



ACTS - Living in the Promises of Jesus

Acts 2

Lesson 2

He made it! Thus could believers rejoice that Jesus had arrived in heaven, because He sent the Holy Spirit as He promised. Suddenly 120 believers were filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke in an unknown language, proclaiming the wonderful acts of God to a group of people who had gathered to celebrate the Day of Pentecost in Jerusalem, giving them another chance to rethink and re-determine just who this Jesus was that they had crucified less than two months prior. Three thousand changed their minds and hearts, continuing steadfastly in fulfilling the call of their true Messiah.

OBSERVATION: Read Acts 2

1. Read through this week's verses using both your Observation Worksheet (the last page of this homework) and another Bible translation or paraphrase. After reading through these verses, what would you say to someone if they asked you what they are about?
2. Key words help us to better understand the verses. We have listed below key words. Mark each one in a distinctive way (either with a symbol, highlighting, or some form of boxing, circling, or underlining). Mark each of the key words each time they are used in the text. Remember to mark any personal pronouns that refer to the *Father*, *Jesus*, and the *Holy Spirit*.
Key Words: *Father*, *Jesus*, *Holy Spirit*, *baptized*, *repent*, *raise/raised* (except verse 14), and *witnesses*
3. Underline the phrase *remission of sins* and the word *saved*.
4. The contrasting word *but* was used three times in Acts 2. Mark each time the word is used. Choose one of those times and record what is being contrasted.
5. The term of conclusion, *therefore*, was used four times. Mark each time the word is used. Choose one of the times; record the conclusion and what it is based upon.

THE COMING OF THE HOLY SPIRIT: Read Acts 2:1-4

1. Acts 2 begins with the mention of a Jewish holiday. What is it?

NOTE: *Pentecost* marked the 50th day of celebrating the feast of weeks, or the feast of first fruits which began after Passover. The Day of Pentecost, celebrated in Acts 2, occurred 50 days after the crucifixion of Jesus.

2. Using verses 2 and 3, describe what happened in the upper room that day.

- a. What did John the Baptist prophesy about Jesus in Matthew 3:11?

3. According to Acts 2:3, who did the *tongues of fire sit upon*?

4. According to Acts 2:4, what was the result of verses 2 and 3?

- a. What do you think it means to be *filled* with something?

- b. What was the result of *being filled with the Holy Spirit*?

5. *Speaking with other tongues* is not the only evidence of being filled with the Holy Spirit. But, it was the first evidence revealed to us. According to the last phrase of verse 4, how were they able to *speak with other tongues*?

6. Look up the following verses and record other evidences of being *filled with the Holy Spirit*:

- a. Acts 4:31

- 1.) What is the difference between *boldness* generated by the flesh and *boldness* generated by the Holy Spirit?

- b. Acts 13:9-11

7. The coming of the Holy Spirit would have been an especially joyous occasion for the apostles as it was proof that Jesus had arrived in heaven. What did Jesus promise in John 16:7?
 - a. What do you think would have been your response if you were in the upper room that day?

8. Ephesians 4:8 teaches us that when Jesus *ascended on high...He gave gifts to men*. Verse 11 lists some of those gifts. What are they?
 - a. What is their purpose? verse 12

 - b. Romans 12:6-8 lists more gifts. What are they?
 - 1.) What are we to do with them? verse 6

 - c. We can discover even more gifts in 1 Corinthians 12:8-10. What are they?
 - 1.) What important information is given to us in 1 Corinthians 12:4-7,11 regarding the giving of gifts?

9. What do you think the body of Christ would be like without spiritual gifts?

THE CROWD'S RESPONSE: Read Acts 2:5-13

1. After reading these verses, summarize the event.
 - a. What were some of the different reactions of the people in Jerusalem?
2. What question were they asking? verse 8
3. Although we don't know everything about this miracle of the Spirit, verse 11 reveals a most important detail. What was it the believers were proclaiming by the power of the Spirit?
 - a. Notice that they were not preaching the gospel or the need for repentance. What does 1 Corinthians 14:2 teach about who the one who speaks in an *unknown tongue* is speaking to?
4. What question did the onlookers ask in verse 12?
 - a. What was the conclusion of those who were *mocking*?

PETER'S FIRST SERMON: Read Acts 2:14-39

1. Although those who were mocking concluded that those in the upper room *were full of new wine*, Peter had the real reason for what was happening. Here we see a different Peter than we saw in the gospels. Scan these verses and record some of these changes in Peter.
2. Peter declared in verse 15 that *these are not drunk*. First, Peter explained what had happened. Peter quoted the prophet Joel. This prophecy covers the end times – the times between Jesus' resurrection and His second coming. There is still much yet to occur. List the predictions in Joel's prophecy that relate to the Holy Spirit.
 - a. This was very new and different for the Jews. Their understanding of the filling of the Holy Spirit was that He filled only a few and only for specific purposes. Here, in Jerusalem on this Day of Pentecost, all in the room had been filled. How do you tend to handle things that are different than what you have previously experienced and understood?

- 1.) What do you think this was like for these Jews who were steeped in the Old Testament ways?
3. Peter then drew their attention to Jesus. What did he remind them of and proclaim to them about Jesus in verses 22-24?
 - a. What was the result of God *raising Jesus up*?
- 1.) What does Romans 8:11 teach us about Jesus' resurrection *loosing the pains of death*?
4. Peter then drew their attention to their beloved King David and what David wrote about Jesus. What are some statements that David made about Christ? (Use Acts 2:25-35)
5. Write Peter's conclusion as stated in verse 36.
 - a. Having heard Peter's sermon, the reaction of many of the people changed. What does verse 37 say about them?
 - b. What question were they now asking?
 - c. Record Peter's answer from verse 38.
 - d. Who is the *promise of the Holy Spirit* for?

THE CHURCH GROWS: Read Acts 2:40-47

1. On that Day of Pentecost, 3,000 souls were saved (Acts 2:41). Using Acts 2:42-47, describe the early church.
 - a. Which of these factors is most important to you when you think of a healthy church?

REVIEW: Read Acts 2

1. After listening to Peter's message, many of the people changed their thinking. What were some of the components of Peter's sermon?
 - a. How has the Holy Spirit used sermons to change your perspective?
 - b. What questions do you ask when you have been convicted of a need to change?
2. How has the Holy Spirit changed you?
3. What impresses you about the early church?
4. In what ways have you been challenged or encouraged by this lesson?

And God both raised up the Lord and will also raise us up by His power.
- 1 Corinthians 6:14

Observation Worksheet

Acts 2:1-47

¹ When the Day of Pentecost had fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. 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. ³ Then there appeared to them divided tongues, as of fire, and *one* sat upon each of them. ⁴ And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance. 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. 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? 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, ¹¹ Cretans and Arabs--we hear them speaking in our own tongues the wonderful works of God." 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." ¹⁴ But Peter, standing up with the eleven, raised his voice and said to them, "Men of Judea and all who dwell in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and heed my words. ¹⁵ For these are not drunk, as you suppose, since it is *only* the third hour of the day. ¹⁶ But this is what was spoken by the prophet Joel: ¹⁷ *'And it shall come to pass in the last days, says God, that I will pour out of My Spirit on all flesh; your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your young men shall see visions, your old men shall dream dreams. ¹⁸ And on My menservants and on My maidservants I will pour out My Spirit in those days; and they shall prophesy. ¹⁹ I will show wonders in heaven above and signs in the earth beneath: blood and fire and vapor of smoke. ²⁰ The sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood, before the coming of the great and awesome day of the LORD. ²¹ And it shall come to pass that whoever calls on the name of the LORD shall be saved.'* ²² "Men of Israel, hear these words: Jesus of Nazareth, a Man attested by God to you by miracles, wonders, and signs which God did through Him in your midst, as you yourselves also know-- ²³ Him, being delivered by the determined purpose and foreknowledge of God, you have taken by lawless hands, have crucified, and put to death; ²⁴ whom God raised up, having loosed the pains of death, because it was not possible that He should be held by it. ²⁵ For David says concerning Him: *'I foresaw the LORD always before my face, for He is at my right hand, that I may not be shaken. ²⁶ Therefore my heart rejoiced, and my tongue was glad; moreover my flesh also will rest in hope. ²⁷ For You will not leave my soul in Hades, nor will You allow Your Holy One to see corruption. ²⁸ You have made known to me the ways of life; You will make me full of joy in Your presence.'* ²⁹ "Men and brethren, let *me* speak freely to you of the patriarch David, that he is both dead and buried, and his tomb is with us to this day. ³⁰ Therefore, being a prophet, and knowing that God had sworn

with an oath to him that of the fruit of his body, according to the flesh, He would raise up the Christ to sit on his throne, ³¹ he, foreseeing this, spoke concerning the resurrection of the Christ, that His soul was not left in Hades, nor did His flesh see corruption. ³² This Jesus God has raised up, of which we are all witnesses. ³³ Therefore being exalted to the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, He poured out this which you now see and hear. ³⁴ For David did not ascend into the heavens, but he says himself: '*The LORD said to my Lord, "Sit at My right hand, ³⁵ till I make Your enemies Your footstool."*' ³⁶ "Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly that God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ." ³⁷ Now when they heard *this*, they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, "Men *and* brethren, what shall we do?" ³⁸ 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. ³⁹ For the promise is to you and to your children, and to all who are afar off, as many as the Lord our God will call." ⁴⁰ And with many other words he testified and exhorted them, saying, "Be saved from this perverse generation." ⁴¹ Then those who gladly received his word were baptized; and that day about three thousand souls were added *to them*. ⁴² And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers. ⁴³ Then fear came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were done through the apostles. ⁴⁴ Now all who believed were together, and had all things in common, ⁴⁵ and sold their possessions and goods, and divided them among all, as anyone had need. ⁴⁶ So continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they ate their food with gladness and simplicity of heart, ⁴⁷ praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved.