

Abounding Grace Christian Church

The Acts of the Holy Spirit through the Church – Part 5

I. Exposition of Chapter Two - (Continued).

A. Verse 2 (continued) – “And suddenly there came a sound from heaven, as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting,”

1. It’s very clear here that this was a very strong, loud noise which got the attention of people all around. (cf. verse 6).

“The sound was similar to that of a rushing mighty wind, a violent, gale-force wind (“an echoing sound out of heaven as of a wind borne along violently.” Wuest’s translation) that blew into the house of God and filled it with heavenly presence. The voluminous sound could only connote vast, supernatural power...Note, it was sound alone, and not an actual wind; a literal wind of such force would have blown the city and people to pieces.”¹

2. “...filled the whole house where they were sitting.” – There are different opinions as to what the “house” is referring to. Many believe that it is the same “upper room” (1:13) that we see them gathered in previously. Others believe that they more likely gathered together in the Temple. The word “house” here could easily be understood as the Temple and the same Greek word is translated “temple” in Acts 7:47. We also know that in Luke 24:53 that after Jesus’ ascension, the disciples did continually meet in the Temple. Why does this matter? Only because the picture comes more together if the disciples were in one of the courts of the Temple. We know it drew multitudes of people to them as a result of the loud sound. How could multitudes of people gather into an upper room of a regular house? All scholars seem to agree that even if it did happen in the upper room of a house, somehow, the disciples ended up in one of the Temple courts. If this is the case, can you imagine multitudes of people gathered in Jerusalem for this very special feast of Pentecost and suddenly, in the Temple, a sound like a powerful wind catches everyone’s attention and the Presence of the Holy Spirit fills the entire Temple? It’s no wonder that after Peter preached to them, 3000 souls were added to them (verse 41)

B. Verse 3 – “Then there appeared to them divided tongues, as of fire, and one sat upon each of them.”

1. In the Bible, both fire and wind sometimes symbolize the Presence of God (cf. Genesis 15:17; Exodus 3:2-6; 13:21-22; 19:18; 24:17; 40:38; Matthew 3:11; Luke 3:16).
2. The disciples received both a visual and an audio sign that the promised Holy Spirit of God had come.
3. It seems that the apparent “fire” came at first as one piece and then separated into what appeared to be individual flames which are described as “...divided tongues, as of fire...”

“Just as suddenly, ‘what seemed to be tongues of fire’ appeared and ‘separated’ (were distributed). That is, something that looked like a ball or mass of flames appeared over the whole group. Then it broke up, and a single tongue that looked like a flame of fire settled on the head of each one of them, both men and women.”²

C. Verse 4 – “And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.”

1. Who is the Holy Spirit? (Many times we have an understanding of the Father and the Son, but not the Holy Spirit.) I Want to introduce you to this Divine Person – The Holy Spirit.
 - a. So far in this book we’ve seen the Holy Spirit mentioned four times.
 - 1) Acts 1:2 – Jesus commanded the apostles through the Holy Spirit.
 - 2) Acts 1:5 – Jesus promises the disciples that they would be “Baptized with the Holy Spirit” not many days from then.
 - 3) Acts 1:8 – Jesus mentions that the disciples will “...receive power” when the Holy Spirit came upon them. Another reference to the “Baptism with the Holy Spirit.”
 - 4) Acts 1:16 – Peter mentions the Holy Spirit having spoke through David in the Psalms concerning Judas Iscariot.
 - b. The Bible teaches us that the Holy Spirit is God. Acts 5:3, 4; I Corinthians 3:16.
 - 1) The Holy Spirit Is said to have Attributes that ONLY God has.
 - a) The Holy Spirit is Omniscient. (All Knowing). I Corinthians 2:10-11;

¹Ernest B. Gentile, *The Glorious Disturbance: Understanding and Receiving the Baptism with the Spirit*, (Grand Rapids, MI: Chosen Books, 2004), 86.

²Stanley M. Horton, *Acts: A Logion Press Commentary* (Springfield, MO: Gospel Publishing House, 2001), 55.

John 14:26 (If He can Teach All things, He must Know All things. John 16:12-13.

- b) The Holy Spirit is Omnipresent. (Present everywhere.). **Psalm 139:7-10.**
- c) The Holy Spirit is Omnipotent. (All Powerful). **Luke 1:35; Romans 15:19; I Corinthians 2:4; I Thessalonians 1:5.**
- d) Eternity is attributed to the Holy Spirit. **Hebrews 9:13-14.**

2) The Holy Spirit Does Works that ONLY God can do.

- a) The Holy Spirit Creates. **Genesis 1:1-3; Psalm 104:30.**
- b) The Holy Spirit Imparts Life. He's called the "Spirit of Life". **Romans 8:2.** He is said to "give life to our mortal bodies". **Romans 8:11.**
- c) The Scriptures Came through the Holy Spirit. **II Peter 1:20-21.**

2. "And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit..."

- a. The first thing to notice here is that it speaks of the "promise of the Father" (1:4) and being "baptized with the Holy Spirit" (1:5) and the Holy Spirit coming "upon" (1:8) as being the same as "filled with the Holy Spirit." Later in this book, this same experience is simply called "the gift of the Holy Spirit." (10:45).
- b. Initially when a person receives this experience they are both baptized with the Holy Spirit and filled with the Holy Spirit. There is, however, one baptism but many fillings.

"A marked evidence of the Holy Spirit's superintendence of the work of the Church was the way He continued to give fresh fillings to meet new needs and new challenges."³

- c. An example of a "fresh filling" can be found in **Acts 4:29-31 (cf. Ephesians 5:18-20).** Horton continues by stating:

"Fresh fillings, fresh anointings, fresh moves of the Spirit, new manifestations of the hand or power of God are always available in time of need."⁴

- d. Note also that it states that they "all" were filled with the Holy Spirit. This wasn't just the 12 apostles but all 120 believers. (We'll discuss this more in another lesson.)

3. "...and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance."

- a. The word "tongues" means; "a member of the body, an organ of speech"; "the language or dialect used by a particular people distinct from that of other nations."
- b. Ernest Gentile makes the following statement:

"An immediate result of the Spirit's filling was that the disciples had an amazing unction to speak forth the praises of God in languages they had never learned! The Holy Spirit gave 'the ability' (NLT) or 'enabled them'"⁵

- c. What are the Biblical reasons for speaking in tongues?

- 1) Tongues are a supernatural communication with the Father God. We are enabled to speak mysteries to God. - **I Corinthians 14:2.**
- 2) Tongues help us pray for things we don't know how to pray for. - **Romans 8:26-27.** The word "groanings" found in this particular passage of Scripture means, "to groan or sigh as the result of deep concern or stress. 'the Spirit himself intercedes with groans that cannot be expressed in words'"⁶
 - a) When you pray in tongues, your spirit is praying. - **I Corinthians 14:14.**
 - b) When you pray in tongues, you don't understand the words with your mind. **I Corinthians 14:14.**
 - c) When you pray in tongues, you always pray according to the will of God. **Romans 8:27.**
 - d) Praying in the Holy Ghost (tongues), builds you up on your most holy faith. You become more sensitive to your spirit and being that faith is a product of your spirit, your fleshly doubts dissipate and faith rises up. - **Jude 20.** (cf. **I Corinthians 14:4**)

³Stanley M. Horton, *What the Bible Says about the Holy Spirit*, (Springfield, MO: Gospel Publishing House, 1976), 150.

⁴Ibid., 151.

⁵Ernest B. Gentile, *The Glorious Disturbance: Understanding and Receiving the Baptism with the Spirit*, (Grand Rapids, MI: Chosen Books, 2004), 89.

⁶Louw and Nida, *Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament: Based on Semantic Domains* (New York: United Bible Societies, 1996), 304.