

November 4, 2015

Acts 2:1-13

Pastor Gary Hamrick

### Exegetical Study

1. **Acts 2:1-13** - *“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. 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, Phrygian 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!’ 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.’ ”*
2. Baptism of the Holy Spirit
  - a. The baptism of the Holy Spirit is when the Holy Spirit comes upon a person in power. This is a separate and distinct work from the indwelling of the Spirit at the moment of salvation.
    - i. **John 20:22** - *“And with that he breathed on them and said, ‘Receive the Holy Spirit.’ ”*
    - ii. **Acts 1:8** - *“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you...”*
  - b. Pastor Gary said, “There’s a difference between the indwelling of the Spirit,

[which] is when a person gets saved... you get God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit in your heart and in your life. ... Then there is the empowering of the Spirit, which is separate and distinct from salvation.”

- i. **Acts 2:4** - *“All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them.”*

### 3. Gifts of the Holy Spirit

- a. The Holy Spirit has always existed, being co-equal with God the Father and God the Son, Jesus.
- b. There are some things that are unique to the first baptism of the Holy Spirit.
- c. In **Acts 2** the Holy Spirit, for the first time, was given to all Believers.
- d. Before **Acts 2** the Holy Spirit was on assignment, so to speak, for specific individuals, like Joshua, Moses, and David.
- e. The person of the Holy Spirit and the gifts of the Holy Spirit have been and will most likely continue to be one of the most controversial and divisive topics among Christians.
- f. Pastor Gary said, “The premise that we are working from... is that the baptism of the Holy Spirit and the gifts of the Holy Spirit are still available today.”

### 4. Those who were gathered had their senses overwhelmed.

- a. **Acts 2:2** - *“Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting.”* (Emphasis added)
- b. **Acts 2:3** - *“They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them.”* (Emphasis added)
- c. **Acts 2:4** - *“All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them.”* (Emphasis added)
  - i. The first mention of one of the gifts of the Holy Spirit is found in **Acts 2:4**.

### 5. Speaking in Tongues

- a. Speaking in tongues is one of the gifts of the Spirit.
  - i. **Acts 2:4** - *“All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them.”*
  - ii. **1 Corinthians 12:7-11** - *“Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good. To one there is given through the Spirit the message of wisdom, to another the message of knowledge by means of the same Spirit, to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by that one Spirit, to another miraculous powers, to another prophecy, to another distinguishing between spirits, to another speaking in different kinds of tongues, and to still another the interpretation of tongues. All these are the work of one and the same*

*Spirit, and he gives them to each one, just as he determines.”*

- iii. There are only three times in the book of Acts where speaking in tongues is also included. (Also see [Acts 10:44-48](#) and [Acts 19:5-6](#))
- iv. There here are 20 gifts of the Holy Spirit mentioned in the Bible.
  1. [1 Corinthians 12:7-11](#) (See #5a-ii above)
    - a. The nine sign gifts, which are more miraculous types of gifts, are mentioned in this chapter.
  2. [Romans 12:6-8](#) - *“We have different gifts, according to the grace given us. If a man’s gift is prophesying, let him use it in proportion to his faith. If it is serving, let him serve; if it is teaching, let him teach; if it is encouraging, let him encourage; if it is contributing to the needs of others, let him give generously; if it is leadership, let him govern diligently; if it is showing mercy, let him do it cheerfully.”*
  3. [Ephesians 4:11](#) - *“It was he who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers...”*
- b. Speaking in tongues is a known language except to the person speaking.
  - i. [Acts 2:6](#) - *“When they heard this sound, a crowd came together in bewilderment, because each one heard them speaking in his own language.”*
  - ii. [1 Corinthians 14:13](#) - *“For this reason anyone who speaks in a tongue should pray that he may interpret what he says.”*
  - iii. Fifteen nations, languages, or dialects are mentioned in [Acts 2:8-11](#), and all fifteen heard what was being said in their own language or tongue.
  - iv. Pastor Gary said, “Why would God give a gift that you don’t understand? ... When you speak about language [in] general it is a wonderful thing. You have the ability to communicate. You have the ability to express yourself [and] to connect with someone through words. ... All of us have friends or we have been to foreign countries where [we] don’t know the other person’s language. [We] know how limiting that feels. ... Language can be a wonderful thing when both people have the same language and the same definition for the words [they] are using. ... [There are times when we speak the same language as another person, but we don’t connect with them because we have problems understanding the other person’s meaning.] ... How [can] we best express our feelings and our heart with the heart of God if language has limitations? ... [The Holy Spirit] distributes gifts as he wills so that people can pray and praise bypassing the ability to understand but nevertheless to express spirit to Spirit what is on your heart.”
- c. Speaking in tongues is for the purpose of praise and prayer to God.

- i. **Acts 2:11** - *"... we hear them declaring the wonders of God in our own tongues!"*
  - ii. **1 Corinthians 14:15-16** - *"So what shall I do? I will pray with my spirit, but I will also pray with my mind; I will sing with my spirit, but I will also sing with my mind. If you are praising God with your spirit, how can one who finds himself among those who do not understand say 'Amen' to your thanksgiving, since he does not know what you are saying?"*
  - iii. Pastor Gary said, "Some people [think speaking in tongues makes them] have no control over [what they are doing] and all of a sudden [they] just start blurting out some foreign language. That's not what the gift of tongues is. You have complete control over your mouth like anything else. It is just that you are speaking a language that is unfamiliar to you."
- d. Speaking in tongues is not meant for use in evangelism.
- i. It isn't as though a person would go to a foreign country and instantaneously be given the ability to speak the language for the purpose of sharing the gospel.
    - 1. This doesn't mean that God couldn't miraculously give someone the ability to speak the language of a given country for the purpose of communicating the gospel.
    - 2. When Peter preached in **Acts 2**, he would have used the common languages of either Greek or Aramaic.
  - ii. Speaking in tongues is a prayer and praise language to communicate with God; it's not intended for the purpose of speaking with other people.
  - iii. Pastor Gary said, "Do you know why the gift of the interpretation of tongues is given? Not so that we can get a 'word'... [this is] so we can... join in on... the thanksgiving to God, [and] be built up and edified in our spirit when we rejoice in what [is being] said to God."
- e. Speaking in tongues is not meant to be exercised in a public church setting, but rather for personal or small group settings.
- i. **1 Corinthians 14:18-19** - *"I thank God that I speak in tongues more than all of you. But in the church I would rather speak five intelligible words to instruct others than ten thousand words in a tongue."*
  - ii. **1 Corinthians 14:23** - *"So if the whole church comes together and everyone speaks in tongues, and some who do not understand or some unbelievers come in, will they not say that you are out of your mind?"*
  - iii. **1 Corinthians 14:39-40** - *"Therefore, my brothers, be eager to prophesy, and do not forbid speaking in tongues. But everything should be done in a fitting and orderly way."*
    - 1. Pastor Gary said, "Where is the best place? One, in your private prayer closet. Pray in tongues if God has given you that gift. Sing

in tongues if God has given you that gift. [Two], in a small group setting. ... Let's say you are in a K-Group or some fellowship of a few Believers who have gotten together and everyone is a Believer, and everyone understands the proper use of the gifts, then there could be some liberty. ... [Paul said that only] two or at most three people and always with interpretation. And, then he said that if no one is there with the gift of interpretation, be quiet and sit down!"

- f. Speaking in tongues is not *the* evidence, but *an* evidence for the baptism of the Holy Spirit. (Emphasis added)
  - i. The evidence of the baptism of the Holy Spirit is love.
  - ii. Some try to shame other Believers when they state that not speaking in tongues is an evidence that they aren't saved, or unless you speak in tongues you aren't filled with the Holy Spirit.
  - iii. [1 Corinthians 12:29-30](#) - *"Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work miracles? Do all have gifts of healing? Do all speak in tongues? Do all interpret? But eagerly desire the greater gifts."*
  - iv. [1 Corinthians 13:1](#) - *"If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal."*
  - v. Pastor Gary said, "[Love] is the evidence that someone is filled with the Holy Spirit. You show me a Christian who is mean as a rattle snake; that's somebody who doesn't have the Holy Spirit. You show me someone who is obviously demonstrating the love of the Lord Jesus; that's the evidence of being filled with the Spirit."
  - vi. There is no "formula" for receiving the gift of speaking in tongues.
    - 1. In [Acts 8:14-17](#), we read about Peter and John laying hands on Believers to receive the gift of the Holy Spirit, and there is no mention of tongues.
      - a. [Acts 8:14-17](#) - *"When the apostles in Jerusalem heard that Samaria had accepted the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them. When they arrived, they prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit, because the Holy Spirit had not yet come upon any of them; they had simply been baptized into the name of the Lord Jesus. Then Peter and John placed their hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit."*
    - 2. In [Acts 10:44-46](#), we read about Peter and his meeting with Cornelius, and in that case those who believed received the Holy Spirit, and they were given the gift of speaking in tongues.
      - a. [Acts 10:44-46](#) - *"While Peter was still speaking these words, the Holy Spirit came on all who heard the message. The circumcised believers who had come with Peter were*

*astonished that the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out even on the Gentiles. For they heard them speaking in tongues and praising God.”*

3. In [Acts 19:6](#), we read about Paul laying hands on Believers who then receive the gift of speaking in tongues.
  - a. [Acts 19:5-6](#) - *“On hearing this, they were baptized into the name of the Lord Jesus. When Paul placed his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came on them, and they spoke in tongues and prophesied.”*

6. How do you receive the baptism of the Holy Spirit?

- a. Ask God and believe by faith.
- b. [Luke 11:10-13](#) - *“For everyone who asks receives; he who seeks finds; and to him who knocks, the door will be opened. Which of you fathers, if your son asks for a fish, will give him a snake instead? Or if he asks for an egg, will give him a scorpion? If you then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!”*
- c. [Ephesians 5:18](#) - *“Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery. Instead, be filled with the Spirit.”*
- d. Pastor Gary said, “This is not a one-time shot. We need a regular outpouring of God’s Spirit. ... This is an ongoing thing that God loves to do for his children because he knows [we need a fresh refilling of his Holy Spirit]. ... If you are in a place in your life where you need more victory over temptation and sin, [you need more power within than your own will, and you need something supernatural], then you need the baptism of the Holy Spirit.”

\* Unless noted, all Scriptures quoted are from the New International Version (NIV)