

Q: (vv.14-21) How does Peter (quoting from Joel 2:28-29) respond to those who claimed they were just drunk?

Q: (vv.22-36) How did Peter use the Old Testament prophecy from David (Ps 16:8-11 & Ps 110:1) to proclaim Jesus as Messiah (vv.25-33) and Lord (vv.34-35)? Also, why was it key for Peter and the disciples to say that (v.32) “we all were witnesses?”

Q: (vv.37-41) What was the response of the people?

Q: (v.38) The *inner commitment* to Jesus is repentance (confessing and turning from your sins and turning to Christ as Savior and Lord). The *outer commitment* of (water) baptism doesn't save a person, but is the next step in the new Christian's journey, publicly declaring our allegiance to Christ alone as our Lord and Savior. (v.39) Salvation is available to all who seek the Lord. What was the response to God's Good News preached by Peter that day? _____

Q: How would you explain the Good News of Jesus with someone else? (see John 3:16; Eph 2:8-9; Rom 6:23). Remember some may mock you for your faith yet some may have further questions and want to seek the Lord. (www.gotQuestions.org is helpful) Just be faithful and tell others what Christ has done for you! (1 Pet 3:15-16).

PRAY: Lord forgive me of my many sins, cleanse me, and change me. Stir up your Spirit within me. Help me to follow Your leading. Give me opportunity this day to be a witness for You, all for Your glory and honor, Amen!

Harvest Growing Deeper

A Disciplemaking Tool of Harvest Evangelical Free Church
(for personal and/or small group study)

Week of May 24, 2020

Acts 2:1-41

In Acts chapter 1, Jesus told the disciples to wait in Jerusalem until the promised Holy Spirit would come upon them. Then with God's power, they would be a witness for and make disciples for Christ wherever they go to the ends of the earth. What does it look like to live a Holy Spirit-filled life? Why are most Christians not living the joyful spirit led life? What can we do to change that? And finally, imagine the impact this world would see, if everyone who claimed to follow Christ would allow the Holy Spirit to daily direct their thoughts, words, actions and attitudes?! Our world would be changed! How have you been empowered to witness for Christ?

Q: Have you ever traveled somewhere where you did not speak the main language? Describe your experience and how you felt?

Q: Pentecost (Greek word *pente koste* for “50”) is the Old Testament feast of Weeks (Lev 23:15-21; Num 28:26-31; Dt 16:9-12) and the Feast of the Harvest (Exo 23:16). This was one of three annual pilgrimages required by God to Jerusalem. The Jews would bring offerings from the wheat harvest to the Temple. This celebration would draw many Jews from all over the known world to Jerusalem. It occurred 50 days after the Jewish Passover celebration. Jesus was crucified, buried, and rose again during the Passover season and now 50 days later, the Holy Spirit would come and reside in all believers permanently. Peter would preach that day and 3000 souls would come to Christ! What is the significance of God's timing of all this?

Q: (vv.2-3) Both the Hebrew (ruach) and Greek word (pneuma) for “wind” is also the same word for “spirit.” What is the significance of God the Holy Spirit coming upon the gathered believers like the sound of a rushing *wind*? (see Gen 2:7; John 3:8; 20:22)

Q: In the OT fire represented God’s presence and holiness. What is the significance of “what appeared to be tongues of *fire*” resting upon *each* of the believers? (see Exo 3:2-6; Dt 4:24; Lk 3:16; Heb 12:29)

Q: (v.4) the believers were each filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues or languages as a sign of God’s power (1 Cor 14:22) as the Spirit enabled them. With people there in Jerusalem from all over the known world at that time, why would this be significant? (How does this tie into Acts 1:8?)

Q: Why is it still important today to support Bible translation efforts into the “mother languages” of people around the world?

Q: When has God enabled you to do something for Him that you didn’t think you could do? _____

Q: How could the church benefit from a greater sensitivity to the Holy Spirit’s leading? What can we do each day to cultivate this?

*In the OT, God the Holy Spirit would come upon someone temporarily to perform a certain task (see Exo 31:1-3; Judges 3:10; 1 Sam 10:10). In the NT, He would come to live inside every believer everywhere permanently. In v.4, the believers were “filled with the Holy Spirit” (Jesus had promised just a few days earlier, that they would be “baptized with the Holy Spirit.”) *When a person repents and turns from their sin and places their faith (trust) in Christ alone for forgiveness and new life, they are baptized with the Holy Spirit (1 Cor 12:13) into God’s forever family. This is a one-time event at conversion. The Holy Spirit enters their life to stay, sealing their commitment to Christ (Eph 1:13-14). This initial filling of the Holy Spirit is what took place here in v.4. Peter and other believers would be “filled” with the Holy Spirit (He would stir up or take control of their lives) multiple times afterwards (Acts 4:8, 31; 6:5; 7:55). Likewise, even though the Holy Spirit now resides in a new believer, we have to continually ask Him to “fill us” or take control of our lives; our thoughts, words, actions and attitudes (See Eph 5:18). Ask God to fill you daily, allowing Him control!*

Q: (vv.5-13)What other language groups were represented and how did they respond to hearing these people speaking in their language?

Q: (v.11) what were the disciples proclaiming in these various languages?

Q: (vv.12-13) some were curious and wanted to hear more, while others mocked them. In a similar way, how have you found others curious about your faith, wanting to know more? How have others mocked your faith in Christ? Why is it important we press on asking the Holy Spirit to fill and empower us to share!? (John 16:33)
