

# *Witnessing Acts*

[Acts 2: 5-36]

## Acts 2:5-13 (KJV)

“5 And there were dwelling at Jerusalem Jews, devout men, out of every nation under heaven.

6 Now when this was noised abroad, the multitude came together, and were confounded, because that every man heard them speak in his own language.

7 And they were all amazed and marvelled, saying one to another, Behold, are not all these which speak Galilaeans?

8 And how hear we every man in our own tongue, wherein we were born?

9 Parthians, and Medes, and Elamites, and the dwellers in Mesopotamia, and in Judaea, and Cappadocia, in Pontus, and Asia,

10 Phrygia, and Pamphylia, in Egypt, and in the parts of Libya

about Cyrene, and strangers of Rome, Jews and proselytes,

11 Cretes and Arabians, we do hear them speak in our tongues the wonderful works of God.

12 And they were all amazed, and were in doubt, saying one to another, What meaneth this?

13 Others mocking said, These men are full of new wine”

## Witnessing

\* There was witnessing—devout men heard the Word

\* Witnessing is also a *result of being filled with the Spirit*

**Devout men, Jewish pilgrims who had come from all over the world, had returned to Jerusalem to celebrate the "Feast of the First Fruits"**

The word "devout" - means reverent, worshipful, careful

\* It means *persons who handle spiritual matters carefully*

The words "*when this was noised abroad*" seems to be saying it was the news of the disciples' behavior that brought the crowd together

**Acts 2:5-6 (KJV)**

**“5 And there were dwelling at Jerusalem Jews, devout men, out of every nation under heaven.**

**6 Now when this was noised abroad, the multitude came together, and were confounded, because that every man heard them speak in his own language”**

**In the Greek translation Acts 5: 6 says:**

*“When this sound was heard”*

- \* The sound caused by God brought the people rushing to the scene
- \* Simply A God Thing was taking place

**Acts 2:6 (KJV)**

**“6 Now when this was noised abroad, the multitude came together, and were confounded, because that every man heard them speak in his own language”**

**The crowd heard an amazing thing—the disciples supernaturally speaking in their own tongue (dialect, language)**

- \* The number of dialects and languages spoken included most of those from the known areas of the world at that time

**Luke's purpose in giving the list seems to stress that people from all over the world were present for Christ to save and to send back to their native lands as servants of His, servants to proclaim the message of the glorious gospel**

- \* What the crowd heard in their native languages was *“the wonderful works of God,”* the personal witness of the gospel, the very things Peter was about to preach to the whole crowd

- \* This was a set-up for a mighty witness to all ages!

- \* Note how the groundwork for preaching is first laid by personal witnessing

- \* The Holy Ghost filled all the house and all those in attendance with a supernatural tongue – one that brought people running to hear the Word of God

Acts 2: 7-8

7 And they were all amazed and marvelled, saying one to another, Behold, are not all these which speak Galilaeans?

8 And how hear we every man in our own tongue, wherein we were born?

\* Reaction to: there were different reactions

\* All were amazed and astonished - marveling at what was happening

Some were attracted, perplexed and wondering, at a loss as to what was happening

But they were attracted to seek meaning in it all

Others simply mocked, accusing the disciples of being drunk

\* You must understand that this is what God has called us to do – bring attention to Jesus Christ

\* Its is so important that we understand what a Holy Ghost witness is about

\* Its not about the church, building, people, those all have a place they have a role – its about bringing people to the awesome fact that they need Jesus Christ

This destined prophetic event – this meeting – this prayer meeting in Acts 2 was so God powerful that is shook the city – it shocked religion – it stirred up the mockers and doubters and set in motion a time for the preaching of the Gospel of Jesus Christ – Salvations message!

\* The burst out of that upper-room so changed and filled with God that people who did not understand even thought they were drunk – but this was a set-up for a powerfully preached Word to come forth.

2 Corinthians 6:2

"For he saith, I have heard thee in a time accepted, and in the day of salvation have I succoured thee: behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation"

**Acts 2:14-18 (KJV)**

“But Peter, standing up with the eleven, lifted up his voice, and said unto them, Ye men of Judaea, and all ye that dwell at Jerusalem, be this known unto you, and hearken to my words:

15 For these are not drunken, as ye suppose, seeing it is but the third hour of the day.

16 But this is that which was spoken by the prophet Joel;

17 And it shall come to pass in the last days, saith God, I will pour out of my Spirit upon all flesh: and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams:

18 And on my servants and on my handmaidens I will pour out in those days of my Spirit; and they shall prophesy...”

**This is the first sermon ever preached in the new church age, after Jesus' ascension and Pentecost, that is, after the coming of the Holy Spirit.**

**We must preach what is preached here**

**1. In – filled – Holy Ghost Filled believers (v.14-16)**

**2. These are the last days, the days of God's last work on earth (v.17-21)**

**3. This is the day of God's Savior: Jesus of Nazareth (v.22-24)**

**Acts 2:14-15 (KJV)**

“14 But Peter, standing up with the eleven, lifted up his voice, and said unto them, Ye men of Judaea, and all ye that dwell at Jerusalem, be this known unto you, and hearken to my words:

15 For these are not drunken, as ye suppose, seeing it is but the third hour of the day”

**\* Peter declared that they were not under the influence; they were not acting and speaking foolish things like a drunken man.**

**What was happening was just what Scripture predicted. It was the work of God, just what God had promised to man. It was the glorious gospel (good news) promised by God**

**Acts 2:16-18 (KJV)**

“But this is that which was spoken by the prophet Joel;  
 17 And it shall come to pass in the last days, saith God, I will pour out of my Spirit upon all flesh: and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams:  
 18 And on my servants and on my handmaidens I will pour out in those days of my Spirit; and they shall prophesy”

- \* Does it line up with Scriptures
- \* This that is happening is a God Promise
- \* Witness the Acts of God – the Word manifested

**Acts 2:15-21 (KJV)**

“ For these are not drunken, as ye suppose, seeing it is but the third hour of the day.  
 16 But this is that which was spoken by the prophet Joel;  
 17 And it shall come to pass *in the last days*, saith God, I will pour out of my Spirit upon all flesh: and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams:  
 18 And on my servants and on my handmaidens I will pour out in those days of my Spirit; and they shall prophesy:  
 19 And I will shew wonders in heaven above, and signs in the earth beneath; blood, and fire, and vapour of smoke:  
 20 The sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood, before that great and notable day of the Lord come:  
 21 And it shall come to pass, that whosoever shall call on the name of the Lord shall be saved”

**These are the last days, the days of God's last work on earth**

**Standing there before the throng of thousands, Peter declared:**

- \* Today, this day, the great prophecy of Joel begins to be fulfilled (Joel 2:28-32).
- \* Today, this day, begins the last days of earth's history

- \* Today, this day, begins the last days of God's work on earth
- \* Today, this day, begins the last days, the final age of God's plan for human history
- \* Today, this day, begins the last days, the dispensation of God's grace (the church), the age of the gospel

**In the Scripture, the "*last days*" mean all the above**

The last days began when Christ came to earth and they will end when Christ returns to earth

We are already 2000 years into the last days

- \* The last days include the great outpouring of God's Spirit.

The word "pour" means to pour out, to pour forth, to shed forth

It means that God gives His Spirit...

- To dwell in the believer (John 14:17; 1 Cor. 6:19-20).
- To abide with the believer forever (John 14:16).
- To fill, to overflow, to abundantly fill the believer (Ephes. 5:18).
- To give very special manifestations of Christ to the believer (John 14:21)

God pours out His Spirit upon all flesh...

- Upon son and daughters
- Upon young men and old men
- Upon His slaves, servants, and handmaidens

The point is this: God's Spirit shows no discrimination.

The Spirit of God is available to all: male and female, young and old, slave and free, rich and poor

## God pours out His Spirit with very special gifts..

- **The gift of prophecy: proclaiming and predicting the truth (see Note this gift is given to both men and women. This was part of the Scriptural promise.**
- **The gift of seeing visions, especially among young men**  
**The Greek word "*visions*" means appearance (Rev. 4:3) or an ecstatic revelation (Rev. 9:17).**  
**In Scripture the Greek word is used for both what a man can envision (see, imagine, think, cause to appear) within his own mind and what is given him by God through a special revelation (Rev. 9:17)**
- **The gift of dreaming dreams, especially among older men.**  
**The idea is that a dream is given by God.**

**A study of the visions and dreams in the Book of Acts shows that everyone of them had to do with witnessing, with reaching people for Christ**

- \* **Not a single dream or vision had to do with personal edification or with boosting self to be spiritually superior**
- \* **God pours out His Spirit only upon His servants and upon His handmaidens**

**This is the emphasis of this verse, the reason for repeating what has just been said. Note that the verse is a summary statement: no one receives God's Spirit, no one, not until they become His servant or His handmaiden**

- \* **God gifts His servants and His handmaidens with one very special gift—the gift of prophecy**
- \* **Again, the point is primary, to stress what is so important**
- \* **The gift of prophecy, of proclaiming that God's very own Son has come into the world to save sinners, is the primary gift of God's Spirit. Every one of God's servants and handmaidens are gifted to prophesy.**

## **The last days include the days of great salvation**

Throughout the last days, during the whole period man - can be saved by doing two simple things:

- . He has to call: to sense the need to be saved.
- 2□ □ He has to call upon "the name of the Lord": to know and believe that Jesus is the Lord and to be ready to submit to His Lordship, to serve Him as Lord

### **Romans 10:13**

**"For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved"**

### **Romans 10:9-10**

**"That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation"**

**In the age that we are living I am finding that most do not know that they are lost**

- \* Many have been programmed by religion into thinking that being a good person, doing good things, being a good mom or dad, just plain being good some how justifies them entrance into Heaven
- \* On the other hand I am also seeing that many so called religious or church folk have forgotten the need to confess Jesus with their mouth
- \* Many are forgetting the call by the Lord to speak the good, faithful and righteous things or God - or simply to make know the wondrous works of the Lord

**WE are to be the book of Acts people!**

- \* Are activity must draw people together to hear the salvation message
- \* We must gather together to be encouraged to witness

**To be an example of the waters of salvation**

**John 4:4-7 (KJV)**

“And he [Jesus] must needs go through Samaria.

5 Then cometh he to a city of Samaria, which is called Sychar, near to the parcel of ground that Jacob gave to his son Joseph.

6 Now Jacob's well was there. Jesus therefore, being wearied with his journey, sat thus on the well: and it was about the sixth hour.

7 There cometh a woman of Samaria to draw water: Jesus saith unto her, Give me to drink”

\* *"A woman of Samaria came to draw water"*

\* Surrounded by humanities opportunities daily we are blessed to speak Jesus to those spiritually thirsty and dry

**John 4:10 (KJV)**

“10 Jesus answered and said unto her, If thou knewest the gift of God, and who it is that saith to thee, Give me to drink; thou wouldest have asked of him, and he would have given thee living water”

\* Jesus offered the Samaritan woman living water, and she showed an intriguing interest

\* However, there were some matters that she had to straighten out before she could ever have the living water

\* There was the matter of sin in her life, of worship, of the Messiah, and of laboring for God

\* Therefore, Jesus began to discuss these subjects with her one by one

**Five failed marriages, no trust level and no self-esteem living a life around religion but never meeting Jesus she stepped into His presence!**

**10.**

**Remember we are carriers of His Presence - somebody around you needs a drink!**

- \* The marriages we wrong
- \* Her present living arrangement was wrong
- \* Her worship, Her understanding of Jesus the Messiah, Her understanding of doing works for God was and most of all the sin issues had to be addressed

**I find the same is true today – many are in need of the TRUTH**

- \* God Word
- \* What His Word says about life
- \* What His Word says about how we live or life
- \* What His Word says about death
- \* What His Word says about the right way to move through these things and draw living water from Jesus the well of eternal life

**Salvation: living water is alive**

- \* To the Jew, living water was water that was always flowing and moving along, such as a creek fed by springs or a lake with both an inflow and an outflow
- \* Dead water was stagnant water such as ponds or pools that were always sitting still with no inflow or outflow [same with dead religion]
- \* However, when Jesus spoke of "living water" - He meant much more than living streams and lakes

**Living water is "of God." It is of Him who is living, always has and always will be living. The water that God gives is the most alive water there is. No other water, no matter how alive it may be considered, can compare with the living water that is of God**

**Psalm 36:9**

**"For with thee is the fountain of life: in thy light shall we see light"**

**Living water is "the gift" of God**

\* The word "*gift*" means it is freely given, is not earned and is not deserved

**Isaiah 55:1**

"Ho, every one that thirsteth, come ye to the waters, and he that hath no money; come ye, buy, and eat; yea, come buy wine and milk without money and without price"

**Ephesians 2:8-9**

"For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: not of works, lest any man should boast"

**Living water is given by asking for it**

Note what Jesus said: *"If thou knewest...thou wouldest have asked"*

\* The woman had never received living water because she had never known about it and had never asked for it

\* It was now available simply by asking for it

**Acts 2:21 (KJV)**

"And it shall come to pass, that whosoever shall call on the name of the Lord shall be saved"

**Peter Preached on that day of Pentecost the Word of Salvation****John 14:6**

"Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me"

**Psalm 16:11**

"Thou wilt show me the path of life: in thy presence is fulness of joy; at thy right hand there are pleasures for evermore"

*"Witnessing Acts!"*