

Gleanings of Grace

Acts 2

Lesson 5

Acts Chapter 2 begins with the pouring out of the Holy Spirit and commencement of the church. It closes with a description of the thriving church as it continued steadfastly in its calling. May its ingredients be prevalent, not only in the church as a whole, but in each of our individual lives.

OBSERVATION: Read Acts 2

1. Read through this week's verses using both your Observation Worksheet (the last page of this homework) and another Bible translation or paraphrase. After reading through these verses, what would you say to someone if they asked you what they are about?
2. Key words help us to better understand the verses. We have listed below key words. Mark each one in a distinctive way (either with a symbol, highlighting, or some form of boxing, circling, or underlining). Mark each of the key words each time they are used in the text. Remember to mark any personal pronouns that refer to *Jesus, God, Holy Spirit, and Peter*.

Key Words: *Jesus, God, Holy Spirit, and Peter*
3. The term of conclusion *therefore* is used four times in this chapter. Mark the word. Choose one instance of its use and record what it is based upon.
4. The contrasting word *but* is used 3 times in Acts 2. Mark the word. Choose one instance of its use and record what is being contrasted.

Background:

1. After the resurrection and before Jesus ascended to heaven, Jesus gave His disciples His final instructions. What were they?

Matthew 28:19,20

Mark 16:15

- a. Before they were to preach the gospel; before they were to make disciples, what did He command them to do? Luke 24:49
2. Jesus told His disciples to *wait for the Promise of the Father*. Using Acts 1:4,5, define *the Promise of the Father*.
 3. The disciples' eyes were set on the *time* Jesus would *restore the kingdom to Israel* (Acts 1:6). What was Jesus' response? Acts 1:7,8
 4. According to Ephesians 4:8, what did Jesus do when He arrived in heaven?
 - a. When Jesus told His disciples that He would be leaving them, as He sat with them in the upper room the night He was betrayed, their hearts were *troubled*. In John 16:7 He told them, *It is to your advantage that I go away*. What was the advantage?
 - 1.) What advantages have you discovered because the Holy Spirit *has come*?

Read Acts 2:1-4 - The Arrival of the Holy Spirit

1. The *Day of Pentecost* occurred 50 days after the Feast of First Fruits which was part of the week long Passover celebration. Many people would have been staying in Jerusalem at that time. What do we know from Acts 2:1 about those who had gathered *in one place*?
 - a. According to Acts 1:14, what are some components of this unity?
 - 1.) What have you noticed about prayer as it relates to those praying being in *one accord*?

Challenge: Share some other verses about the importance of *unity*.

2. Using Acts 2:2-3, list what happened in the upper room that day.

3. What did the followers of Jesus **each** personally experience? Verse 4

a. The Greek word translated as *filled* has been used to describe being “filled with fear, madness, wrath, indignation, envy, confusion, wonder, and amazement.” Using these phrases as parameters, what does it mean to be *filled* with something?

b. The book of Acts used this word to describe the *filling of the Holy Spirit* four times. Record the result of this *filling*:

Acts 2:4

Acts 4:8

Acts 4:31

Acts 9:17,18

1.) Using these verses as parameters, what is the result of the *filling of the Holy Spirit*?

4. The result of the *filling of the Holy Spirit* in Acts 2:4 was that they **all** began to speak in tongues. What do the following verses teach about *tongues*?

Acts 10:46

Acts 19:6

1 Corinthians 14:2

1 Corinthians 14:14

a. What value did Paul place upon this gift? 1 Corinthians 14:18

b. Why do you think the use and the understanding of this gift is lacking in the church today?

Read Acts 2:5-13 – The Crowd’s Response

1. Jerusalem was filled with people *from every nation under heaven*. The sounds coming from the upper room drew the *multitude together in confusion*. What did they *hear*? Acts 2:11
 - a. Why were they *amazed*? Verses 6-11
 - b. Acts 2:12,13 reveals two different reactions to their *amazement*. What were they?
 - 1.) Why it is good to ask questions when we don’t understand?
 - 2.) Rather than ask questions, *others* came to their own conclusion. What did they *mockingly* conclude?
 - a.) How do you think you would have responded that day?
 - i.) How do you tend to respond when you see apparent works of the Holy Spirit that you do not understand?
 - b.) What can we learn from these two examples?

Read Acts 2:14-39 – Peter’s Response

1. Peter first challenged their misunderstanding, explaining why they were not *drunk*. Peter then explained that what was happening was the beginning of the fulfillment of Joel’s prophecy in Joel 2:28-32. To what time period did Peter say this prophecy applied?
 - a. What does Hebrews 1:2 indicate about the *last days*?
 - b. According to Joel’s prophecy in Joel 2:30,31, when will the *last days* conclude?
2. What did Joel say would happen regarding the *pouring out of the Holy Spirit in the last days*? Acts 2:17,18

- a. In what ways does this prophecy apply to what happened in the upper room on the Day of Pentecost?
 - 1.) Consider the story of Cornelius, a Gentile, and his family in Acts 10. What happened as Peter was sharing the gospel with them? Acts 10:44-46
 - a.) What did Peter realize? Acts 10:47
 - i.) In what way is this an example of Joel's prophecy?
3. The next two verses of Joel's prophecy relate to the end of the *last days*. What does Acts 2:19,20 reveal will happen?
 - a. Revelation 6:12 and 8:12 seem to be the fulfillment of these verses. What do they say will happen?
4. Although much of Acts 2 is about the pouring out of the Holy Spirit, Peter steered his message to that which is absolutely crucial. What promise did Peter quote (v. 21)?
 - a. Using Acts 2:22-35, list some of the things Peter declared about Jesus.
 - 1.) What was the response of the people? Verse 37
 - 2.) What was your initial response when you were first confronted with your sin?
 - b. The purpose of the gospel is not to leave people in their guilt. The gospel is God's solution for guilt. What comforting solution did Peter offer them? Verses 38,39

Read Acts 2:40 -47 – The First Church

1. *Those who gladly received his word were baptized; and that day about three thousand souls were added to them* (Acts 2:41). Using synonyms, define the word *gladly*.
 - a. What is so great about the gospel that those who *receive* it can respond with *gladness*?
2. What are the activities of the early church mentioned in Acts 2:42?

- a. The *apostles doctrine* refers to the teaching of the apostles, those who walked with Jesus. What advice did Paul offer in Philippians 4:9?

1.) In what ways have you discovered that the *peace of God* follows obedience?

- b. How would you describe good *fellowship*?

- c. *Breaking of bread* refers to the common meals they had together and communion. What does 1 Corinthians 11:26 say we are *proclaiming* when we partake of communion?

- d. *They continued steadfastly...in prayers.* Define the words *continued* and *steadfastly* as it relates to *prayer*.

1.) Why do you think each of these activities are important for the vitality of the church?

3. What were some other components of the early church? Acts 2:43-48

4. What do you look for as evidence of a church that functions in a way that pleases God?

REVIEW: Read Acts 2

1. What areas of unbelief must you deal with in order to become more open to the movement of God in your life?
2. In what ways have you been challenged to cultivate sensitivity to the Holy Spirit?
3. When you consider the early church, what are you challenged to better *continue* and be *steadfast* in?

*For I will pour water on him who is thirsty,
And floods on the dry ground;
I will pour My Spirit on your descendants,
And My blessing on your offspring;
- Isaiah 44:3*

Observation Worksheet

Acts 2

When the Day of Pentecost had fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. ² And suddenly there came a sound from heaven, as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. ³ Then there appeared to them divided tongues, as of fire, and one sat upon each of them. ⁴ And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance. ⁵ And there were dwelling in Jerusalem Jews, devout men, from every nation under heaven. ⁶ And when this sound occurred, the multitude came together, and were confused, because everyone heard them speak in his own language. ⁷ Then they were all amazed and marveled, saying to one another, "Look, are not all these who speak Galileans?" ⁸ And how is it that we hear, each in our own language in which we were born? ⁹ Parthians and Medes and Elamites, those dwelling in Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, ¹⁰ Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya adjoining Cyrene, visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, ¹¹ Cretans and Arabs--we hear them speaking in our own tongues the wonderful works of God." ¹² So they were all amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, "Whatever could this mean?" ¹³ Others mocking said, "They are full of new wine." ¹⁴ But Peter, standing up with the eleven, raised his voice and said to them, "Men of Judea and all who dwell in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and heed my words. ¹⁵ For these are not drunk, as you suppose, since it is only the third hour of the day. ¹⁶ But this is what was spoken by the prophet Joel: ¹⁷ 'And it shall come to pass in the last days, says God, that I will pour out of My Spirit on all flesh; your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your young men shall see visions, your old men shall dream dreams. ¹⁸ And on My menservants and on My maidservants I will pour out My Spirit in those days; and they shall prophesy. ¹⁹ I will show wonders in heaven above and signs in the earth beneath: blood and fire and vapor of smoke. ²⁰ The sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood, before the coming of the great and awesome day of the LORD. ²¹ And it shall come to pass that whoever calls on the name of the LORD shall be saved.' ²² "Men of Israel, hear these words: Jesus of Nazareth, a Man attested by God to you by miracles, wonders, and signs which God did through Him in your midst, as you yourselves also know-- ²³ Him, being delivered by the determined purpose and foreknowledge of God, you have taken by lawless hands, have crucified, and put to death; ²⁴ whom God raised up, having loosed the pains of death, because it was not possible that He should be held by it. ²⁵ For David says concerning Him: 'I foresaw the LORD

always before my face, for He is at my right hand, that I may not be shaken. ²⁶ Therefore my heart rejoiced, and my tongue was glad; moreover my flesh also will rest in hope. ²⁷ For You will not leave my soul in Hades, nor will You allow Your Holy One to see corruption. ²⁸ You have made known to me the ways of life; You will make me full of joy in Your presence.'

²⁹ "Men and brethren, let me speak freely to you of the patriarch David, that he is both dead and buried, and his tomb is with us to this day. ³⁰ Therefore, being a prophet, and knowing that God had sworn with an oath to him that of the fruit of his body, according to the flesh, He would raise up the Christ to sit on his throne, ³¹ he, foreseeing this, spoke concerning the resurrection of the Christ, that His soul was not left in Hades, nor did His flesh see corruption. ³² This Jesus God has raised up, of which we are all witnesses. ³³ Therefore being exalted to the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, He poured out this which you now see and hear. ³⁴ For David did not ascend into the heavens, but he says himself: 'The LORD said to my Lord, "Sit at My right hand, ³⁵ till I make Your enemies Your footstool." ' ³⁶ "Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly that God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ." ³⁷ Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, "Men and brethren, what shall we do?" ³⁸ Then Peter said to them, "Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. ³⁹ For the promise is to you and to your children, and to all who are afar off, as many as the Lord our God will call." ⁴⁰ And with many other words he testified and exhorted them, saying, "Be saved from this perverse generation." ⁴¹ Then those who gladly received his word were baptized; and that day about three thousand souls were added to them. ⁴² And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers. ⁴³ Then fear came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were done through the apostles. ⁴⁴ Now all who believed were together, and had all things in common, ⁴⁵ and sold their possessions and goods, and divided them among all, as anyone had need. ⁴⁶ So continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they ate their food with gladness and simplicity of heart, ⁴⁷ praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved.