November 18, 2015
Acts 2:14–41
Pastor Gary Hamrick

Exegetical Study

1. Acts 2:14–21 – *"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. These men are not drunk, as you suppose. It's only nine in the morning! No, this is what was spoken by the prophet Joel: '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. Even on my servants, both men and women, I will pour out my Spirit in those days, and they will prophesy. I will show wonders in the heaven above and signs on the earth below, blood and fire and billows of smoke. The sun will be turned to darkness and the moon to blood before the coming of the great and glorious day of the Lord. And everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.' "*
    a. In Acts 2:17–21, Peter quoted Joel 2:28–32.
    b. Prophesies, visions, and dreams must be tested by the Word of God.
        i. Prophesy is not always foretelling, meaning a prophesy about future events.
        ii. Prophesy is more often seen in the Bible as forthtelling, which would be declaring the Word of God.
        iii. 1 John 4:1 – *"Dear friends, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world."*
        iv. 1 Thessalonians 5:19–21 – *"Do not put out the Spirit's fire; do not treat prophecies with contempt. Test everything. Hold on to the good."*
        v. How do you test prophesies?
            1. If the prophesy contradicts God's Word, it must be rejected.
            2. If the prophesy doesn't contradict God's Word, pray about it and be cautious because it may or may not be from the Lord.

3. Pastor Gary said, "Sometimes one of the best ways to determine and test what is of the Lord is after you have passed it through the grid of God's Word, then just wait without saying anything and see if someone else will come along and just say a little thing that confirms that to you. [That way] you can test through the safety and multitude of counselors and on the testimony of two or three."

c. The events of Acts 2:19–20, which are a direct quote from the book of Joel, speak about The Great Tribulation.
   i. Pastor Gary said, "This is more evidence to why the gifts will continue, and they didn't fade away at the completion of the canon of Scripture because all of these signs and wonders, prophesies, visions and dreams, if you look at the context of all of this, all of this continues right up until the Tribulation time and the coming of the Lord. When the Lord comes, the gifts will cease. Until the Lord comes, the gifts are still in operation."
   ii. Speaking about the blood moon, Pastor Gary said, "[This] has to do with the Tribulation period. If you hold to the position as I do that the Bible teaches a pre-tribulation rapture of the Church, we won't be here for the blood moon!"
   iii. Revelation 6:12 – *"I watched as he opened the sixth seal. There was a great earthquake. The sun turned black like sackcloth made of goat hair, the whole moon turned blood red..."*
      1. The first seal is when the Antichrist comes onto the world scene.
      2. The second seal brings an increase of wars on the earth.
      3. The third seal brings famine and economic collapse.
      4. The fourth seal brings the death of some unbelievers.
      5. The fifth seal brings the death of some Believers who are martyred for their faith.
   iv. Matthew 24:29 – *"Immediately after the distress of those days 'the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light; the stars will fall from the sky, and the heavenly bodies will be shaken.' "*
      1. Matthew was quoting Isaiah 13:10; 34:4.
   v. Luke 21:25 – *"There will be signs in the sun, moon and stars."*
   vi. Acts 2:20– Jesus will return after the Tribulation.
   vii. Acts 2:21 – There will be a time of great salvation, particularly of the Jews.
      1. Zechariah 12:10 – *"And I will pour out on the house of David and the inhabitants of Jerusalem a spirit of grace and supplication. They will look on me, the one they have pierced, and they will mourn for him as one mourns for an only child, and grieve bitterly for him as one grieves for a firstborn son."*

2. Zechariah 13:9b – *"They will call on my name and I will answer them; I will say, 'They are my people,' and they will say, 'The LORD is our God.' "*

2. Acts 2:22–24 – *"Men of Israel, listen to this: Jesus of Nazareth was a man accredited by God to you by miracles, wonders and signs, which God did among you through him, as you yourselves know. This man was handed over to you by God's set purpose and foreknowledge; and you, with the help of wicked men, put him to death by nailing him to the cross. But God raised him from the dead, freeing him from the agony of death, because it was impossible for death to keep its hold on him."*
    a. Pastor Gary said, "Jesus Christ… was not crucified by chance. This was all the purpose and the timetable of God for the redemption and salvation of [all] who would believe in Jesus Christ."
    b. Isaiah 53:10 – *"Yet it was the LORD's will to crush him and cause him to suffer, and though the LORD makes his life a guilt offering, he will see his offspring and prolong his days, and the will of the LORD will prosper in his hand."*
    c. Peter boldly preached the message of the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ, which is the gospel.
    d. Peter emphatically stated that the people within his hearing were responsible for crucifying Jesus, but the truth is that it wasn't just the Jews or the Romans, but every single one of us, and it's because of our sin that we are also responsible for the crucifixion of Jesus Christ.

3. Acts 2:25–28 – *"David said about him: 'I saw the Lord always before me. Because he is at my right hand, I will not be shaken. Therefore my heart is glad and my tongue rejoices; my body also will live in hope, because you will not abandon me to the grave, nor will you let your Holy One see decay. You have made known to me the paths of life; you will fill me with joy in your presence.' "*
    a. In Acts 2:25–28, Peter quoted Psalm 16:8–11.

4. Acts 2:29–35 – *"Brothers, I can tell you confidently that the patriarch David died and was buried, and his tomb is here to this day. But he was a prophet and knew that God had promised him on oath that he would place one of his descendants on his throne. Seeing what was ahead, he spoke of the resurrection of the Christ, that he was not abandoned to the grave, nor did his body see decay. God has raised this Jesus to life, and we are all witnesses of the fact. Exalted to the right hand of God, he has received from the Father the promised Holy Spirit and has poured out what you now see and hear. For David did not ascend to heaven, and yet he said, 'The Lord said to my Lord [meaning Messiah, Jesus]: "Sit at my right hand until I make your enemies a footstool for your feet." ' "*
    a. In Acts 2:34–35, Peter quoted Psalm 110:1.

b. Pastor Gary said, "Peter [was saying] that David couldn't have been talking about himself in the sense that he was going to live forever, because [David's body was in a known grave]. David was pointing to life after death, and he [expressed] it through the person of [Jesus]. … David was writing prophetically about the Messiah who would come and live and die and be raised from the dead. [Since] Messiah would live and be raised from the dead, David could then say, in a sense, 'I've been raised; I won't see decay because I'm going to live forever through faith in what Christ would do on the cross… God raised [Jesus] from the dead and it's [a] fact. … [The resurrection was a fact in the minds of people in the first century], and by faith we accept and believe that Jesus Christ rose from the dead. It was fact and it is fact, and that's how Peter [presented] it. And nobody disagreed. There was no interjection of descent, [in which] people said, 'You know what, that's your opinion, and it's not really fact…' "

5. Acts 2:36–41 – *" 'Therefore let all Israel be assured of this: God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ [Messiah].' When the people heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and the other apostles, 'Brothers, what shall we do?' Peter replied, 'Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off – for all whom the Lord our God will call.' With many other words he warned them; and he pleaded with them, 'Save yourselves from this corrupt generation.' Those who accepted his message were baptized, and about three thousand were added to their number that day."*
    a. The Holy Spirit, working through Peter's message about Jesus' death, burial, and resurrection, convicted the people of their sin.
    b. We are counted among those *"who are far off."*
    c. Peter, in what many call the first word of the gospel, told the people that they needed to repent.
        i. The Greek word for repent is metanoeo which means to change your way of thinking. [1]
        ii. Repentance is having a change of mind about the path you are on and **turning from** that path and **turning to** God. (Emphasis added)
        iii. Matthew 3:1–2 – *"In those days John the Baptist came, preaching in the Desert of Judea and saying, 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is near.' "*
        iv. Matthew 4:17 – *"From that time on Jesus began to preach, 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is near.' "*
        v. Pastor Gary said, "We all, by nature, are in rebellion to God. We are

[1] https://www.blueletterbible.org/lang/lexicon/lexicon.cfm?Strongs=G3340&t=NIV

born into sin. We live our [lives that way]. We are naturally bent towards rebellion against God. Repentance means we acknowledge we are on the wrong path, [which is] opposed to him, and we turn, and we run towards him. … Repentance means [that] you take your miserable, messed up life as it is, and you run towards God. … You don't have to try to get [your] act together, and one day you are going to get serious and turn towards God. That day will never happen because you and I can't get our act together. That's why we need the one who gets our life together for us! We put our faith and trust in Jesus, we turn from our wicked way, we surrender to him, we yield our lives to his lordship, and he becomes Lord and [Savior]."

d. Peter encouraged those who believed to be baptized.
    i. Pastor Gary said, "Water baptism is a demonstration of an internal decision. How does someone know you've repented? … Baptism is a demonstration that [a person] has repented and turned from their way and turned toward God, confessed their sin and gotten right with God."

* Unless noted, all Scriptures quoted are from the 1984 New International Version (NIV)