



Acts

Lesson 2

What a unique time in history it was. God, who had seemingly been silent for 300 years, was now speaking loud and clear. All the years of waiting were over; the promised hope of Israel, the Messiah, had come. The few who had listened as God spoke to them through Messiah Jesus were playing the lead roles in the making of history. Little did they know the eternal impact the events of those days would have on future generations.

After watching in awe as Jesus ascended to His Father, the disciples returned to Jerusalem to wait for the “baptism” as Jesus had instructed them. As they were altogether praying, the

Spirit arrived in the form of tongues of fire that rested upon them. Being filled with the Spirit, they were given the ability to declare the wonders of God in the languages of the people that had journeyed to Jerusalem to celebrate Pentecost. How appropriate that on the day established for celebrating the blessing of God in the harvest of their crops, the Spirit arrives to begin the harvest of souls to the Kingdom of God. Despite the skeptics in the crowd, three thousand believed and were baptized that day. Prophecy was being fulfilled right before them, and with the powerful work of the Holy Spirit now within them, Christ’s Church was born.

READ ALL OF CHAPTER 2

1. *From Leviticus 23:15-21, give some information about the Feast of Pentecost (Feast of Weeks).*

2. *Who is the “they” of vs. 1? See Acts 1:12-15*

3. *Referring back to Acts 1:8, what did Jesus promise to be the result of the Holy Spirit’s presence?*

4. From 2:1-4, how did that promise become reality?



There are many varied perspectives and opinions on the “gift of tongues.” Our goal in studying Scripture is never to encourage discord or disunity but to encourage unity, truth and spiritual growth. This subject, though important, can be very volatile and divisive, and there is much information regarding it that we cannot take the time to cover here. The following Scriptures can help regarding the Biblical perspectives. If you would like to spend more time on this subject on your own please do so.

Acts 10:46; 19:6	Spirit arrived with speaking in tongues
Acts 4:8 & 31; 8:16-17; 9:17-18	Spirit arrives with speaking in tongues not mentioned
Acts 11:15-16	Probable speaking in tongues
1 Corinthians 12:7-11	Spiritual gifts
1 Corinthians 14	Use of spiritual gifts

5. Observe, list and discuss the visible effects of the Spirit’s arrival on the believers other than the ability to speak in other languages. Consider the following quote by John Piper:

“When you read the New Testament honestly, you can’t help but get the impression of a big difference from a lot of contemporary Christian experience. For them the Holy Spirit was a fact of experience. For many Christians today it is a fact of doctrine. Surely the charismatic renewal has something to teach us here. In sacramental churches the gift of the Holy Spirit is virtually equated with a subconscious work of God in regeneration which you only know you have because the Bible says you do if you believe. It is easy to imagine a spiritual counselor saying to a new convert today, ‘Don’t expect to notice any difference: just believe you have received the Spirit.’ But that is far from what we see in the New Testament. ‘You shall receive power...and you shall be my witnesses.’ This is an experience of boldness and confidence and victory over sin.”

6. Compare Acts 2:23-24 to John 18:10-12. What does Peter now understand about Jesus’ death that he didn’t understand before?

7. *What oath that God made to David was fulfilled by Christ's death and resurrection? See 2 Samuel 7:12 and Psalm 89:3-4*

8. *What do you think it meant in verse 37 that the people were "pierced (cut NIV) to the heart"?*

9. *Why would the inward act of repentance and the outward act of baptism be the response Peter wanted from the people? See also Acts 22:16; Colossians 2:11-12; Romans 6:1-5; 1 Peter 3:21. (Reminder: this subject may also have varied opinions regarding the requirement of baptism for salvation. Please remember our goal is not to be divisive but to build up one another in the faith.)*

10. *The details of verses 42-46 reveal that another effect of the presence of the Holy Spirit within His people is love that is expressed in unity and generosity. In what ways is this continuing in the body of Christ today?*

Prayer requests:

Group time notes:
