues**

- Spirit is described as tongues since His purpose that day was to cause the disciples to speak His utterances... Which was the Mighty Works of God... Namely the Gospel

#### ➤ **Fire**

- Many things could be said here...
- **Purifying** of the sinful nature of the lost and continual purifying of the believer
- **Warm** – To warm up the coldness of death, to heat up the disciples heart for the gospel
- **Light** – illuminating the dark places where sin has held people blind...

### ❖ **The Role of the Holy Spirit**

- Not going to exhaust this... but look at a few things
- More next week

#### ➤ **Within the Godhead**

- The Spirit is the Agent for God
- The Spirit Exalts the Father and the Son
- And in this Day and Age... Namely the Son....
- The Holy Spirit is working and moving today to exalt Jesus Christ in all Nations
- Not only does He bear Witness About Jesus.... He also convicts the world of Jesus' Truthfulness

#### ➤ **In the World**

- **John 16:8-11** <sup>8</sup> And when he comes, he will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment: <sup>9</sup> concerning sin, because they do not believe in me; <sup>10</sup> concerning righteousness, because I go to the Father, and you will see me no longer; <sup>11</sup> concerning judgment, because the ruler of this world is judged.

#### ➤ **In the Believer**

- Spirit fills the believer with His Experience of God
  - I know this may sound odd... since He is God...
  - But He experiences life within the Triune God of Father, Son and Spirit
- Empowers the believer to be a witness of the gospel for the salvation of souls
- Convicts, Comforts, Teaches, Leads, Purifies, grows... etc.
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### ❖ **They Spoke as the Spirit Gave them Utterance**

- **we hear them telling in our own tongues the mighty works of God.”** <sup>12</sup> And all were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, “What does this mean?” <sup>13</sup> But others mocking said, “They are filled with new wine.”

➤ Spirit Comes and Fills them... and they begin to speak as the Holy Spirit Leads...

#### ➤ **They are telling in the tongues of other men...**

- The mighty works of God
- The Gospel is being proclaimed!

### ❖ **Speaking in Tongues**

- Please remember... that tongues is secondary to what is occurring on the day of Pentecost...
- **The Main Point is the giving of the Gospel through men by the Power of the Holy Spirit...**
  - God sent His Son... To die for the sick and dying
  - God loves man so much that He would sacrifice His only Son...
  - Who defeated the power that sin and death had over us...

- **So... Giving of Gospel to Nations is Main thing...**
  - Tongues is secondary... but important...
  - Because there is much division here... and confusion
  - And I think it has led to apathy and low expectations of the movement of God in churches like ours...
  - While leading to confusion and bad doctrine in other churches where tongues is primary...

### ➤ **What is Tongues?**

- Wayne Grudem's view: Quick definition: Prayer or praise spoken in syllables not understood by the speaker
  - Not sure if I am allowed to add anything to His definition... or want to change it a bit...
  - But I think I will a bit...

### ➤ **Pentecostal View**

- **Sort of Goes like this:**
  - Speaking in tongues is a sign that the Holy Spirit has come to dwell in the person
  - Without ever speaking in tongues a person can not have the Holy Spirit
  - People get the Holy Spirit through the laying on of hands by a Pastor or Leader in the front
  - Baptism with the Holy Spirit is a second event for the believer
    - ◆ Or we could say the indwelling of the Holy Spirit
- **Now, I have not been to every Pentecostal church...**
  - So I am sure there are some of the Pentecostal denomination that get it right...
  - And I believe they are wonderful brothers and sisters in the Lord.
  - I would just differ with them over the idea that one must speak in tongues at least once...
    - ◆ If they are to have the Holy Spirit.
    - ◆ And this is not because I do not possess this gift, rather, I just see it scripturally
    - ◆ One example is after Philip baptizes the Ethiopian, says nothing of him speaking in tongues
    - ◆ There are other examples...
    - ◆ And one could argue that it doesn't mean it never happened to them...
    - ◆ And that is true...
  - I would differ that the giving of the Spirit is another even in the life of the Believer
    - ◆ I believe we receive the Spirit immediately at our conversion
- **Why so Many people speaking in tongues in the Pentecostal Denomination**
  - 1) I would say... because those with the spiritual gift of tongues feel more comfortable there...
  - Since so many churches like to speak down upon the gift...
  - I do not want to do that... I only want it in its proper place... In the same way Paul did...
  - 1) So, One... those with that gift flock to those type of like minded churches...
  - 2) Many people are faking it. This comes from some of their confessions...
    - ◆ Some say they are taught how to speak in tongues...
    - ◆ Which would not make it a gift...
    - ◆ Some are just speaking gibberish...
- **And... with any gift... even the gift of teaching... there will always be misuse...**

### ➤ **What Kinds of Tongues**

- Known Tongues? Yes.... They are a known language...
- Prayer Language? Yes... there is a prayer language
- Praise or Song Language? Yes... there is some sort of singing language
- **Personally: I do not think tongues is ever gibberish...**
  - The scriptures seem to indicate that it is some sort of known language...

- The language may only be known in heaven... but it is known... it has meaning...

➤ **My Long Definition of Tongues:**

- Syllables uttered by a believer that is some sort of known language whether it be of men or heavenly that the speaker does not understand without the gift of interpretation. People speak in tongues for the purpose of the advancement of the gospel and for personal edification through prayer or praise in the Spirit.

➤ **Paul's Instructions on tongues**

- **1 Cor 12.28 – 31** <sup>28</sup> And God has appointed in the church first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then miracles, then gifts of healing, helping, administrating, and various kinds of tongues. <sup>29</sup> Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work miracles? <sup>30</sup> Do all possess gifts of healing? Do all speak with tongues? Do all interpret? <sup>31</sup> But earnestly desire the higher gifts. And I will show you a still more excellent way.
  - 1) Tongues are a Gift of the Spirit
  - 2) Not All Posses this Gift, but some do...
- **1 Cor 13.1** If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal.
  - 3) Gift of tongues is nothing if the person with the gift does not love... more excellent
- **1 Cor 13:8-10** <sup>8</sup> Love never ends. As for prophecies, they will pass away; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will pass away. <sup>9</sup> For we know in part and we prophesy in part, <sup>10</sup> but when the perfect comes, the partial will pass away.
  - 4) The gift of tongues will end when Jesus returns...
- **1 Cor 14 (I went back and forth on if I wanted to go through this whole section)**
  - ◆ Paul is dealing with a church that is having some issues with orderly worship
  - **1 Cor 14:1-28** Pursue love, and earnestly desire the spiritual gifts, especially that you may prophesy. <sup>2</sup> For one who speaks in a tongue speaks not to men but to God; for no one understands him, but he utters mysteries in the Spirit.
    - ◆ Here we learn it is ok to earnestly desire spiritual gifts...
    - ◆ We also learn in this case the person speaking in tongues is speaking to God
    - ◆ And He is uttering mysteries... Things we do not know... and the speaker doesn't understand
      - As we will learn later
  - <sup>3</sup> On the other hand, the one who prophesies speaks to people for their upbuilding and encouragement and consolation. <sup>4</sup> The one who speaks in a tongue builds up himself, but the one who prophesies builds up the church.
    - ◆ Here we see tongues contrasted with prophecying (which we will deal with later)
    - ◆ And prophecying is seen as building up the church
    - ◆ While tongues of this nature builds up the individual... that is a good thing... but not best
  - <sup>5</sup> Now I want you all to speak in tongues, but even more to prophesy. The one who prophesies is greater than the one who speaks in tongues, unless someone interprets, so that the church may be built up.
    - ◆ Here we see Paul desiring for people to speak in tongues...
    - ◆ I assume because he understands the benefits.
    - ◆ He would rather people prophecy (says the one speaking them is greater)
    - ◆ Unless there is an interpreter for the spoken tongues... (Then we have something real good)
  - <sup>6</sup> Now, brothers, if I come to you speaking in tongues, how will I benefit you unless I bring you some revelation or knowledge or prophecy or teaching? <sup>7</sup> If even lifeless instruments, such as the flute or the harp, do not give distinct notes, how will anyone know what is played? <sup>8</sup> And if the bugle gives an indistinct sound, who will get ready for battle? <sup>9</sup> So with yourselves, if with your tongue you utter speech that is not intelligible, how will anyone know what is said? For

you will be speaking into the air. <sup>10</sup> There are doubtless many different languages in the world, and none is without meaning, <sup>11</sup> but if I do not know the meaning of the language, I will be a foreigner to the speaker and the speaker a foreigner to me. <sup>12</sup> So with yourselves, since you are eager for manifestations of the Spirit, strive to excel in building up the church.

- ◆ Here Paul is explaining to them there is no benefit to tongues unless there is some sort of teaching or knowledge, etc to go with it...
- ◆ He likens this to instruments having distinct sounds that a person can understand and then respond correctly to them...
- ◆ He also likens this to all the different languages in the world... they have meaning... but if I do not know the meaning... I can not understand...
- ◆ He essentially says... When you are speaking with tongues and they are intelligible they are of no use... like speaking into the air
- <sup>13</sup> Therefore, one who speaks in a tongue should pray that he may interpret. <sup>14</sup> For if I pray in a tongue, my spirit prays but my mind is unfruitful. <sup>15</sup> What am I to do? I will pray with my spirit, but I will pray with my mind also; I will sing praise with my spirit, but I will sing with my mind also.
  - ◆ Now we see Paul saying the speaker of tongues should pray to be able to interpret
    - Which is a spiritual gift
  - ◆ He tells us that he is praying in his spirit when Praying in a tongue and it is his spirit that is edified, but in his mind it is unfruitful... cause he doesn't know what he said.
  - ◆ Therefore... He says... We should do both... Pray and sing in his spirit and with his mind
- <sup>16</sup> Otherwise, if you give thanks with your spirit, how can anyone in the position of an outsider say "Amen" to your thanksgiving when he does not know what you are saying? <sup>17</sup> For you may be giving thanks well enough, but the other person is not being built up.
  - ◆ He gets to the heart of the matter here...
  - ◆ He says that the outsider is not built up (which is the purpose of the worship service)
    - When He is thanking God in his spirit
- <sup>18</sup> I thank God that I speak in tongues more than all of you. <sup>19</sup> Nevertheless, in church I would rather speak five words with my mind in order to instruct others, than ten thousand words in a tongue.
  - ◆ Paul likes prophecy more... apparently
  - ◆ 5 to 10000
- <sup>20</sup> Brothers, do not be children in your thinking. Be infants in evil, but in your thinking be mature. <sup>21</sup> In the Law it is written, "By people of strange tongues and by the lips of foreigners will I speak to this people, and even then they will not listen to me, says the Lord." <sup>22</sup> Thus tongues are a sign not for believers but for unbelievers, while prophecy is a sign not for unbelievers but for believers.
  - ◆ **The sign of Tongues is for unbelievers...**
    - And we see this on display in Acts 2 where the people are amazed they can hear the gospel in their own language...
    - This is not to say that everything Paul is saying here is referring back to that use of tongues...
    - Simply because some of this is just between the person and God in prayer
  - ◆ **And Prophecy is not so much for unbelievers, but for believers...**
    - Now... this one is a bit tricky...
    - Cause Paul goes on to make the argument that prophecy is good for unbelievers because through it conviction comes...
    - He is simply saying it is not a sign... it is nothing miraculous... Except for the believer

- Because He understands and rejoices in it...
- This does not intend to take a way from the good purpose of prophecy for the unbeliever...
- <sup>23</sup> If, therefore, the whole church comes together and all speak in tongues, and outsiders or unbelievers enter, will they not say that you are out of your minds? <sup>24</sup> But if all prophesy, and an unbeliever or outsider enters, he is convicted by all, he is called to account by all, <sup>25</sup> the secrets of his heart are disclosed, and so, falling on his face, he will worship God and declare that God is really among you.
  - ◆ If everyone is speaking in tongues... the outsider is going to think they are crazy
  - ◆ But if all are prophecying... then conviction comes
  - ◆ It leads the person to God... Cause God is speaking to them through prophecy
  - ◆ So we know the Holy Spirit is at work declaring the mighty Acts of God as in Acts 2
- <sup>26</sup> What then, brothers? When you come together, each one has a hymn, a lesson, a revelation, a tongue, or an interpretation. Let all things be done for building up. <sup>27</sup> If any speak in a tongue, let there be only two or at most three, and each in turn, and let someone interpret. <sup>28</sup> But if there is no one to interpret, let each of them keep silent in church and speak to himself and to God.
  - ◆ Purpose is building up
  - ◆ Only 2 or 3 in tongues only with an interpreter
  - ◆ One at a time
  - ◆ No interpreter... keep it private... to yourself and God
    - Usually this is where the problems arise... When it should be kept private and it is made public...
    - Some things are best when private...
    - Like singing! For some of us
- **Views on Tongues:**
  - And these are views on sign gifts like tongues, healing and prophecy...
  - **Cessationists**
    - They think it has ended... they get their view from 1 Cor 13 where it says tongues will cease when the perfect comes...
    - They say the Bible is what is referenced and since the Bible was finished there was no need for tongues...
  - **Continuationists**
    - Believe it continues in full force today....
  - **Open but Cautious...** (Something I only heard of recently)... But found out it is exactly where I am on this...
    - Somewhere in between the two...
    - They believe that God still gives the gifts, but we need to be careful in our testing of them...
    - To be sure they are from the Lord
    - And not from the individual or Satan himself...
    - So, on one had we do not forbid it...
      - ◆ **1 Cor 14:39** So, my brothers, earnestly desire to prophesy, and do not forbid speaking in tongues.
    - On the other... we test it... like Paul instructs us in regards to prophecy
      - ◆ **1 Thess 5:20** <sup>20</sup> Do not despise prophecies, <sup>21</sup> but test everything; hold fast what is good.

## ❖ The Holy Spirit's Coming is For Today

- The mission remains the same...



- We are living in the last days...
- **It is as if we are all insane...**
  - We keep doing the same things over and over...
  - Like robots...
  - We go to church and here the Word of God expounded
  - We wake up each week saying this will be the week I will get into the Word
  - And Walk in the Spirit and reach out to others...
  - Yet we return to church at the end of the week having done the same “nothing” we did the week before...
  - This is not to belittle us... or belittle the things we are doing for the Lord...
- **But I think we need to set the bar a little higher...**
  - If the mission of the Church is to reach the Lost
  - And the Spirit was given to us for that purpose...
  - Then we need to start thinking bigger...

## ❖ Invitation

