

STRETCH

Acts Session 2



Discussion

Make a list of all the different words and phrases that are used to describe the Holy Spirit and his work?

- Acts 1:1-11
- Acts 2:1-4
- Acts 2:33
- Acts 2:38

Why do you think there is such a variety?

The Promised Holy Spirit

Acts 1:4-5

“And while staying with them he ordered them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the **promise of the Father**, which, he said, “you heard from me; for John baptized with water, but you will be **baptized with the Holy Spirit** not many days from now.”

Holy Spirit in the Old Testament

- Ezek 11:5 “And the Spirit of the LORD **fell upon** me, and he said to me, “Say, Thus says the LORD...”
- 1Sa 10:6-10 “Spirit of God **rushed upon** him, and he prophesied among them.”
- 1 Chron 12:18 Then the Spirit **clothed** Amasai, chief of the thirty, and he said, “We are yours, O David, and with you, O son of Jesse!
- Judges 6:34 But the Spirit of the LORD **clothed** Gideon, and he sounded the trumpet, and the Abiezrites were called out to follow him.

What is coming...

Luke 24:45

- “*clothed with power from on high*”

Acts 1:8

- You will receive power when the HS *comes upon you*”

What would you have expected?



Acts 2:1-4 What happened?

When the day of Pentecost arrived, they were all together in one place. And suddenly there came from heaven a sound like a mighty rushing wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. And divided tongues as of fire appeared to them and rested on each one of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance.

The Day of Pentecost

What was promised...

- “clothed with power”
- “Baptised with the Holy Spirit”
- “Holy Spirit will come upon you”

What happened...

- “sound like a mighty wind”
- “tongues as of fire”
- “Filled with the Holy Spirit”
- “Spoke in other tongues”

Signs of the Spirit

Wind & Fire

- *Pneuma* – Gk wind/ spirit same word
- Mighty wind filled – a picture of the power that would fill them?
- A Sound “like” – symbolic.
- Breath of God - 2 Sam 22:16, Job 37:10.
- Ex 13:21, 19:18, God was **in** the fire.
- Fire = God’s presence as Power

Wind and Fire = Signs of God’s presence

Signs of the Spirit

“And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance”

- All were filled
- All began to speak in tongues

Acts 2: 5-8

“Now there were dwelling in Jerusalem Jews, devout men from every nation under heaven. And at this sound the multitude came together, and they were bewildered, because each one was hearing them speak in his own language. And they were amazed and astonished, saying, “Are not all these who are speaking Galileans? And how is it that we hear, each of us in his own native language?”

Acts 2: 9-12

Parthians and Medes and Elamites and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, Cretans and Arabians—we hear them telling in our own tongues the mighty works of God.“ And all were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, “What does this mean?”

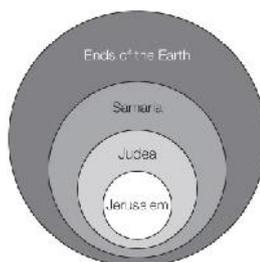
Discussion

- Why do you think the Spirit enabled them to speak different tongues in so many languages?

The Witness begins...

Acts 1:8

“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in **Jerusalem** and in all **Judea and Samaria**, and to the **end of the earth.**”

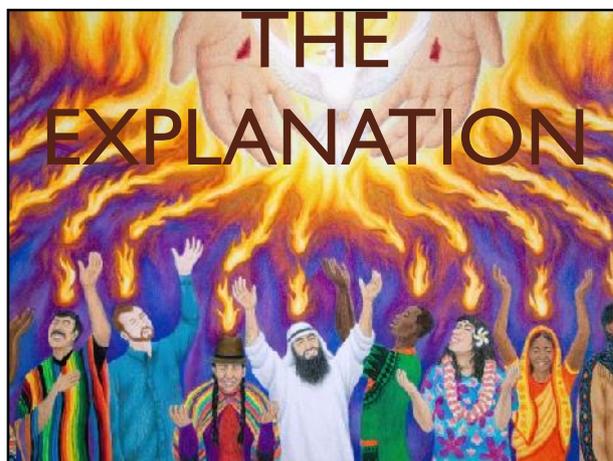


Why different tongues?

- The Holy Spirit had no desire to create a **uniform** Christian culture
- Their cultures and languages were validated – not a new imperialism
- One message in many tongues
- One church with many human cultures
- One multi-lingual God. (Rev 7:9-10)

What does this mean for us?

- Don't make a cultural value into a moral value e.g. *style of prayer or worship or attitude to time-keeping, dress code, titles, hospitality...*
- Our church needs to reflect our surroundings - We live in a diverse place, our church should reflect that without expect others to conform to our culture
- Make Integration a priority - of ages, cultures & backgrounds. **ONE CHURCH SUNDAYS!!**



The Speeches in Acts

- 25% of Acts is speeches
- Not “verbatim” but summary
- “with many **other** words” (2:40)
- Luke’s summary of the sermon - Faithfully reflecting its thought.
- Luke 1”investigated...”

Afterward = Today

"And it shall come to pass **afterward**, that I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh; your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, and your young men shall see visions. Even on the male and female servants in those days I will pour out my Spirit. (Joel 2:28-29)

Peter repeat “and they shall prophesy”

Today is the day salvation

"And I will show wonders in the heavens and on the earth, blood and fire and columns of smoke. The sun shall be turned to darkness, and the moon to blood, before the great and awesome day of the LORD comes. And it shall come to pass that **everyone who calls on the name of the LORD shall be saved.** (Joel 2:30-32)

Signs of the Spirit = Signs of Salvation

The Gospel (Acts 2: 22-41)

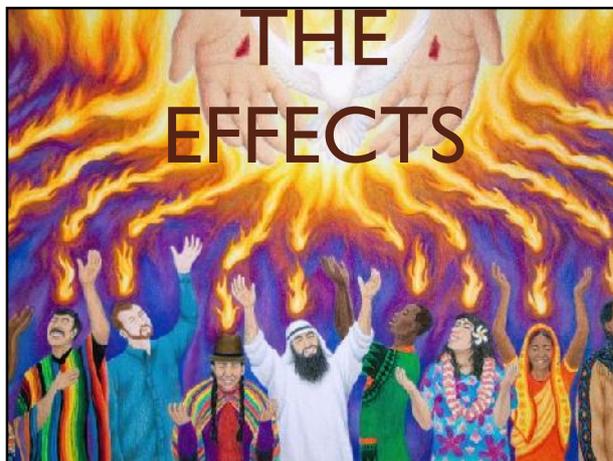
Events

Witnesses

The Gospel (Acts 2: 22-41)

Promises

Conditions



And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. And awe came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. And all who believed were together and had all things in common. And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need. And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having favour with all the people. And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved.

Discussion

- *What strikes you most about this new community of the Holy Spirit?*

The Witness of a Spirit-filled people

Characteristics

- Learning
- Loving
- Selfless
- Generous
- Powerful
- Prayerful
- Thankful
- Praising
- Increasing

Activities

- Bible Teaching
- Fellowship
- Communion
- Meeting needs
- Praying
- Gathering in public
- Gathering in homes
- Speaking about Jesus