

# Readings

## Scripture

<sup>1</sup>When the day of Pentecost arrived, they were all together in one place. <sup>2</sup>And suddenly there came from heaven a sound like a mighty rushing wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. <sup>3</sup>And divided tongues as of fire appeared to them and rested on each one of them. <sup>4</sup>And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance.

<sup>5</sup>Now there were dwelling in Jerusalem Jews, devout men from every nation under heaven. <sup>6</sup>And at this sound the multitude came together, and they were bewildered, because each one was hearing them speak in his own language. <sup>7</sup>And they were amazed and astonished, saying, "Are not all these who are speaking Galileans?" <sup>8</sup>And how is it that we hear, each of us in his own native language? <sup>9</sup>Parthians and Medes and Elamites and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, <sup>10</sup>Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, <sup>11</sup>both Jews and proselytes, Cretans and Arabians—we hear them telling in our own tongues the mighty works of God." <sup>12</sup>And all were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, "What does this mean?" <sup>13</sup>But others mocking said, "They are filled with new wine."

- Acts 2:1-13 (English Standard Version)

## Reflection

The coming of the Spirit is, therefore, the evidence of the enthronement of Christ, just as the resurrection is the evidence of the efficacy of the death of Christ as atonement (Romans 4:24). This is not to say that Pentecost has no existential dimension or contemporary relevance. But it does mean that we should no more anticipate a 'personal Pentecost' than that we will experience a personal Jordan, wilderness, Gethsemane or Golgotha. While such language has often been popularly employed, it is theologically misleading. Pentecost itself is no more repeatable than is the crucifixion, or the empty tomb, or the ascension...Believers share in the implications of all redemptive-historical events such as Christ's death, burial, resurrection and reign (Romans 6-8; Galatians 2:20; Colossians 2:9-3:4). Thus while Pentecost is also once for all time in character, implications of the baptism with the Spirit which took place on that occasion overflow the banks of that Day and flow on, down through the centuries. Just as the blood of Christ cleanses men and women (and children) from every tribe, tongue, people and nation (Revelation 5:9), so the Spirit flows from the riven side of Christ on Pentecost into Jerusalem, and from there spreads throughout Judea, gathering momentum on to Samaria and indeed to the uttermost parts of the earth (Acts 1:8). All who come to believe in Jesus Christ as Lord receive the same gift as the disciples did. Consequently, believers enter into the implications of Pentecost, just as they enter into the implications of Christ's death, resurrection and ascension: 'We were all baptized by one Spirit into one body' (1 Corinthians 12:13).

- Sinclair B. Ferguson, *The Holy Spirit* (p. 87-88)

# Sermon Outline

## The Coming of the Holy Spirit

Acts 2:1-13

*The Acts of the Apostles*

Brad Anderson

*We begin to ask questions when our experiences outstrip our ability to explain them...*

### What happened on the Day of Pentecost when the Holy Spirit came?

(Acts 2:1-13)

### An old celebration was filled with new meaning... (Acts 2:1-4)

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### The final act of Jesus' saving work began... (Acts 2:1-4)

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### The equipping promise of Jesus was fulfilled for all disciples, everywhere...

(Acts 1:8, Acts 2:4)

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### A great gospel revival broke out among a large multi-national gathering...

(Acts 2:5-13)

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## Reflection Questions (taken in part from the Serendipity Study Bible for Groups)

- In school, how hard were foreign languages for you?
- Given that Pentecost was a celebrative harvest festival (Deuteronomy 16:9-10), why does God choose this day to give the Holy Spirit? If you had been in that room, what would you have seen, heard, and felt?
- How far have these pilgrims come (Acts 2:9-11)? What attracts them to the disciples? What connects being filled with the Spirit and bearing witness to Jesus?
- If you were one of the crowd, would you respond more like those in verse 12, or those in verse 13? Why?
- When have you experienced an empowering from God to witness about Christ? What can you do this week to be better prepared for God's use?