

Acts 2:1-13 (NIV)

- 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; residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia,
- 10 Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya near Cyrene; visitors from Rome
- 11 (both Jews and converts to Judaism); Cretans and Arabs--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.”

44-02-07-What Does This Mean? (#2)

Pentecost, Holy Spirit, supernatural, revelation

Acts 2:1-13

Pentecost meant that Jesus hadn't finished His work on earth.

INTRODUCTION: (Text as Scripture Reading)

–When *amazing things* happened on the Day of Pentecost, the crowd asked, *What does this mean?* (**title**). We can answer that question in many ways, but one answer is **HOM.idea**. On the Cross, Jesus *didn't end* His earthly ministry but *laid the groundwork* for continuing it.

–Pentecost doesn't mean we now have a *new ministry pattern* or a *new worship style*, although some have been tempted to do just that. God can, if He wants, repeat the fantastic, attention-drawing manifestations of Pentecost [In a revival on the *Indonesian island of Timor*, many miracles described in the NT were repeated, including walking on water, raising the dead, and water being turned into wine for Communion services]. But that's not the point of Pentecost. In a very dramatic way that day, the Holy Spirit showed the world that *Jesus wasn't done doing Kingdom work*.

–Let's reread vs.1-4, *When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them.*

These verses show us that *He's not done yet...*

I. Jesus Is Still Working Through His Followers

- A. An intrinsic part of Christ's Gospel was, “Follow Me.” (This doesn't mean just to believe in Jesus, but *to do what He was doing*.)
 1. *What was He doing?* The works His Father gave Him to do.
 2. *What are we supposed to be doing?* The works Jesus gives us to do— John 20:21b, “...As the Father has sent me, I am sending you.”
- B. Our goal isn't to see Pentecost duplicated, but to follow Jesus in praying, “not my will but yours be done” (being a channel of His will [hymn chorus: “Channels only, blessed Master, / But with all Thy wondrous power / Flowing through us, Thou canst use us / Every day and every hour.”])
- C. Jesus was *yielded* and *ready* to carry God's love into this world. (He may have appeared self-directed, but His work was planned by His Father and guided by the Holy Spirit, *just as ours is to be*.)

TRANS: We don't get to choose our Pentecosts. But if our lives are to be channels of the Holy Spirit's power, we must be *available* and *ready*, not just on Sundays, but every waking hour. In the power of the Holy Spirit, Jesus is building His Church—through believers He is carrying out His Kingdom's expansion. *He's not done yet...*

II. Jesus Is Still Implementing God's Global Gospel Plan— v.5-11,

Now there were staying in Jerusalem God-fearing Jews from every nation under heaven. When they heard this sound, a crowd came together in bewilderment, because each one heard them speaking in his own language. Utterly amazed, they asked: "Are not all these men who are speaking Galileans? Then how is it that each of us hears them in his own native language? Parthians, Medes and Elamites; residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya near Cyrene; visitors from Rome (both Jews and converts to Judaism); Cretans and Arabs—we hear them declaring the wonders of God in our own tongues!"

A. Divine power was displayed by this *miraculous ability* of believers to speak in languages they'd never learned; but divine wisdom was evident in the *timing* of that miracle and the *nature* of the miracle:

1. Miraculous speech might have drawn spectators, without doing them any good; but at *Pentecost season*, Jews from foreign lands were visiting in Jerusalem just at the right time: God's timing!
2. Saying the right words at the wrong time can be wasted breath. (God knows the exact timing that's best for us to speak about "*the wonders of God*" to someone; so, we must be alert and ready at any time *to be a channel*, to *speak up* by the Spirit's prompting.)

B. Jesus told His Jewish disciples— John 10:16, I have other sheep that are not of this sheep pen. I must bring them also. They too will listen to my voice, and there shall be one flock and one shepherd. (At Pentecost, *He began to do this*, setting His words on the lips of believers by the Spirit.)

1. Visitors, soon to return to different parts of the Roman Empire, heard them declare "*the wonders of God*" in languages foreign to the Jewish culture. (Jews sought cultural sameness and uniformity; God wants to bring cultural diversity into the unity of one faith.)
2. If race, culture, education level, economic status, political party, shape how we relate to others, Jesus is calling us to follow Him in seeking lost sheep across all these so-called barriers.

TRANS: Sometimes the Holy Spirit calls us out of our comfort zone, so that Jesus can use us as wider channels of God's blessing to others. [My poem "North, South, East, and West," the last stanza: *Scan the valleys and the mountains, / Desert sands and seas, / Drink from rivers and from fountains: / Life's diversities. / Form your plans with broad reflection / On their global needs. / Grow your dream in each direction. / Widely sow your seeds.*] *Jesus is not done yet with going into all the world*. And *in that world, He's not done yet working with those not yet ready to believe...*

III. Jesus Is Still Addressing Questioners and Skeptics— v.12-13,

Amazed and perplexed, they asked one another, "What does this mean?" Some, however, made fun of them and said, "They have had too much wine."

- A. That latter group—the *skeptics*, the *mockers*, the *ridiculers*—are not a group easily won to Christ.
1. They set a trap for themselves by their words of mockery and ridicule. (Repentance [metanoia=change of mind] would be *to admit they were wrong*—a direct blow to their pride and reputation.)
 2. But a deeper preventative to faith might be a *stubborn self-will: unwillingness to submit their moral choices to the laws of God*.
 3. Despite miracles and signs, their *hearts remain hard in unbelief, just as those who mocked Christ on the Cross*. (But Jesus showed us how to confront them: "Father, forgive they don't know what they do.")
- B. There are also *legitimate questioners*: those asking about miracles and supernatural events with an authentic desire to know the truth. (Jesus gives such people a promise— Mat 7:7, "Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you.")

CONCLUSION:

—In his sermon that follows this passage, Peter directly answers what true seekers ask: "*What does this mean?*" But what we've looked at today is the underlying meaning of the Holy Spirit's outpouring: **Pentecost meant that Jesus hadn't finished His work on earth**. *Jesus is not done working through His followers; He's not done reaching out with His global Gospel message; and He's not done confronting skepticism and answering true seekers*. Because of this *outpouring of the Holy Spirit* on the Day of Pentecost, **He is still doing His work on earth**. So, let's be *ready and available for Him to continue doing His earthy work through us*.