

Introduction:

- *"Now there were dwelling in Jerusalem Jews, **devout men from every nation under heaven**. And at this sound the multitude came together, and they were bewildered, because each one was hearing them speak in his own language. And they were amazed and astonished, saying, "Are not all these who are speaking Galileans? And how is it that we hear, each of us in his own native language? Parthians and Medes and Elamites and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, Cretans and Arabians—we hear them telling in our own tongues the mighty works of God." And all were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, "What does this mean?" But others mocking said, "They are filled with new wine.'" (Acts 2:5-13, ESV)*
- *"For the promise is for you and for your children and for all who are far off, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to himself." (Acts 2:39, ESV)*

I. What Were They Amazed At?

- A. Acts chapter 2:1-4 produces some very interesting stimuli.
 1. Sound of wind.
 2. Tongues of fire.
 3. 120 people speaking different languages, declaring the wonders of God and all with a Galilean accent. verse 11.
 4. This captured the attention of the crowds in Jerusalem who were there for the Feast of Weeks, Pentecost, Harvest.
 5. The power was present and the power of God was resting upon these 120 in the upper room.
- B. People were puzzled!
 1. They were bewildered. Greek meaning—Greek 'to pour together, to mix.' To cause consternation, to confound (to puzzle). It made them ask questions.
 2. Amazed. Greek meaning— to be 'excitedly shocked.'
 3. Astonished. Greek meaning— It serves to denote religious experience face to face with what transcends human possibilities. Kittel, G., Friedrich, G., & Bromiley, G. W. (1985). [Theological Dictionary of the New Testament](#) (p. 316). Grand Rapids, MI: W.B. Eerdmans.
- C. Food for thought:
 1. At the tower of Babel, Gen. 11:7 God confuses the language and scatters the people all over the world.
 2. Acts Chapter 2 the miracle of languages brings all the nations together again.
 3. God has always been interested in the nations! Not just the nation of Israel. He chose one nation to reach all nations but when that failed He birthed the church with power to be witnesses to all the nations. 2:5
 4. Pentecost brought a harvest from among all the nations and released the Gospel with power to all nations!

II. What Was Their Response?

- A. There are basically two responses.
1. Acts 2:12-13 is one of many passages that covers the two extreme reactions that people have to God. When God speaks, some people hear His voice, and some hear thunder (John 12:28-29). Some dismiss Jesus as being controlled by Satan (Mark 3:22), and some declare Him to be the Savior that God promised (Mark 8:29). In this case, some in the crowd see Jesus' followers speaking their languages and stand in wonder; others judge they are just drunk and mock them (Acts 2:13).
- B. Some questioned: What does this mean? These were intelligent people discerning God in the midst of something they did not understand. They were seekers!
1. It means that God has fulfilled His Word/promise. The things prophesied have come to pass! The coming of the Holy Spirit ... is God the Father ...making good ... on His promise!
 2. It means that the redeemed/righteous man has become the temple of the Holy Spirit. God no longer dwells in temples made by human hands but God resides in His own handiwork...believers in Christ! God on the inside of a man makes him holy.
 3. It means that the Ekklesia (Church) has been born, filled with power and about to be witnesses sent into all the earth.
 4. It means that the gifts of the spirit become fully operational. Handed out and thrust into darkness.
 5. It means that whosoever believes/and **asks** will receive Holy Spirit.
 6. It means that this Gospel will be preached all over the world by an empowered church.
 - a) At Babel man was scattered creating nations.
 - b) At Pentecost men are sent to bring Good News to nations...thereby in Christ, creating One New Man!!! When the Holy Ghost comes in RACISM goes OUT!
 - c) We see all of this in Peter's sermon in Acts 2.
- C. **Others mocked**: They are just drunk! You will fall on one side or the other. This group is a closed heart group. They are living in darkness...but I believe by verse 37 (After Peter's sermon) some are asking "What must we do?"
1. To mock means to: make fun of someone by joking or jesting--'to scoff, to jeer, to joke at'
Louw, J. P., & Nida, E. A. [1996]. *Greek-English lexicon of the New Testament: based on semantic domains* (electronic ed. of the 2nd edition., Vol. 1, p. 434). New York: United Bible Societies. When the righteous are mocked know that the devil is speaking. Do not ever forget that. Here is some of what he is saying:
 - a) Let's have nothing to do with these people. It is not worth the time to listen. Yet they were hearing the wonders of God being declared.
 - b) They are fanatics. This is all excitement. They are going 'overboard' with their religion. We do not want to be like them.
 - c) This is ridiculous doesn't even sound like God or something He would do.
 2. It is just a bunch of Babel/gibberish. Men with no discernment will always 'write off' the things of God.

3. The whole city is in an uproar; this nothing but wildfire. They ought to be arrested!
Meaning shall we gather and shut them down. Ie. Like Jesus..."Crucify!"

III. Peter Answered Them All

- A. Vs 14-16. This is that which was prophesied by Joel. Peter goes straight to the Word to declare what they were experiencing. Joel 2:28-32.
 1. Pouring out of the Spirit
 2. Dreams and visions
 3. Sons and daughters prophesy.
 4. Signs in the heaven and on earth. Happened at crucifixion. Darkness, earth quakes, etc.
- B. He preaches Jesus using OT scriptures. Covers in detail the resurrections from scriptures and then testifies we are witnesses! We have seen Him!
- C. Peter's preaching had to be great! Because they were cut to the heart and asked in Acts 2:37 *"What must we do to be saved???"*
- D. Beautiful invitation by Peter:
 1. Repent
 2. Be baptized
 3. And you will receive the Holy Spirit
 4. And this last part is for us: *"For the promise is for you and for your children and for all who are far off, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to himself."* (Acts 2:39, ESV)
 - a) I am sure Peter was not thinking of Gentiles when he prophesied that!
 - b) Everyone whom the Lord calls to Himself!
 - c) 3,000 were believed and were baptized that day! And baptized in the Holy Spirit!
 5. All were filled!
 - a) 1 - at Pentecost...they were **all** filled.
 - b) 2 - The Household of Cornelius...the Holy Spirit fell on **all** who heard. Acts 10
 - c) 3 - The Ephesian Disciples...the Holy Spirit came upon them...there were 12 men in **all**
 - d) 4 - "For the promise is to you and to your children, and to **all** who are afar off, as many as the Lord our God will call."

Conclusion:

- The real question is Not whether as a Christian you have a right to the gift of the Holy Spirit, but whether you have claimed that right.