

THE DAY THAT CHANGED THE CHURCH

Text: Acts 2:1-41

Key Word: Pentecost

Key Thought: The Outpouring of the Holy Spirit Changes Lives

The book of Acts opened a new page in the history of God's purposes on earth. There was an anticipation captivating the hearts of the 120 believers (Acts 1:15) who were gathered together in the Upper Room (Acts 1:13) to await the fulfillment of the Father's promise.

"Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised, which you have heard me speak me about."

5. For John baptized with water, but in few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit."

Acts 1:4,5

There was an incredible need for a majestic outpouring of God's Holy Spirit upon the many believers that had struggled through the death, burial, resurrection and ascension of the Lord. After replacing the loss of Judas with that of Matthias (Acts 1:17-26) they were ready for the next major stage in the life of the early church.

I. The Season (Acts 2:1)

II. The Manner (Acts 2:2,3)

III. The Result (Acts 2:4-41)

I. The Season (Acts 2:1)

"When the day of Pentecost came . . ."

Acts 2:1a

A. After the Ascension

There is an appointed time in Zion to fulfill the promises of God and prove God's sovereignty. Nothing takes place through coincidence with God. There is a divine appointment that is woven into the purposes of God. Just as every drop of rain has its appointed birthday and every beam of light its predestined pathway and every spark from a fire its time to fly upward, so is the will of God settled in heaven for both time and place.

I. The Season (Acts 2:1)(Contd.)

A. After the Ascension(Contd.)

The Holy Spirit was not given to the church until Jesus had ascended back into heaven. Every part of our Lord's life played a significant role for us. **His life imputed righteousness to us; His death brought us pardon for sin; His resurrection brought about our justification; and His ascension led the way to the outpouring of the Holy Spirit.**

“But I tell you the truth: It is good that I am going away. Unless I go away, the Counselor will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him to you.”

John 16:7

“And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Counselor to be with you forever.”

John 14:16

“But the Counselor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you.”

John 14:26

A typical scene when a Roman conqueror had left for battle and returned as the victor has given insight to this passage. The emperor would pass among the people scattering large quantities of money among those gathered to admire his accomplishments.

So Jesus sent the Holy Spirit to earth as a witness of His victory over the sin and death. Jesus presented His offering to His Father who accepted it. **If the Holy Spirit had not been poured out on the day of Pentecost we could still be wondering if Jesus ever made it back to heaven.**

B. On the Day of Pentecost

According to the Jewish calendar, the Passover (which included the slaying of the Passover lamb) began on the 14th day of the first month (Leviticus 23:5) [Abib 14 or Mar-Apr on a modern calendar]. Beginning the next day [Abib 15] they kept the **Week of the Feast of Unleavened Bread** (Leviticus 23:6). Two days after the **Passover** [Abib 16] they presented a sheaf of the first **Barley harvest** [earliest and least expensive crop that is harvested] and waved it before the Lord. This was called the **Firstfruits** (Leviticus 23:9-14).

I. The Season (Acts 2:1)(Contd.)

B. On the Day of Pentecost (Contd.)

The next major celebration was known as the **Feast of Pentecost** which was celebrated 50 days after the Passover - so the name **PENTecost**. Jewish scholars believe that Moses received the Law on Mount Sinai on the Day of Pentecost or 50 days after they celebrated the Passover meal and left Egypt. **The Law was issued in with thunder and lightning. The Holy Spirit came with wind and fire.** One describes the letter of the Law that can kill while the other brings life.

The **Passover** was to our Saviour a **Day of Sowing** while **Pentecost** was a **Day of Reaping**. On the **Day of Pentecost** a sheaf from the **Wheat harvest** was waved before the Lord. It was the time of year when the fields were ripe and ready to harvest. Seven Sabbaths passed by ($7 \times 7 = 49 + 1 = 50$) and the sun broke through the horizon on the first day of the week - Sunday.

The Day of Pentecost brought many pilgrims into the city of Jerusalem with a heart overflowing with appreciation to God for once again supplying for all their needs. A bumper crop was a sign of God's blessing. Yet there was a greater harvest to bring into the storehouse.

When the disciples gathered in unity, they never realized that on that day a harvest of souls would take place that would fulfill the words of Jesus.

*“The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few.
38. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send
out workers into his harvest field.”*

Matthew 9:37,38

The gift of tongues was given at a time when pilgrims from at least 15 different language groups would have needed someone to interpret what the disciples were saying. God used this outpouring to increase the effectiveness of the harvesters.

II. The Manner (Acts 2:2,3)

Nothing is left to speculation when describing how the Holy Spirit was poured out upon the early church. God knew it would become a point of disagreement to those who find it difficult to surrender to the working of the Spirit. Look at what the Bible says about this unique beginning of the Church in Jerusalem.

II. The Manner (Acts 2:2,3) (Contd.)

A. Suddenly - There will always be a wonder surrounding the working of God's Spirit. Most outpourings of the Holy Spirit came in places we never would have expected and what may appear as a time of inconvenience.

God's glory often comes concealed although there is always a remnant who open their heart to the secret preparation and penetration of the Spirit of God. If we had time to plan, we may also take some of the credit for what takes place. God is still preparing people like Moses who was taken back when he saw the bush ignited in fire yet not being consumed in the wilderness.

B. Sound - The Spirit of God is often silent in His workings yet His operation is often not silent in its results. We are often more concerned about noise than God is. **There is a huge difference between noise and sound.** The sound was not confined to the meeting room. God's work will touch the boardroom as well as the backroom.

C. Spirit - The Bible uses the words "**violent [or mighty] wind**" to describe the Spirit. The word for "***Spirit***" in the N.T. finds its root in the same word which is often translated "***wind***." The Holy Spirit is **unpredictable and nondestructive** in His movement and His effects.

"The wind blows wherever it pleases. You hear its sound, but you cannot tell where it comes from or where it is going. So is everyone born of the Spirit."

Acts 3:8

D. Separated - It is very clear that the Holy Spirit came as fire into the room where they were all in one accord. At that point the Holy Spirit separated in such a way that a visible tongue of fire rested upon each and everyone who was gathered waiting for the fulfillment of the Father's promise. God has something for all of us. Seek the Giver not the Gift. Each one who received the Spirit also received the gift of tongues.

"It was a tongue of fire, to show that God's ministers speak, not coldly as though they had tongues of ice, not learnedly as with tongues of gold, not arrogantly as with tongues of brass, nor pliantly as with tongues of willow, nor sternly as with tongues of iron, but earnestly as with the tongue of flame; their words consume sin, scorch falsehood, enlighten the darkness, and comfort the poor."

C. H. Spurgeon,
"The Biblical Illustrator, Acts I"
p. 110

III. The Result (2:4-41)

There were many in Jerusalem that day who were waiting for something powerful to happen to topple over the Roman rulership. This Wind came not to blow down the present dynasty or consume every dominion in its path. The results were to be **spiritual** not **carnal**.

A. Communication (2:14ff) - Peter became the spokesperson for the early church. **He was such a common man with such a simple message and yet it touched such a vast crowd of people.** He didn't speak with the eloquence of Charles Finney or perhaps even the aggressiveness of Dwight L. Moody or the wisdom of the Puritans. **The message was birthed in the heart of the messenger.** He was a simple fisherman and therefore, he communicated a simple message. Why must we always try to complicate what God has simplified?

"Then Peter stood up with the Eleven, raised his voice and addressed the crowd."

Acts 2:14

B. Conviction (2:37) - There are times when God allows the wounds of our heart to be exposed in order to bring about a healing. God's **conviction** is NOT a **condemnation**. The Holy Spirit pricks the heart of man in order to **cleanse it**. God is not one who promotes a "worm theology." We have been created in the image of God.

"When the people heard this, they were cut to their heart and said to Peter and the other apostles, 'Brothers, what shall we do?'"

Acts 2:37

The conviction of the Holy Spirit brings a **brokenness** of heart not a **hardness**. No longer were they asking *"What does this mean?" (Acts 2:12).*

C. Confession (2:38) - I believe that the last major move of God upon this earth will be much like what took place on the day of Pentecost. There was a mass confession of sin that birthed the early Church. **The need of the hour is a worldwide repentance and return to the will of the Father.** The final Church will arrive into the presence of the King of kings and Lord of lords as one without spot or wrinkle.

Our churches need to return to the need of Repentance. We have substituted psychology, counseling, inner healing and a host of other things when we've simply needed to return to the altar and confess our sins to God. Repentance is the call of the Spirit in the closing days just as it was on the day of Pentecost. The harvest will be made of people repenting their sins to God. There is no other way.

III. The Result (Acts 2:4-41)(Contd.)

C. Confession (Acts 2:38)(Contd.) - People are trying to live a holy life without repenting. It is a disastrous mix that will create a “holier than thou” people. **Confession of sin brings about a humility of heart and mind.**

Peter continued his message as recorded in Acts 3 when he and John entered the temple. The crippled man was healed and the crowd once again gathered in amazement wondering how this miracle had taken place. Peter once again proclaimed the simple message of the gospel.

*“Repent, then, and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out, that the times of refreshing may come from the Lord,
20. and that he may send the Christ, who has been appointed for you - even Jesus
21. He must remain in heaven until the time comes for God to restore everything, as he promised long ago through his holy prophets.”*

Acts 3:19-21

“You are forgiving and good, O LORD, abounding in love to all who call to you.”

Psalm 86:5

*“‘Even now,’ declares the LORD, **return to me** with all your heart, with fasting and weeping and mourning.’
13. **Reud** your heart and not your garments. Return to the LORD your God, for he is gracious and compassionate, slow in anger and abounding in love, and he **relents** from sending calamity.”*

Joel 2:12,13

We need more **confessions** to God in our churches. Five of the last seven churches were told to **repent**. We try to get people to the point of saying “**here I am**” before they say “**woe is me.**” Never repent of sin because of fear of punishment. We need more than a **weeping eye** for past sins. We also need a **watchful eye** for future temptations.

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Date: June 3/18

Place: FCA

Time: 10:30 Am

Song: On Bended Knee - A

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INTRODUCTION: *Acts 1:15; Acts 1:13; Acts 1:4,5; Acts 1:17-26*

I. The Season (Acts 2:1)

A. After the Ascension - *John 16:7; John 14:16; John 14:26*

B. On the Day of Pentecost - *Leviticus 23:5; Leviticus 23:6; Leviticus 23:9-14; Matthew 9:37,38*

II. The Manner (Acts 2:2,3)

A. Suddenly -

B. Sound -

C. Spirit - *Acts 3:8*

D. Separated -

III. The Result (Acts 2:4-41)

A. Communication (Acts 2:14ff) -

B. Conviction (Acts 2:37) - *Acts 2:37; Acts 2:12*

C. Confession (Acts 2:38) - *Acts 3:19-21; Psalm 86:5; Joel 2:12,13*