

The Language of Acts

["Gods Providence"] - [Acts Chapter 2]

Acts 2:1-4 (KJV)

“1 And when the day of Pentecost was 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 all the house where they were sitting.

3 And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them.

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

The Day of Pentecost was one of the most phenomenal and important events in all of history.

There are several reasons why the event was so important

Providence - Gods Providence divine guidance or care - God conceived as the power sustaining and guiding human destiny

It was "The coming of the Holy Spirit"

* It was the birth of the church

* It was the corporate filling of the Holy Spirit of the body of believers with the promised presence of Christ

* It was the personal filling of the individual believer by the Holy Spirit

* It was the Presence and Power of God coming upon believers, gifting and equipping them to proclaim the glorious message of salvation to men

John 14:15-18 (KJV)

“15 If ye love me, keep my commandments.

16 And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you forever;

17 Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you.

18 I will not leave you comfortless: I will come to you”

2.

The Holy Spirit is the Comforter, the other Helper

1. The Holy Spirit is the Comforter

John 14:16

“And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you forever”

Comforter

*One called in, one called to the side of another
The purpose is to help in any way possible*

(1) There is the picture of a friend called in to help a person who is troubled or distressed or confused

(2) There is the picture of a commander called in to help a discouraged and dispirited army

(3) There is the picture of a lawyer, an advocate called in to help a defendant who needs his case pleaded.

**There is no one word that can adequately translate paracletos
The word that probably comes closest is simply Helper**

2. The receiving of the Holy Spirit is conditional

John 14:15-18 (KJV)

“15 If ye love me, keep my commandments.

16 And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you forever;

Note the conjunction "and"

*** It is the person who loves Jesus who is given the Holy Spirit**

**Note Also that the Spirit is given because Jesus prays for us.
He is our Intercessor, the One who pleads our case**

1 John 2:1-2 (KJV)

“1 My little children, these things write I unto you, *that ye sin not*. And *if any man sin*, we have an **advocate with the Father**, *Jesus Christ the righteous*”

* The point is that Jesus Christ is our Mediator—our Intercessor—the One who makes it possible for us to receive the Spirit

* If a person truly loves Jesus, that person is given the Holy Spirit

3. The source of the Holy Spirit is "the Father "

* It is the Father who gave the Son, and it is the Father who gives the Holy Spirit

The picture is touching in that God is seen longing ever so deeply...

* To give the Holy Spirit to those who love His only Son.

* To do everything He can for the person who loves His Son, and of course the greatest thing God can do is to put His Spirit into a person

Doctrine of Holy Spirit

There are three great Scriptures that deal with the doctrine of the Holy Spirit at length

1. The Identity of the Holy Spirit or who He is - [John 14:15-27](#)

2. The Work of the Holy Spirit - [John 16:7-15](#)

3. The Power of the Holy Spirit - [Romans 8:1-17](#)

Note this significant fact

- * Two of the passages involve a discussion by the Lord Himself
- * He is in the Upper Room spending the last hours He will ever have with His apostles while on earth
- * He is covering the major subjects they need to grasp before His death, revealing and filling them with the glorious truths that will help them through the upcoming trials they are to face

The greatest help the believers are to receive is the very presence of God Himself in the Person of the Holy Spirit

Acts 2:1 (KJV)

“And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place”

The Feast of Pentecost needs to be understood in order to see God’s Providence at work

- * Pentecost was celebrated fifty days after the Passover
- * It was also known as the "Day of the First Fruits" - Numbers 28:26
- * Or the "Feast of Weeks" - Exodus 34:22
- * Or the "Feast of Harvest"

Simply: 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 harvest of the fields - Note the very name of the Feast says that it is a celebration of the "First Fruits" - It was celebrated when the first fruits of the harvest began to come in, which was around the first of June. It actually opened the harvest season

2. The Exodus, the deliverance of the nation Israel from Egyptian bondage

Deuteronomy 16:12-14 (KJV)

“12 And thou shalt remember that thou wast a bondman in Egypt: and thou shalt observe and do these statutes.

13 Thou shalt observe the feast of tabernacles seven days, after that thou hast gathered in thy corn and thy wine:

14 And thou shalt rejoice in thy feast, thou, and thy son, and thy daughter, and thy manservant, and thy maidservant, and the Levite”

* The people were to thank God for the day he delivered them out of slavery

3. The giving of the law upon Mt. Sinai - Exodus 19-20

* This was the day the people were constituted as a nation, as the great nation of Israel

* They were to live as God's very own people upon earth

* They were to thank God for Himself and for His law, the rules and principles He had given to govern their lives and nation

It is important to note that the Jews figured the law had been given to Moses fifty days after the Exodus

Now note the providence of God, how all three events were fulfilled in the coming of the Holy Spirit

1. When "Pentecost was fully come" the first fruits were born—the church itself and the first harvest of souls. The new beginning, that is, the filling of the Holy Spirit, began fifty days after Jesus' death and resurrection

Acts 2:4

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

6

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

* 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 hell

* The Holy Spirit came to set man at liberty even as God had delivered the Jews out of Egyptian slavery

3. The coming of the Holy Spirit was two things

a. 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.

b. 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.

John 14:26

"But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you"

Romans 8:14

"For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God"

1 Corinthians 2:14

"But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned"

The Holy Spirit on the Day of Pentecost

* It was the birth of the church

- * It was the corporate filling of the Holy Spirit of the body of believers with the promised presence of Christ
- * It was the personal filling of the individual believer by the Holy Spirit
- * It was the Presence and Power of God coming upon believers, gifting and equipping them to proclaim the glorious message of salvation to men

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There was the Spirit's infilling

- * Note the word "suddenly"

The Holy Spirit came suddenly, abruptly, the kind of abrupt happening that jolts and startles a person.

God was dramatizing the supernatural and precious significance of the event.

There was a mighty sound that filled the room

- * The sound was from heaven, that is, from God
- * It came from God's activity, not from the activity of natural causes upon earth

It was supernatural

- * God created sound for this very special occasion
- * The sound was like the rushing of a mighty wind. It was not wind, but a sound like the deafening roar or blast of a strong wind

8.

The sound filled all the house, that is, it was localized upon the house where they were sitting

Why?

- * People needed to be startled and alarmed, attracted to gather from all over Jerusalem, seeking to know what had happened
- * An audience needed to be gathered for the first preaching of the gospel
- * The mighty power of the Spirit needed to be symbolized and dramatized for the disciples
- * They needed strong confidence instilled within them in order to stand and preach the gospel before the very persons who had crucified the Lord and who had hunted them down as accomplices

The disciples would learn how Christ wanted them to preach the gospel

- * The presence of the Holy Spirit upon them would either bring people flocking from all over, asking what had happened or lead them to the people whom they were to reach

There was the appearance of cloven tongues

- * The Greek means a tongue that was cloven, that is, parting asunder
- * The idea is that a single tongue appeared and then began to split and divide itself, resting upon each of the disciples

The tongues were not fire, but like fire; that is, they only looked like fire

- * They were a brilliant, luminous, fire-like substance created by God to dramatize the moment of the Holy Spirit coming upon the disciples
- * The tongue of fire that first appeared symbolized the presence of the Holy Spirit which was to dwell in the midst of God's people as a whole

When He began to divide into many tongues of fire and to rest upon each believer, He was symbolizing that He was to dwell within each believer as well as within the whole body of believers

Note the words - "It [He] sat"

*** The word is singular, not plural; Scripture does not say "they sat," but He, the Holy Spirit Himself, was descending and resting upon each of the disciples**

*** They were not receiving "*tongues of fire*" but the Spirit of God**

Note also that the Spirit appeared in the form of a tongue of fire

*** The tongue symbolizes the instrument of speaking and preaching and sharing the gospel**

*** The Holy Spirit was to be the burning power of the tongue, of the convicting message to be proclaimed**

The disciples were filled with the Holy Spirit

*** The body (church) and each individual believer were filled**

*** They were "all filled" with the presence and power of the Spirit—all of them corporately and each of them individually**

*** It was both a corporate and a personal, individual infilling**

Each believer had been commanded to wait for the baptism of the Spirit, and each one was to be so filled with His presence and power

*** It was a command to the individual believer as well as to the corporate body**

*** Each one was to experience and know His grace and power and fruit**

10.

Galatians 5:22-26 (KJV)

“22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith,
23 Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.
24 And they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts.
25 If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit.
26 Let us not be desirous of vain glory, provoking one another, envying one another”

A critical point is often ignored and neglected

* The command to be filled with the Spirit is still God's command to every believer, both individually and corporately (the church).

"Be filled with the Spirit" - Ephesians 5:18

How neglectful the church is! Ignoring and neglecting the command "[to seek to] be filled with the Spirit"

* How many churches actually meet together to pray and wait for the filling of God's Spirit?

Luke 11:13

"If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children: how much more shall your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask him?"

The disciples were given the gifts of the Spirit to carry on the work of the ministry upon earth

* This fact is not mentioned here, although it is certainly to be demonstrated in the preaching and witnessing about to take place

* The giving of the Spirit's gifts is covered in Ephesians

11.

Ephesians 4:8, 11-12

"Wherefore he saith, When he ascended up on high, he led captivity captive, and gave gifts unto men....And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ"

Acts 1:8

"But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth"

Ephesians 1:19-20

"And what is the exceeding greatness of his power to us-ward who believe, according to the working of his might power [Holy Spirit], Which he wrought in Christ, when he raised him from the dead, and set him at his own right hand in the heavenly places"

* *The Language of Acts*

* *"Gods Providence"*

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