

Norman C. Schwab  
Yacolt Ev Free  
March 22, 2003

**Big Power for a Big Job**  
**Acts 2:1-13**

Last summer we had a couple families and a slew of kids, over to celebrate the 4<sup>th</sup> of July. It was great fun to bar-b-cue, sit around and talk and kick the soccer ball around and fly our little remote control airplane...that happen to get stuck up in the tallest tree in the cow field. But when the sun finally goes down, I love to get out the fireworks and start shooting them off. The sparklers and ground blooming flowers are OK, but what I like is the big arterial shells, the Bombs bursting in air. To watch them launch up 100 feet in the air and then explode into brilliants whites that crackle into greens and blues. Incredible. But the best part, was watching not the fireworks themselves, but the expressions of the kids faces as they went up and exploded into powerful colorful blooms of light. It was jaw-dropping excitement filled with wonder and expressions of sheer joy. Power. Beauty. Wonder.

Studying the 2<sup>nd</sup> chapter of Acts this past week that describes the Holy Spirit coming down in power and indwelling the believers in Jerusalem, I initially thought if I was there it might seem quite fearsome. Yet, I get a sense that when the spirit came down from heaven on Pentecost Day that it produced an incredible jaw-dropping excitement of wonder and praise and sheer joy. Of power, Beauty and wonder. Not at the expressions of the power. Not at the power itself. But wonder and praise jaw-dropping awe at the source of life-giving power.

Turn with me in your Bibles to the book of Acts. We continue our study in the second chapter. In chapter one Jesus had spent 40 days after the resurrection continuing to equip his disciples. In chapter two He will empower his disciples. In chapter one Jesus tells them to go

Jerusalem and wait. Here in chapter 2 the waiting is over and they are sent forth on their mission. In chapter one, we see Jesus ascending into heaven. Here in chapter 2 we see the Spirit descending down to indwell the believers.

If you are much like me, I need power. I need power to be able to do what God has called me to do. At times I feel inadequate, weak and discouraged. At times it feels like I'm running on empty and in desperate need for a filling. We need power to love when we seem to have little capacity for it. I need power to forgive others when we can't even forgive ourselves. We long for wisdom for how to tackle the demands of life, when we can't even figure out what to do with today. I need power to resist the temptations that fly past me each day. I need power to engage people in relationship when I'd prefer to blow them off and do my own thing. We need power to carry out the responsibilities that God has called us to. We need power to resist the temptation to envy and grow bitter and angry when we've been hurt and stabbed in the back. We need power to be a bold and winsome witness to share the good news that Jesus is alive and wants to set us free from the stranglehold grip of sin.

I need power, but sometimes...I feel empty. I am a believer and know based on God's word that the Holy Spirit indwells me. I know that my body then is a house for God. I am a temple of the Holy Spirit. So then I wonder, If the Holy Spirit is extraordinarily powerful. And if that same Holy Spirit is living right inside me. Then why am I not experiencing as much of His power as I like to in my life?

Read with me the arrival of the promised Holy Spirit coming down in power on the Day of Pentecost. Acts 2:1-13 (READ)

In Acts 1:8 Jesus promised that "you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be my witnesses both in Jerusalem, Judea and Samaria and the remote parts of the earth." Power to witness. Power to testify Jesus is the risen Lord, Savior. They would be

sent out...but to start things out. Representatives from all the known world are sent to them.

Lets start in v.1 It happened that the Spirit came down on the day of Pentecost. Pente means 50. Literally the 50<sup>th</sup> day after the Passover. Why did God choose to send His spirit down on Pentecost? 1) It was a holiday when the weather allowed for great traveling conditions and Jews from all over the world could come to worship. There were lots of people in Jerusalem. Josephus the historian wrote that Jerusalem at that time had about 150,000 in population and it would swell to over a million people at Passover.

Not only the practical reason of bringing many people from many different nations together, 2) Pentecost was the climax of the feast of weeks, or feast of harvest, Feast of first fruits. It was a week of weeks or 7 weeks plus one day, 50 days. It occurred in the first part of June when people could come and bring in the first parts of their wheat and barley harvest in joy and thanksgiving to God for providing for them. If you read further on in the chapter 2 of Acts you will discover that 3000 people responded to the gospel after Peters sermon and became believers in Jesus. This was just a taste of what was to come. This was the first fruit of the millions more that would come to Christ after them.

Leviticus 23 describes what took place on this feast and one of the interesting things that took place was two large loaves were baked 4 ft by 2 ft by 3 inches tall. That would make a couple of big sub sandwiches. These loaves were offered up to the Lord not on the alter, due to its leaven content, but as a public offering before the people as a "wave offering". The ordinary food of the people loaves were waved back and forth by a priest as a thank offering to God for his provision and a first fruit harvest of more to come. The leaven is yeast, a symbol of sin in the Bible. It's the only bread sacrificed with leaven. I read this week thought the picture of the two loaves was a picture of the church. The Jews and Gentiles coming together. Gods way of telling us that the church is not

made up of perfect people. They have sin in them. They haven't reached perfection, but are people who are in a process of becoming what God wants them to be. A people who have the power of the spirit in them and at work to conform them to His image.

Lets go back to the text. They all came together in one place. V.2 says they were all sitting in a house when it happened. Some say house refers to a room at the temple because of the 3000 that show up shortly afterward. When this word for house is used of the temple it is usually qualified by adding house of God. The most natural reading seems to refer back to this house of the upper room where they had been expectantly waiting for the promised spirit. I think after the Holy Spirit came, the party spilled out into the temple area as the last verse in Luke's first volume gospel states they were continually in the temple praising God.

So they were in a house and "suddenly" the Holy Spirit came in power. There were several things that occurred that visibly indicated the arrival of the power. Verse 2 says a noise like a rushing wind came and filled the house. It wasn't a wind, but those who were there described it as like a wind. The words for Spirit in the Bible; Ruah, Hebrew and Pneuma, Greek are the words for air, wind, breath. The wind represents a life-giving power. In **Ezekiel 37** God used the word Ruah to describe the Spirit of God moving over a valley of dry bones. These dry bones represented a spiritually dead Jewish nation) As the Ruah moved over the bones, suddenly there was a thunder and clattering as the bone to bone came together and grew flesh and skin and then the Ruah breathed into these and they came to life and stood up on their feet becoming a vast army.

In **Genesis 2:7** "The lord God formed man from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life and man became a living being." Apart from the breath of God, man was just as dead as

dust. The source of all life, God, needed to breathe some of his life or spirit into Adam.

Lets take this into the New Testament. Stick with me here. **John 3:5-8** Jesus is explaining to Nickodemus the need to be born again. He doesn't quite understand and thinks Jesus is saying he needs to climb back into his mothers womb? Jesus says, no. The flesh is flesh the spirit is spirit. People need spiritual life to be blown into spiritual deadness. V5 v. 7 Don't' marvel that I said to you must be born again. The wind blows where it wishes and you hear the sound of it but do not know where it comes from and where it is going, so is everyone who is born of the Spirit. The spirit is like the wind. You hear its sound, feel its effects, but you cannot determine where it has come from or where it may go. We don't control the Spirit or direct it or follow it or confine it to a certain group of parameters that we are comfortable with. All people simply need to have the spirit of God blow His breathe of life into them, just like Adam at creation so that we may be spiritually living. The holy spirit needs to breathe into us so that we might become spiritually alive. It's very possible to be physically alive and yet spiritually dead. That's why Jesus says, "You must be born again." **Isaiah 2:22** says "Stop trusting man, who is it that puts the breath of life into nostrils?" Humans are only one breath being. He breathes in and breathes out. If he stops breathing even for a couple of minutes, he dies. So why pay so much honor and attention to mere men. God's breath is not in his nostrils. He is not a one breath God. He doesn't stay alive by breathing in and out. God is one great eternal breath. He is the Ruah, the Pneuma the source of all breath and life-giving power. God want to pour that spiritual life into each of us. We need that life to live spiritually. It was no accident that God used the symbol of the wind on the day of Pentecost.

First wind and then fire v.3. "tongues as of fire distributed themselves and the rested on each one of them. Why fire? Fire in the Bible is a symbol of God's presence. When God made an agreement with

Abraham, a covenant, he ratified it by presence in a torch of fire passing between the sacrifice of agreement (Ex 3). On Mt. Sinai, the presence of God was described as an All-consuming fire. It was a pillar of fire that led the Israelites through the desert and now flames are dancing on each of the disciples individually just as the Spirit now rests on each believer individually.

It must have been an awesome experience. This passage reminded me of the week Erin and I first met, we were hiking in the Austrian Alps as part of an expedition up Shikenspitz mountain along the Tauren mountain range. We had easily made it to our base camp and were attempting the summit. The day started out sunny and beautiful. Our harnesses were carabinered into the permanent safety cable over a hogsback ridge that dropped thousands of feet down on both sides. I noticed that the cable was brand new and asked our leader about it. He said it had been hit by lightning several weeks before and was just replaced, he mentioned that same lightning storm had claimed a small group of mountain goats. With this in our minds, we all noticed a very large and black cloud heading our way. We all put on rain gear preparing for the blast. It was very strange. It began to feel like you were walking through spider webs. Little blue flames began to appear and leap from your rain gear. It felt very strange. Later a mountain climbing friend of mine had a special name for the effect and said when that happens you are in great danger of lightning hit. Well, we had come up the most difficult side and to get down to safety the fastest way was up over the summit and slide down the skree rock to where we could glissade down the glacier. By the time we got to the top the lightning was pounding the mountain all around us. BUT, fortunate for us on the top of every major peak in Austria they have built a huge wooden cross. The guy wires were cracking and the cross was taking lightning hits. Our leader was yelling, on your knees. move. fast. Get down. It was fearsome, lightning. torrents of rain. The bolts of lightning that threatened our very life were being

absorbed by the cross. The only safe place for us to be...on our knees. As we scrambled across the peak and down the other side to relative safety.

It certainly reminded us that Jesus Christ and His death on the cross who absorbed the lightning bolts of punishment we deserve for our sin. The only safe response is to kneel in worship in the awesome presence of Almighty God. I will never forget the flames, the lightning, the deafening thunderous roar, the sheer cliffs, the danger. Stuck by the awesome power of God's created nature, realizing that is but a fingernail scratch to the being in the very presence of God Almighty. The disciples would never forget the incredible presence of the Holy Spirit that Pentecost morning.

Wind represents the power of the Holy Spirit. Fire the awesome presence of Spirit. But the Spirit is not fire, just like fire. The Spirit is not wind, but like wind. The Spirit is not a dove, or a pillar of fire, or a warm glow feeling. At times God will give us an audible, touchable demonstration of His presence and power, but other times He will not. He will not because He is free to do as He pleases and He doesn't want us to confuse these symbols with Him. The Spirit doesn't want us to box up and confine the "expressions" of Himself in such a way that we begin to confuse the expressions, the wind, the power, the dove, the tongues as Him. Fire is not the presence. Wind is not the power...the Spirit is. We miss the point and the power when we pursue the expressions rather than the person of the Holy Spirit.

We need the breath that the Holy Spirit breathes into our spiritual lives in order to live spiritually. Here at Pentecost God is not coming up with some new expression of Himself. He didn't just dream up this Holy Spirit idea and send it down to earth as a gift to humans. The Holy Spirit is God and part of the Trinity. For believers God Himself has chosen to pour himself into us with the giving of the Spirit. "Abide in me and I in you"

What must it have been like to have been given a mission to be witnesses to the entire world and yet still feel very empty, weak, inadequate, and lacking in desperate need of filling and then have the Holy Spirit come rushing in, experiencing the incredible power and presence of God. We need the wind of the Holy Spirit to breath spiritual life into us, for there can be no life, no unity, no fellowship, no effective witness, no fruit apart from the life giving breath of God. Just as a body without breath is a corpse.

Let me comment just a moment on the confusion between baptism of the Spirit and the filling of Spirit. In Romans 6 (I cor 12:13) Paul has carefully defined baptism of the Spirit as that act of Christ by which He places believers into His body. No where in the Bible does it command believers to seek additional baptisms of the Spirit. It is a sovereign, single act of God. It is not an initiation into the spiritual elite, it is an adoption by God into the body of Christ. "We were all baptized into one body" I Cor 12:13, Eph 4:4-6). What believers are commanded to do is to be filled with the Spirit. (Ephesians 5:18) Peter and the other disciples were filled at Pentecost and Peter was filled again in Acts 4:8 and again in Acts 4:31. In order for us to be filled with the Spirit we must first empty ourselves of us. Confession, dying to selfishness. Filling up involves a heart of obedience not a legalistic conformity to a list of rules. Filling comes when we practice the presence of Christ in our lives, when we saturate ourselves with the Word of God. Colossians tells us to "let the word of God dwell in us richly." Ephesians 5 tells us to "walk by the Spirit" and let each moment by moment decision be under God's control and not our own. Baptism means that I belong to His body while filling means that my body belongs to Him. Here at Pentecost both happened at the same time. They were baptized as Acts 1:5 states and they were filled as 2:4 states. This is the birthday of the church as these believers were baptized, or spiritually identified together as the body of Christ. At the same time they were filled by the power and presence of the Holy Spirit.

The Spirit is a person and if you are a believer you have all of him inside of you. How much we tap into that power depends on how much room we allow him to fill up our lives. If our rooms are filled with junk, sin, garbage, even just filled up with the busy stuff of life, we will still have all of the Holy Spirit inside, but he won't be very big, he won't have much room to use His power in our lives.

I remember when bread machines first came out. A neighbor in California, Mr. Durham was so pleased with his machine. He had it on a timer and would wake up to the aroma of fresh baked bread. He often knocked on our door to share a loaf with us. He couldn't stop talking about it and telling all the neighbors how wonderful it was. A few years later when the price dropped considerably I purchased a bread machine for Erin. For months every day we ate fresh bread for dinner. But then its use became more sporadic. It wasn't broken, other things just crowded it out. Lately we've been enjoying the fresh bread again. Just the Holy Spirit, we always had all of the bread machine in our home...it just sometimes we utilize it more than other times. Each time we do use it we enjoy being filled with the taste and aroma. The more room we have for the Spirit, the more we enjoy His presence, the more we will be filled up.

The Spirit so filled up the disciples with a sense of the power and presence of God they could not help but pour out in praise to God. Literally in v.11 they spoke out of the "greatnesses of God." They spoke these praises in tongues. They were human languages known by those in the crowd that gathered having been attracted to the wind like noise. At this point the celebration must have spilled out into the temple courts as there were thousands to listen to this incredible Spirit filled phenomenon of these disciples, in their opinion, country bumpkins from accent challenged Galilee, were speaking their home country dialect perfectly. Languages from all over the known world. Iraq, Iran, Egypt, Crete, Libya, Asia Minor. Their reaction is sheer amazement, marveled, puzzlement, perplexed, bewilderment. V.12 The miracle was not in the hearing v.4

tells us the Spirit filled them and gave them utterances. It was not a message of repentance. They were not even preaching the gospel. They were simply so filled up by the power and presence of God that the praise of God just spilled out of them as a witness to the world to the greatness of our God. This amazing gift of being able to speak in a language known to other parts of the earth but not to them, sent a clear message that God wants to speak that same message of the gospel to every person of every language. It was a reversal of the Tower of Babel. At Babel, God judged the peoples rebellion and confused the languages of man. The people were scattered because people couldn't understand each other. But God's blessing at Pentecost people of different nations, cultures, languages could understand each other, The spirit poured down from heaven and broke down the dividing wall, bringing unity and praise to God. The tongues played an important role in directly connecting the people who came from all the nations who needed to understand the greatness of God. The tongues demonstrated a sliver of God's power in what God intended to spread the gospel message clear across the world.

The crowd that had gathered were amazed. Literally "pushed out of their senses" and searching for answers. Some understood in their heart and responded. Later after Peter preached it says over 3000 responded in belief. But others didn't. V.13 there are the skeptics attracted by all the noise and power, but saying, "They are just full of sweet wine." Some will always work hard at attributing supernatural power to natural causes. They discount the miracle so that they don't have to deal with it. Why do you think the theory of evolution even though it is so badly flawed gets so much attention? It is mans attempt to discount the miracle and rationalize God away so they don't have to deal with spiritual reality. They mock what they do not understand and then walk off in their own self-sufficient way. Whenever the spirit show up some will mock and others will believe.

If we desire to move this world, it will not happen because of our criticism of it nor of our conformity to it, but when the combustion of the Holy Spirit ignites a fire within us and we experience the presence and power of God in such a profound way that we are compelled with an overwhelming sense to praise God. When we recognize our own spiritual emptiness and inadequacy and long for God. For those who do hunger and thirst for righteousness...will be filled. For it is not by might, nor by power but by My Spirit says the Lord of Hosts.

The early church didn't have all the things we considered as important for success today; money, influence, power, great programs, buildings, power point and sound systems. And yet...multitudes came and believed. Why? Because they were a people who had been ignited by the Holy Spirit. The mission to go into all the world and be witnesses. Has that been completed? No. Has our mission orders changed? No. Then that means the same Holy Spirit power is available for us today.

Then why don't I see that power in my life? It could be you may not have it. You may still be a mocking skeptic that has not received the baptism of the Spirit and come to Christ in salvation. Now would be a great day to invite Christ into your life. He wants to breathe His life into you and make you new. It may be you have it, but you are not stepping out to use it. You're a believer and you have the Spirit inside but like your bread machine, its simply getting shoved aside by the clutter and cares of life. You aren't pursuing the presence and power of God. Maybe you have the power yet God is choosing to be strangely silent at this time. As Jesus told the disciples to wait, now is your waiting time. Maybe you have the Spirit inside you but it has been hidden behind a ministry machine driven by self that has programized God out of your life and church life. You may be too talented and blessed for your own good and in desperate need of seeing how inadequate and empty you are a part from God. What a travesty, if God chose to remove his Holy Spirit from the world if the church would continue to crank along its ministry

machine, without missing a step. Are we looking and desperately needing the power of the Holy Spirit in our life? Do we anticipate it? Expect it? Listen for it. Do we really believe Jesus words “Apart from me you can do nothing?”

## Acts 2:1-13 Notes

Intro: K. Hughes p. 29 Fourth of July, parties. Fireworks. Best part is not the fireworks, but the children's faces. Expressions of sheer joy. They really did expect God to send the HS. No doubt. No wavering. Confidence of that helped get them ready. Those 10 days probably gave them the awareness of their need to be filled. They probably felt empty at the loss of their saviors presence. He was gone. John 15:5 "Apart from me you can do nothing" was in their minds.

Vance Havner "We are not going to move this world by our criticism of it nor our conformity to it, but by the combustion with it of lives ignited by the Spirit of God." The early church did not have all the things we think are essential for success today; money, buildings, social status, yet the church won multitudes to Christ Why? Because the church had the power of the HS energizing its ministry. They were a people ignited by the spirit of God. That same Holy spirit power is available to us today.

In chapter one they were equipped, in 2 they were empowered. In 1 they were held back. In 2 they were sent forth. In 1 the savior ascended in 2 the Spirit descended. (MacArthur p38)

A need for power. A challenge to love when we have little capacity for it. A need to forgive others when we can't even forgive ourselves. A longing for wisdom for life's demands when we can't figure out what to do with today. Empty and in need of filling. "Apart from me you can do nothing." Not about seeking to live up to a standard of perfection. We can't. Not about being obedient and faithful and keep to a list of do's and don't's we can't. It's about allowing him to live his life in us and through us. That's the power of Pentecost. (Olgivie p31) empty vessels poured into, like a container filled up to overflowing with water.

We would not ask for another Pentecost just like we would not ask for another Calvary. It was a once for all event that will not be repeated, but the church may experience the filling of the spirit.

v.1 "the day...had come" God fulfilled his promise to send the HS. Here it is. Do you remember looking forward to a promised vacation, trip to the zoo, store for new clothes....waiting. Finally the day comes. House may be back at the upper room or in one of the many rooms at the temple.

Good explanation of the feasts and what they represent in MacArthur p40.

“When” time. It was the day of **Pentecost**. Lit. the fiftieth. Passover occurred in mid-April so Pentecost was in the beginning of June. Traveling conditions were favorable at that time of year so Jerusalem received more out of town folks for this feast. What is that celebrating? Edersheim. The feast of weeks, A week of weeks. 7 complete weeks also called the feast of weeks, feast of harvest, feast of first-fruits Lev. 23:17\*.. Celebrated 50 days after Passover thus the name Pente. It was used of the period of grain harvest from barley harvest to the wheat harvest. The Lord was praised as the source for rain and fertility. Jer 5:24. It marked the beginning of the time in which people were to bring offerings of first fruits. It was a feast of joy and thanksgiving. Lev.23 indicates that two large loaves were waved before the Lord by the anointed priests, made of fine flour and leaven, they were a “wave offering for the people. It was not put on the altar due to its leaven content. All thank offerings were leavened as it was the ordinary food of the people, as it embodied the prayer, “give us this day our daily bread.” It was the only public peace and thank offerings of Israel Each loaf was 7 hand widths long and 4 wide and four fingers high. About 4 feet by 2 feet by 3” tall. Make a very big sub sandwich. Happened in the full glory of early summer. Much of the harvest had been reaped. Trumpets announced the feast. Right after midnight the temple gates were thrown open. Connects the giving of the law with the giving of a better law, “written not in tables of stone but on the fleshy tables of the heart with the Spirit of the living God. (Edersheim The Temple p.208)

The 3000 souls converted on that day were but a taste of what was to come. They were just the First fruits of an even bigger harvest of souls.

By the time of Christ, the Jews all considered that the day of Pentecost was the anniversary of the giving of the Law to Moses on Mt. Sinai. So it provided the perfect opportunity to contrast and complete that giving of the Law, with the giving of the Holy Spirit

The HS was not just something God thought up and created for the Pentecost event. It is not some new aspect of God. HS is the essence of God and part of the trinity. God inside us. “Abide in me and I in you” Paul speaks of Christ in you the hope of glory.

**Unity:** “all together in one place” Which place? Upper room? Filled house where they were sitting. V.15 “at the third hour of day, 9:00am.

v.2 Suddenly (without warning) from heaven. Sound. Noise. Violent. Filling a space. Like rushing wind. Wind will either blow out the fire or fan the flames. Wind Ruah and Pneuma are used to describe the HS. Ezekiel used the word Ruah to describe the Spirit of God moving over a valley of dry bones (which represented a spiritually dead Jewish nation,

so that suddenly there was thunder and clattering of bones as they came together “bone to bone” The growing flesh and skin then “Come from the four winds O breath and breathe into these slain that they may live....they came to life and stood up on their feet a vast army (37:9-21)

Gen 2:7 “The lord God formed man from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life and man became a living being. Apart from the breath of God man was just dead matter. Dead as dust. God who is the source of life had to breathe some of his life, or spirit into Adam.

John 3:5-8 “The spirit give birth to spirit..no one can enter the kingdom of God unless he is born of water and the spirit. The wind blows where it pleases. You hear its sound but you cannot tell where it comes from or where it is going. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.” We can't tell the source of the Spirit or where its heading but we can feel and hear the effects of such. Jesus is telling Nicodemus that all people need to have new life breathed into them, just like Adam at creation. Just as God breathed into our physical life. The holy spirit needs to breathe into us so that we might become spiritually alive. We might well be physically alive without spiritual life. That's why Jesus explains, “You must be born again.” If we are to become spiritual alive God must breathe his Spirit into us. Isaiah 2:22 “Stop trusting in man, who has but a breath in his nostrils” Man is only a one breath person. He breathes in and breathes out. If he stops breathing even for a few minutes he dies. So says Isaiah, Why pay much attention to him? Stop trusting man and trust God Why? Because God's breath is not in his nostril . He is not a one breath God, He doesn't stay alive by breathing in and out. God is one great eternal breath. He is the source of all breath, the source of life. It is wise to trust God to give you the breath you need to live spiritual and carry on to the very end. Now we see why symbol of wind is important here in Acts 2 (Boice p41)

Like wind but it wasn't wind. Like fire, but it wasn't fire.

Why tongues similar to fire?? Fire can spread rapidly when the wind is blowing. Fire can be destructive.

Fire is a symbol of God's presence. Fire when God made a covenant with Abraham. He had cut animals apart and put them in two rows on the ground . It was customary in his day for the two parties to the covenant to walk between the separated parts of the animal and take their vows right there. It was understood if either party would break their covenant that they would be torn in two. Here God in a blazing torch ratifies the covenant by passing between the animal parts. A one sided agreement of God to Abraham. Moses and the burning bush. Ex. 3

An All Consuming fire on Mt. Sinai Ex 24. The pillar of fire that led the sons of Israel through the desert. Now the flames are dancing individually over the apostles and believers. Now the Spirit rest upon each believer individually. It emphasizes the personal relationship of God to the believer through the holy spirit. Fire is power. Fire burns away our waste.

Awe and fear? Flames leaping off of our raincoats on Shikenspitz mountain. Seeing flames on each other. Gasp? Surprise. They began to speak, and some spoke in perfect Latin, others in authentic Phrygian dialect

First wind then fire.

Wind = power

Flames = purity. Fire brings light and warmth. Understanding and fellowship. There are those in whom the fire of the holy spirit is so intense and meaningful that they can't keep it to themselves. They speak of Jesus and little fires are lit. See the flames spread we need to be working

Speech = universality

Physical signs of a Holy Spirit moving in. Proves something significant was happening. God wanted them to know things had changed. He didn't want them to sit around and discuss...now was that it? When did it happen? I don't feel a whole lot different. Were we just imagining it? No the ever present critics even notice something unusual..they misinterpret what happened but they can't deny a physical difference. Sounds, Sight,

v.3 Sights. Fire. Like tongues of fire, licking out and distributing themselves over the people and resting? Dancing individually over peoples heads. Hovering? *On each one of them.*

Where is the fear? They must have been expecting something...but this?

Signs of HS entry. Physical signs of HS effects had moved in.

v.4 All filled with the Holy Spirit.

Speak with other tongues. (different languages?? Known??)

As the Spirit was giving them utterance.

Without the HS there can be no discipleship there can be no life without the life giver. No fellowship without the unity of the spirit. No spirit fruit without the spirit. No effective witness without His power. Just as a body without breathe is a corpse. (Stott p61)

People talk about baptism of HS as if that is what Pentecost was about. Usually they mean “baptism is a special experience that involved the gift of speaking in tongues, an evidence that a person has been baptized with the Spirit. Baptism of the HS has to do with being born again. A person is identified with Jesus Christ. The sacrament of water baptism also signified this identification of the baptized individual with Christ. “I’m with Christ and desire to follow and serve him. It is done once because a person is only saved once. To be baptized by the HS is to be a Christian. To be filled with HS is different. These people at Pentecost did not become Christians here, they already were believers. They believed in Jesus. Praying studying bible. Here the word used is filled, not baptism ( what about Acts 1:5

Macarthur good on Baptism vs filling of HS (p41)

HS filling for service and ministry 1;8. Eph5:18 we need his power constantly if we are to serve God effectively. Baptism of the HS means that that I belong to His body. Identified with Christ. Filling of the Spirit means that my body belongs to Him. The fullness or filling is repeated as we trust God for new power to witness. Baptism is final and involves other believers as it makes us one in the body of Christ while the fullness or filling of the spirit is personal and individual. Don’t confuse the two distinct experiences. To be baptized with the Spirit is the same as the initial filling the disciples received at Pentecost however the recurring experience is always called filling, never baptism.

How should being spirit filled effect you. Rom. :5-8, I cor 12:12-26, II Cor 3:17-4:12. Gal 5:16-26

v.5 NOW, (explanation of situation)

Jews, devout men, from every nation.

Heard the sound, it attracted a crowd

**Bewildered**

Each one hearing them speak in his own language

**Amazed, marveled, Why????**

Aren’t these speaking ones from Galilee?? I.e. Aren’t these ignorant bumpkins from the hick country?

Who had funny accents and couldn’t pronounce the gutturals and now with incredible diction they had amazing linguistic powers.

HOW?? Can we hear them in our own language? (birth language?)

(list of 14 places around the then known world) Was the miracle in the speaking or in the hearing??? When Peter preached did all the nationalities hear their own languages?  
places and cultures

Parthians= modern Iran. Medes = part of Iran area. Elamites in southwestern Iran. Mesopotamia lived between the two great river Euphrates and Tigris= Iraq. Cappadocia, Pontus, Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia were all in Asia minor=Turkey. Egypt, Libya and Cyrene were west of Egypt on the north Africa coast. Crete was an island off of Greece

v. 11 "We hear them speaking the mighty deeds of God in our own tongue" Praise is evidence of the spirit. The antidote to pride is praise. The best way to share our faith is to tell others about what God is doing in our lives, but not just the successes. When we praise God in the midst of frustration and pain our witness is undeniable. (Ex. Of Senator recovering his intimacy with God through death of son Olgivie p38)

Luke focused on the international group in attendance. Five groupings from East to West roughly.

they were praising God not preaching. They were speaking known languages not an unknown tongue. Luke uses 15 different geographical locations and clearly stated people from these places heard Peter in languages they could understand. V.8 *dialektos* refers to a distinct language. We must assume that when instructed in scripture of "speaking in tongues" in mentioned elsewhere in Acts or I Corinthians that it refers to a very similar experience. Believers who are praising God in a known language.

Why? It's a reversal of the Tower of Babel when in judgment God confused the languages of man. God's judgment scattered people, but God's blessing at Pentecost united the believers in the Spirit. At Babel people couldn't understand each other. At Pentecost people heard and understood what was said. The Tower was built in an act of rebellion to bring praise to men, while Pentecost brought praise to God.

4 interpretations:

1. in Acts 2 they are human languages but in I Cor they are non-human heavenly languages
2. but Acts and I Cor refer to human languages not known to speaker
3. Both refer to non-human languages
4. I Cor alludes to languages both of men and of angels 13:1 while Acts only portrays the languages of men not known to the speaker.

This gift of tongues was given to let the world know that the gospel was for the whole world. God wants to speak the message of the gospel to every person in each language.

**Amazement, Great perplexity,**

“What does this mean???” A new work of the spirit had begun.

Puzzlement comes from the perspective of the crowd. This puzzlement creates a need in the narrative for Peter’s speech.

The rushing noise attracted attention, but hearing the praises in their own language brought bewilderment.\

v.13 “Others were mocking “They are full of sweet wine.”

When a man is filled with strong drink, he loses control over himself and end up acting shamefully. But when a man is filled up with the Spirit, he has God controlling his life and glorifies God. Alcohol can bring a temporary exhilaration but the spirit give a deep long lasting satisfaction.

We cannot assume that these men looked like those who have had too much to drink. The fruit of the spirit is self-control, not loss of it. It was more of a jest then a serious comment.

The miracle was not in the hearing but in the speaking. V.4 is clear “they began to speak in other tongues. ”This was not a case ecstatic babbling. Luke made it very clear it was literal languages and lists specifically 15 where they were from. We can assume that the same Glossolalia referred to in Acts 10:46 and Acts 19:6 was this same speaking of foreign languages. So what about I Cor 12,14?? Lets look at the biblical text rather than contemporary claims.

1. Some think the tongues of Cor was different “not speaking to men but to God” In acts they were understood by groups of people, while in Cor they needed an interpreter. Different in purpose: In Acts it was an initial sign given to all that the Sprit had been received. I Cor it is for edification for building up of the church.
2. Other say that the Greek words are the same throughout the NT and Glossa has only two meanings (the thing in you mouth, and a language. And hermeneuo usually means to translate a language. In both places the purpose may be different but the character is the same. Even the official statement from the assemblies of God states that the tongues in Acts 2 and the tongues in Cor are the same in essence but different in purpose and use.(Stottp67) It’s better to assimilate Cor into acts since the acts passage is the only

place where it is explained and described. It is reasonable to interpret the unexplained in light of the explained, not vice versa.

Don't let tongues cause you to miss the significance of Pentecost. Symbolized a new unity in the Spirit that transcends racial, national and linguistic barriers. A reverse of the curse of Babel.

A Jew from Phrygia may have heard one or two of the disciples speaking Galilean or Cyrenian and would have been unintelligible to them and may have seemed to be babbling in a drunk.

Acting intoxicated? Confusing with all the languages being spoken at same time? Some always make the mistake of attributing supernatural power to natural causes. Discount the miracle and I don't have to deal with it. These were the modern men who made light of the most important things in life. They mocked what they did not understand. Tried to rationalize it away and then walked on their own self-sufficient way. Others honestly sought out the answers listening to Peter's sermon and some 3000 went away believing and saved.

Do we acknowledge our emptiness? And need of Christ? As we acknowledge our inadequacy, he fills us with more of his spirit so we can carry on His work." Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness for they will be filled"

Ephesians 5:18-21 "Do not get drunk with wine, but be filled with the Spirit.

Communication. Speaking to one another in Psalms, hymns, spiritual songs. They were united because they had all discovered the depth of joy they had not known before. When I'm filled by the spirit I communicate far better with people who also are.

Joy. Music in their hearts to the Lord.

Thanksgiving. "Always giving thanks to God."

Submission to one another. Out of a reverence and love for Christ.