

**Ministry of The Holy Spirit**  
**Pentecost – The Holy Spirit Upon**  
**Acts 2:1-13**

Last time...120 disciples were gathered in one accord in an upper room awaiting the promise of the Father, the baptism of Jesus

They socially distanced themselves from the rest of society  
They quarantined themselves, staying apart from others  
They were...inside, waiting for the command (Ch 1:2) to Go outside

And they were busy about the business that they thought was theirs...but wasn't  
Jesus thru the Holy Spirit will choose the 12<sup>th</sup> Apostle,  
men thru the casting of lots will not

This time...the 120 are still

- socially distanced from others
- quarantined
- inside, awaiting the command to Go outside

But that all changes on this day, the Feast of Pentecost and the baptism of the Holy Spirit

Keyword: upon

We will be in Acts 2

v1 the day of Pentecost:

This day is the Feast of Pentecost  
Pentecost = "fiftieth"

Deut 16:1, 9-11

50 days after Passover  
49 days after 1<sup>st</sup> day of Unleavened Bread  
47 days after the Resurrection of Jesus Christ (50 – 3)  
7 days after the Ascension of Jesus Christ...(50 – 3 – 40)

aka Feast of Weeks

aka Feast of First Fruits...thanksgiving for the harvest of the winter grain crops

Where are the 120?

Socially distanced

Quarantined

Inside, waiting for the command to Go

### Instances of that in Scripture

1. The 1<sup>st</sup> Passover (Ex 12)...inside their homes awaiting deliverance from Egypt
2. Is 26:20-21...inside their chambers awaiting the judgment of the world
3. Now...between those two instances in time...is a 3<sup>rd</sup> instance, at Pentecost

With Deut 16 (the 3 “compulsory” feasts, appointments of Jesus Christ) in mind, will Is 26:20-21 happen on Feast of Tabernacles?

They, the 120, were in

- one accord...unanimous mind (Phil 2:2)
- one place...upper room

v2-3 suddenly...wind...cloven tongues like as of fire...upon:

Suddenly

- “unexpectedly”
- “unawares”
- without warning
- not gradually

a sound from heaven...a “roar” from heaven (1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup>)

as of a mighty rushing wind...a mighty “breath”

filled all the house...there was no place the roar of the breath was not

where they were sitting...the 120 were not pacing around impatiently or doing anything weird

appeared unto them...visually

cloven tongues...”divided” “tongues”/”languages”

Considering both meanings of “tongues”

#### 1. “Tongue”

The organ for speaking

When we speak, our mind, tongue and lungs are involved  
and words are the result

The mind originates the thought

Our words express the thought

The lungs/breath and tongue are the means whereby our  
words are spoken and heard

Mind: God the Father (Deut 18:18-19, John 5:19)

Word: God the Son (John 1:1, 14)

Breath: God the Holy Spirit (Gen 1:1-3a)

## 2. "Language"

When man organized and rebelled against his Creator,  
God divided their language

Gen 11:1-9

Now, God, in the fulness of time, is moving to reconcile  
man in His Son Jesus Christ by preaching the  
Gospel to them with "divided languages"

like as of fire...refining fire, not consuming fire/judgment

it sat upon...settled *epi*

different than, in addition to with/*para* and in/*en*

The ministry of the Holy Spirit is captured in 3 prepositions

each of them...The Breath/Tongue of God settled upon every person in the  
upper room, all 120 of them...

the 11 Apostles

the women

Mary and her children

v4 filled...speak...as the Spirit gave:

What happened when the Holy Spirit settled upon the 120?

- They were filled with the Holy Ghost (upon, filled)
  - Acts 1:8 power to be His witness
  - Luke 24:49 promise of the Father, power from on high
  - Luke 3:16 baptized
- They began to speak with other tongues
  - speak
    - to utter words
    - is what witnesses do
  - other tongues
    - languages different than their own
    - languages they do not know
- as the Spirit (Breath of God) gave them utterance
  - "clear enunciation"...not babel
  - not something the 120 "manufactured" in their own mind/flesh
  - a gift of the Holy Spirit

Now...it is Go time

After waiting (Luke 24:49) is Go (Matt 28:19-20), which is going to start  
right now here in Jerusalem because...

v5 Jews, devout men:

Religiously observant and pious Jews from all around are gathered in  
Jerusalem on Pentecost

Passover, Pentecost, and Tabernacles, per Deut 16, are the “compulsory”  
Feasts of the Lord

Per Rabbinical interpretation,

All within 20 miles must go to Jerusalem

Those further were to make at least one of them

v6-7 confounded...amazed and marveled:

The 120 are in “Go” mode, nor more waiting/quarantine/social distance

They leave the upper room and go into the streets of Jerusalem as the Divinely  
empowered witnesses of Jesus Christ

When the multi-national Jews hear their witness, those Jews are

- confounded...confused, Gen 11:7-ish
- amazed...astonished
- marveled...wonder

The multitude heard the witnesses and understood their words/languages...  
their God, the God of AI&J, the God of the whole earth  
made sure of it!

They understood the languages being spoken, 120 doing the speaking did not

v8-11 how hear we...the wonderful works of God:

Who heard the witness of the 120 disciples and understood their words?

- Parthians...”greater” Iran area, the empire before the Medes
- Medes...Kurds, the empire before Persia
- Elamites...Persians
- of Mesopotamia...Tigris and Euphrates Rivers
- Judea
- Cappadocia...Turkey
- Pontus...Black Sea
- Asia...Turkey
- Phygia...Turkey
- Pamphylia...Turkey
- Egypt...copt, not yet Arabic speaking
- Libya...from the Med coast

- residents of Rome...city and/or empire
  - Jews
  - proselytes
    - initiates to the fraternity
    - new members of the club
    - converts from their religion (heathen) to the Jewish religion
    - learning the Law and instruction on how to keep it
- Cretes
- Arabians

What did they all hear from the 120?

- words spoken in their own language/dialect, their 1<sup>st</sup> language
- of the wonderful works of God (the Lord of all the earth)
  - “magnificent favor”
  - John 3:16
  - Rom 5:8
  - 1 Cor 15:26, 51-57
  - 2 Cor 5:17-21
  - Rom 10:4
  - Eph 2:8-9

What was their question?

How?

How did all of us hear these words in our native languages from this bunch of (unlearned, not educated) Galileans?

They understood the words but they did not understand “How” the words were spoken (A: Breath of God)

v12-13 in doubt...mocking:

There were 2 reactions (carnal vs spiritual) to the Spirit-filled witness of the 120

1. amazed and in doubt
  - not knowing, not understanding “What” this means
  - therefore not believing, since must understand to believe
2. mocking and slander
  - jeering at, rudely scoffing
  - accusing the 120 of being intoxicated with new/sweet wine (juice with sugar, highly intoxicating/mind-altering)

## Application

In this timely word given to us today, I want to

1. zero in on a truth that makes many Christians uncomfortable and still amazes unbelievers
2. step back and look at the Big Picture

A truth that makes many Christians uncomfortable and amazes unbelievers – the spiritual gift of tongues/languages, one of many manifestations (gifts) of the baptism of the Holy Spirit

Sound doctrine: Baptism of the Holy Spirit (in addition to the baptism of water)

- |  |   |             |
|--|---|-------------|
| 1. Jesus taught it (Luke 3:16, Matt 3:11)  | \ |             |
| 2. Early Church practiced it (Acts 19:1-6) | \ | 3 witnesses |
| 3. Epistles teach it (Eph 5:18)            | / |             |

On the day that the Feast of Pentecost was fulfilled prophetically, the 120 Spirit-filled disciples of Jesus Christ were mocked and slandered because they spoke languages they did not understand but hearers did

God the Holy Spirit's gift of tongues: Given to the children of God, believers in Jesus Christ, is the perfect enunciation of a language unknown to the speaker but understood by the hearer...whether man or God

Diametrically opposed to, distinctly different from, the judgment of unbelievers via a language understood by the speaker but not by the hearer

Deut 28:49-51

Jer 5:15-17

On Pentecost in Acts 2, the hearers understood the words spoken but did not understand

- a. how the words could be spoken
- b. what this "phenomenon" meant

so they doubted and mocked and slandered the disciples

This gift of the Holy Spirit is to this day

- not understood and not believed...even by Christians  
"I don't understand it (how or what)...I don't know so I don't believe."
- mocked and slandered...even by Christians  
There are always mockers nearby whenever someone actually believes the Word of God...even Christians
- done wrong by man/flesh rather than given by the Spirit...by Christian televangelists and hyper-Pentecostals, for example

In the Biblical account, this gift of the Holy Spirit was given while the disciples were...sitting, quietly waiting on the LORD...

- Not barking
- Not running around or jumping up and down
- Not swinging from the chandeliers
- Not rolling around on the floor laughing uncontrollably

The disciples were not engaged in any bizarre behavior...they were sitting  
Bizarre behavior...a freak show...is of the flesh,  
not the Spirit of God Who is a God of order  
Extra-biblical, flesh-pleasing practices are from the counterfeiter,  
not the Truth

The spiritual gift of tongues has been maligned by the counterfeits

when the flesh corrupts a gift of God  
(man/flesh has corrupted everything God has given him!)

when tongues are gone-bad, corrupted

- no love of others, only of Self
  - 1 Cor 12:27 – 13:1
- not Christ-honoring
  - a freak show...improper
  - bring honor and influence to self vs Jesus  
“I’m so spiritual! Look at me.”
- add to the Word of God
  - “If do not speak in tongues, are not saved.”

For these reasons, the gift of tongues is met with objections...by Christians  
All of these objections have been spoken to me personally:

Objection: “Tongues is a gift that was only for the apostolic church.”  
An unbiblical statement – has the ministry of the Holy Spirit ceased?  
Who can find an expiration date in Scripture, our Final Authority?  
Who wants to rip 1 Cor 14 out of their Bibles?

Objection: “Speaking in tongues is nonsense.”  
An unbiblical statement  
Who wants to tell the Holy Spirit something He gave is nonsense?

Objection: “Tongues is demonic.”  
A blasphemously unbiblical statement of enormous pride or ignorance  
Who is going to say Acts 2 is demonic?!  
Who knows every language on earth?  
Who then can determine which is a “valid” human language and  
which is “demonic babbling”?

Those objections are based on not understanding

- a. how
- b. what

Meaning,

- since it is not understood (knowledge), it is not believed (faith)
- without knowledge of how and what, it is not to be believed

Scripture says

- We walk by (knowledge or faith), not by sight
- It is impossible to please God apart from (knowledge or faith)
- We are saved by grace thru (knowledge or faith)
- The just shall live by (knowledge or faith)
- We are found in Christ by the righteousness of God by (knowledge or faith)

Are the gifts of God received and exercised by knowledge or by faith?

Scripture, in the discussion of spiritual gifts (1 Cor 12-14), tells us to covet the very best gift (1 Cor 12:31)

What is the very best gift?

It depends on the specific situation

In the situation of Pentecost in Acts 2, what is the very best gift?

The gift of tongues/languages

Is the gift of tongues only for the Apostles or is it still for today?

Is Acts 1:8 finished?

Are 1 Cor 12 and 1 Cor 14 no longer for today, should we rip them out of our Bibles?

Can we find an expiration date in Scripture, our Final Authority, for the gift of tongues?

Are we going to believe the traditions of men or the Word of God?

Are we going to believe the doctrines of men or of the Holy Spirit?

## The Big Picture

The 120 disciples were...inside, waiting for the command to Go

Stay inside, do not go out, wait

“Sandwiched” in time by the other two instances in Scripture

- The 1<sup>st</sup> Passover – deliverance of God’s people from Egypt/the world
- Is 26:20-21 – the children of God are inside their chambers awaiting the judgment of God upon the world



Like the 120 disciples, we live in the period of time between those two instances of

- Stay inside, don't go out, wait
- Social distancing
- Self-quarantining

And we, literally, are doing that now!

But...do we have an avenue to Go while staying inside?

Yes...digital

Phone

Text

Email

Social media

Teleconferencing

If you are uncomfortable in this situation, take heart and get God's perspective

Luke 21:25-26

Ps 112:5-8

Ps 94:19

2 Chron 16:9a

Is 30:20

The Lord is suddenly (v2) doing something only He can do

1. Shrinking the voice of our adversary, the devil  
World's fastest growing religion is Islam  
Message of hate and death  
Cannot record a message in the mosque for public broadcast –  
it would be shut down for what it is – hate speech  
As/If public gatherings are more tightly controlled, the numbers of people  
going to the mosque is/will be...decreasing
2. Magnifying, giving greater reach to, the voice of the Church  
By digital broadcast of the OTL God's message of love, grace, and hope  
Speaking the wonderful works of God by Jesus Christ
3. Showing the weakness of Mammon to the many money-worshippers

Who but the Living God can multiply His words while simultaneously limiting the  
devil's words and weakening the strongest god on earth?

What is God saying to mankind?

“Get on the Ark!”

There is only One Way of escape the coming judgment of the world

The refining fire of the Holy Spirit is still upon the witnesses of Jesus Christ...  
before the consuming fire of the Judge of the earth (Acts 17:31)  
Let us Go on the avenues provided for us to speak of the wonderful works of God!

Our current situation in the world is COVID-19  
It is a respiratory affliction/illness  
The afflicted need breathing help – ventilators

Those in and of the world...unbelievers...are in a radically more dire situation  
They have a spiritual breath depravation (none)  
They need an antidote for their “respiratory affliction” – the Breath of God

Because of sin, the “Breath of God” moved out of man’s tent  
With faith in Jesus Christ and His payment for sin, the “Breath of God” moves back in

We are the first responders to the “respiratory afflicted”, we are the ones to Go

The Holy Spirit...

- The Breath of God
- The gift of God
- with, in, and upon

is but for the asking for whosoever will believe

Luke 11:9-13

How can they ask without a preacher?  
Rom 10:9-15