

Dr. Ron Armstrong • June 13, 2021
The Movement Begins: Those Who Accepted

Acts [2:1] When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. [2] Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. [3] They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. [4] All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them.

[5] Now there were staying in Jerusalem God-fearing Jews from every nation under heaven. [6] When they heard this sound, a crowd came together in bewilderment, because each one heard them speaking in his own language. [7] Utterly amazed, they asked: "Are not all these men who are speaking Galileans? [8] Then how is it that each of us hears them in his own native language? [9] Parthians, Medes and Elamites...visitors from Rome [11] (both Jews and converts to Judaism)... --we hear them declaring the wonders of God in our own tongues!" [12] Amazed and perplexed, they asked one another, "What does this mean?"

[13] Some, however, made fun of them and said, "They have had too much wine."

[14] Then Peter stood up with the Eleven, raised his voice and addressed the crowd: "Fellow Jews and all of you who live in Jerusalem, let me explain this to you; listen carefully to what I say. [15] These men are not drunk, as you suppose. It's only nine in the morning! [16] No, this is what was spoken by the prophet Joel:

[17] " 'In the last days, God says,
I will pour out my Spirit on all people.
Your sons and daughters will prophesy,
your young men will see visions,
your old men will dream dreams.

[21] And everyone who calls
on the name of the Lord will be saved.'

[22] "Men of Israel, listen to this: Jesus of Nazareth was a man accredited by God to you by miracles...

[41] Those who accepted his message were baptized, and about three thousand were added to their number that day."

A. Here's what we know and think about this miracle:

1. They heard something. It sounded like a violent wind, but there wasn't one.
2. They saw something. "What seemed." The author is doing his best to describe what the witnesses saw.
3. We think they were already in the Temple precincts.
4. We know they had an encounter with God, and the people and the Church were changed. The frightened fisherman is changed into the courageous speaker.
5. The "gift of tongues" as taught by Pentecostals is often incorrectly based on Acts 2. A better area of Scripture would be 1 Corinthians.
6. The audience is made up of Jews of the Diaspora who have come to the Temple for Pentecost. They are going to jumpstart the worldwide Church.

B. Peter is helping them connect the dots of the miracle.

1. This miracle is stuffed with enough symbolism that no Jew would miss it.
 - a. Wind: Gen. 2:7, God breathed.
 - b. Fire: Presence of God.
 - c. Tongues of fire: Tongues of language.
2. God is giving life, he is present, and his gift is going to all peoples.

3. It didn't happen on Pentecost (Feast of Weeks) by accident. Pentecost symbolized two things:

a. Giving of Law on Sinai to guide them.

b. Celebration of first barley harvest.

4. The Spirit is going to guide them, and God is going to draw in a great harvest of people.

5. Those who accepted were baptized. They even understood the symbolism of baptism.

6. "Those who accepted his message ..."