

# Acts 2: 1-13

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# Contents

1. God's providence (v. 1).
2. Man's obedience (v. 1).
3. The spirit of being together, in unity (v. 1).
4. The Spirit's infilling (v. 2–4).
5. Witnessing by the disciples: To God-fearing men of every nation (v. 5–11).
6. There were different reactions (v. 12-13).

## Acts Chapter 2

The second chapter of Acts marks a turning point in the history of God's kingdom.

A new phase of His redemptive plan unfolds as the church is born.

# Acts Chapter 2

## Acts 1: 4-8

4 Gathering them together, He commanded them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait for what the Father had promised, “Which,” *He said*, “you heard of from Me;

5 for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.”

6 So when they had come together, they were asking Him, saying, “Lord, is it at this time You are restoring the kingdom to Israel?”

7 He said to them, “It is not for you to know times or epochs which the Father has fixed by His own authority;

8 but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth.

# Jesus told the Apostles:

1. **Not to leave Jerusalem**
2. To **wait** for what the **Father had promised**
3. That John baptized with water, but **you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit**
4. **It is not for you to know times or epochs** which the Father has fixed by His own authority
5. **You will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you;**
6. You shall be **My witnesses** in **Jerusalem**, all **Judea** and **Samaria**, and **even to the remotest part of the earth.**

# 1. How was Pentecost usually celebrated? (2: 1)

## Acts 2: 1

1 When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place.

### A. Pentecost was celebrated fifty days after the Passover.

It was also known as the “Day of the First Fruits”, or “Feast of Harvest.”

## Num. 28: 26

26 ‘Also on the day of the first fruits, when you present a new grain offering to the Lord in your *Feast of Weeks*, you shall have a holy convocation; you shall do no laborious work.

## Ex. 34: 22

22 “You shall celebrate the Feast of Weeks, *that is*, the first fruits of the wheat harvest, and the Feast of Ingathering at the turn of the year.

# 1. How was Pentecost usually celebrated? (2: 1)

B. Pentecost was a glorious day of celebration, a day when the people were to heap praise and thanksgiving upon God.

**There were three particular reasons for which they were to thank God.**

1. The Exodus, the deliverance of the nation Israel from Egyptian bondage (Dt. 16: 12). The people were to thank God for the day he delivered them out of slavery.

**2. The giving of the law upon Mt. Sinai (Ex. 19–20). This was the day the people were constituted as a nation, as the great nation of Israel.**

3. The harvest of the fields. It is a celebration of the “First Fruits.”

# 1. How was Pentecost usually celebrated? (2: 1)

1. There was the **“Feast of the Passover.”** (Spring) - It was a week of giving thanks.
  - a. God’s deliverance out of bondage and slavery, looking back to their forefathers’ slavery under Egypt.
2. There was another important feast, the **“Feast of the First Fruits.”** (50 days after the Passover) - It was a day of giving thanks.
  - a. This feast was for the birth and growth of the new crops, the reaping of the first fruits of the earth.
  - b. This feast was for the birth of their nation at Mt. Sinai.
3. There was also another important feast, the **“Feast of Tabernacles.”** (Fall) - It was a week of giving thanks.
  - a. This feast was for the end and completion of the harvest season, the journey of toil and struggle experienced in gathering the harvest.
  - b. This feast was for the end of their nation’s wilderness wanderings under Moses.



2. What group of people was gathered together: (2:1)

## Acts 2: 1

1 When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place.

### All of the believers

1. They were obedient. (Acts 1: 4)

2. They were unified. There was the spirit of being in one accord. (Acts 1: 14)

### 3. Where did a violent wind come from? (2:2)

## Acts 2: 2

2 And suddenly there came from heaven a noise like a violent rushing wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting.

The noise like a violent rushing wind  
came from heaven.

### 3. What did the followers of Christ hear and see? (2: 2-3)

#### Acts 2: 2-3

2 And **suddenly** there came from heaven a noise like a violent rushing wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting.

3 And there appeared to them tongues as of fire distributing themselves, and they rested on each one of them.

1. A noise like a violent rushing wind from heaven.

2. There appeared to them tongues as of fire rested on each one of them.

**3. What did the followers of Christ hear and see? (2: 2-3)**

**1. A noise like a violent rushing wind from heaven.**

a. People needed to be startled and alarmed. This attracted people to gather from all over Jerusalem, seeking to know what had happened.

b. The mighty power of the Spirit needed to be symbolized and dramatized for the apostles.

c. The apostles would learn how Christ wanted them to preach the gospel.

3. What did the followers of Christ hear and see? (2: 2-3)

**2. There appeared to them tongues as of fire rested on each one of them.**

a. The apostles were filled with the Holy Spirit.

b. The apostles began to speak with other tongues (other languages).

**3. What did the followers of Christ hear and see? (2: 2-3)**

**Ex. 3: 2**

**2** The angel of the Lord appeared to him in a blazing fire from the midst of a bush; and he looked, and behold, the bush was burning with fire, yet the bush was not consumed.

**Ex. 19: 18**

**18** Now Mount Sinai *was* all in smoke because the Lord descended upon it in fire; and its smoke ascended like the smoke of a furnace, and the whole mountain quaked violently.

### 3. What did the followers of Christ hear and see? (2: 2-3)

## Luke 3: 16-17

**16** John answered and said to them all, “As for me, I baptize you with water; but One is coming who is mightier than I, and I am not fit to untie the thong of His sandals; He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.

**17** “His winnowing fork is in His hand to thoroughly clear His threshing floor, and to gather the wheat into His barn; but He will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire.”

3. What did the followers of Christ hear and see? (2: 2-3)

**Luke 3: 16-17** - the baptism in the Holy Spirit and fire will result in the separation of the wheat and the chaff.

**Acts 2: 3** - tongues as of fire represent the empowerment of the Spirit. The apostles will proclaim a Spirit-inspired message.



### 3. What did the followers of Christ hear and see? (2: 2-3)

As a result of the Holy Spirit filling them, the apostles begin to speak in languages they did not know.

The Spirit's role is to teach and to help the apostles preach the gospel, and immediately upon His arrival He prompts them to do so.

They spoke in languages that they did not formerly speak, so that people from all over the world could hear about Jesus Christ.

4. What was the importance of the wind and fire? (2: 2-4)

## Acts 2: 2-4

2 And suddenly there came from heaven a noise like a violent rushing wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting.

3 And there appeared to them tongues as of fire distributing themselves, and they rested on each one of them.

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

## 4. What was the importance of the wind and fire? (2: 2-4)

One sign was a sound was like a violent wind. This noise came suddenly and unexpectedly. The "sign" was not a wind, but the sound like that of a violent wind.

1. Jesus compared the Spirit to the sound of the wind.
2. The Holy Spirit is invisible, but has tremendous power.
3. The Holy Spirit works invisibly and internally with infinite power in the hearts and lives of God's elect people.
4. He can change the hardest heart. (In chapter 9 of Acts we can read of the conversion of the Apostle Paul.)
5. He has power to make sinners new creatures, to make spiritually dead people alive, to resurrect God's people in the final day with glorious new bodies.
6. He can give faith that can move "figurative" mountains and can grant a comfort and peace that surpasses all understanding.

## 4. What was the importance of the wind and fire? (2: 2-4)

A second sign was separated tongues of fire, appearing on the heads of all who were in that room. There was no fire, but what looked like fire.

### 1. Fire purifies.

a. The Spirit purifies our hearts from the sin that is in us.

### 2. Fire also gives light.

a. The Spirit will enlighten the minds of the Lord's followers so that they can understand His work. Think of what great changes they experienced in this short period of time.

b. Up to this time the entire work of Christ seems to have been a "mystery" to them. They did not understand Him or the meaning of His cross and resurrection. Now Peter and the rest of the Apostles were prepared to preach the Gospel.

## 4. What was the importance of the wind and fire? (2: 2-4)

### The coming of the Holy Spirit had a very specific purpose.

- A. The Holy Spirit was to live and work within the heart of man, to deliver and free him from the enslavements of this world—from sin, death, and eternal separation from God.
- B. The Holy Spirit came to free man from sin. This is the same as when God delivered the Jews out of Egyptian slavery.

#### **Jn. 16: 7-11**

**7** “But I tell you the truth, it is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you; but if I go, I will send Him to you.

**8** “And He, when He comes, will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment;

**9** concerning sin, because they do not believe in Me;

**10** and concerning righteousness, because I go to the Father and you no longer see Me;

**11** and concerning judgment, because the ruler of this world has been judged.

#### **2 Cor. 3: 17**

**17** Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, *there* is liberty.

4. What was the importance of the wind and fire? (2: 2-4)

**The coming of the Holy Spirit had a very specific purpose.**

C. It was the **birth of the church**, the new people of God. **People who truly came to God were now to be sealed and known by the presence of the Holy Spirit, by His very presence within their hearts and lives.**

D. It was the **institution of the new law**, the **new rule and principle of God**. Man is now to be guided by the Spirit who empowers him to live right and to serve Christ.

## **4. What was the importance of the wind and fire? (2: 2-4)**

### **Chapter 1**

- 1. The disciples were to wait for the coming of the Holy Spirit**
- 2. The disciples were equipped.**
- 3. The disciples were held back.**
- 4. The Savior ascended to heaven.**

### **Chapter 2**

1. The Holy Spirit comes.
2. The Apostles were empowered.
3. The Apostles were sent forth.
4. The Holy Spirit descends.

6. When the Holy Spirit filled the believers, what did they do? (2: 4)

## Acts 2: 4

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

They spoke with other tongues (other languages), as the Spirit was giving them utterance.



## 7. Who was staying in Jerusalem? (2: 5)

### Acts 2: 5

5 Now there were Jews living in Jerusalem, devout men from every nation under heaven.

Devout men from every nation

## 8. How did the God-fearing Jews visiting Jerusalem react when they heard the Apostles speaking in various languages? (2: 6-11)

### Acts 2: 6-11

6 And when this sound occurred, the crowd came together, and **were bewildered** because each one of them was hearing them speak in his own language.

7 **They were amazed and astonished**, saying, “Why, are not all these who are speaking Galileans?”

8 “And how is it that we each hear *them* in our own language to which we were born?”

9 “Parthians and Medes and Elamites, and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia,

10 Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the districts of Libya around Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes,

11 Cretans and Arabs—we hear them in our *own* tongues speaking of the mighty deeds of God.”

**They were bewildered, amazed and astonished.**

9. What was the topic of conversation among the crowds? (2: 11)

## Acts 2: 11

11 Cretans and Arabs—we hear them in our own tongues speaking of the mighty deeds of God.”

We hear them in our *own* tongues speaking of the mighty deeds of God.

## 9. What was the topic of conversation among the crowds? (2: 11)

The tongues or languages spoken by the apostles in Acts 2 represent a reversal of the judgment at the Tower of Babel (Gen. 11: 1-9).

The apostles are proclaiming the “mighty works of God (verse 11).” Jews from all over the known world are in Jerusalem for the feast of Pentecost. Each can hear the apostles speaking to them in their own native languages. The **“mighty” works of God** means the **promise of redemption**.

The apostles had never known or learned these languages. Their ability to proclaim the mighty works of God in different languages was a supernatural gift.

1. This work of the Spirit pointed to the spread of the gospel throughout the earth, where every nation would hear the gospel in their native language.
2. It means that all who believe will be united through the truth of Christ, and glorify God.

10. Besides being amazed, how did the crowd react to the unusual happening they witnessed? (2: 12-13)

## Acts 2: 12-13

12 And they all continued in amazement and great perplexity, saying to one another, “What does this mean?”

13 But others were mocking and saying, “They are full of sweet wine.”

1. Some were perplexed saying to one another – What does this mean?

2. Others were mocking them saying – They are full of sweet wine.

10. Besides being amazed, how did the crowd react to the unusual happening they witnessed? (2: 12-13)

When God's truth was presented, some in the crowd accepted it. They would soon understand when Peter proclaimed the gospel in his sermon.

At the same time the **others were mocking and saying, "they are full of sweet wine."**

Like the Pharisees who heard Jesus' claims and saw the confirming miracles, but concluded He was of the devil (Matt. 12:24ff.), these scoffers rejected the evidence that this was a work of God.

Instead, they proposed the ridiculous hypothesis that the apostles were **full of sweet wine**. They tried to explain away the miracle of speaking in languages as a drunken frolic.

## **Acts 2: 1-13**

- 1. God's plan for being glorified among the nations was to establish the church.**
- 2. The scope of God's plan includes all the nations.**
- 3. The necessary power for fulfilling God's plan is the Holy Spirit.**
- 4. The goal of God's plan is that He will be glorified among all the nations.**

# Acts 2: 1-13

**Christians should examine their lives and consider the following:**

1. Is **my focus** on God's glory in all things?
2. Is **my passion** that all nations will glorify God through the gospel?
3. Is **my daily life** consciously dependent on the Holy Spirit?
4. Is **my daily desire** to bear witness of Christ to those who are lost and perishing?