

The Birth of the Church Acts 2:1-13

The Spirit is poured out as promised—the event, 2:1-4.

- Pentecost = Greek name for the Feast of Weeks, which all Jewish men are told to attend in Jerusalem, Ex. 34:22,23. It was linked to receiving the Law, Ex. 19:1.
- Special effects (wind, fire, tongues) accompany the Spirit's arrival, but while the 120 witness both the wind and fire, the onlookers only hear various languages.
- Spirit baptism here (recall 1:5, Lk. 3:16) = the initial pouring out of the Spirit; Later, less theatrical movements of the Spirit occur only to initial representatives amongst the Samaritans (ch.8), Gentiles (ch.10), and John's disciples (ch.19).

The onlookers are perplexed—the reaction, 2:5-13.

- Luke gives far more attention to the geographical distribution of the onlookers and their responses of bewildered confusion than to the outpouring of the Spirit.
- Unfortunately in some Christian circles today there is still plenty of confusion about the Pentecost event! Consider some confused responses today:
 - What basics should we realize even before hearing Peter's later explanation?
 - This "outpouring" really is a good image for the Spirit's immediate impact.
 - The Holy Spirit is referred to 261x in the NT, and 174x occur in Acts 1-12!
 - Wind and fire are a natural way to indicate God's presence, Jn. 3:8, Ex. 3:2-4, 13:21, Deut. 4:15,24, Heb.12:29.
 - The effect of the 120 stunningly praising God in various languages creates a scenario that motivates onlookers to listen to Peter and respond.
 - Hereafter, Spirit baptism only occurs in I Cor. 12:13 (at salvation).

