

Acts Chapter 2

So we have got certain churches like Jerusalem church had tongues, the Ephesian church had tongues and then we have got the Samaritan church tongues were not mentioned at all. So does it mean that they weren't any tongues and I think one of the groups said, the author Luke doesn't necessarily have to say there were tongues, it could be just assume there were tongues". Is that a reasonable assumption? If that is the case then there must have been tongues. So tongues are an external manifestation of the filling of the Holy Spirit, so therefore it happens all the time.

In the Samaritan church tongues no tongues are mentioned, could be it is reasonable to say that they were tongues which Luke did not bothered writing because it is so naturally part of the phenomenon anyway. If we look at the Paul's conversion experience, no tongues mentioned at all but in 1-Corinthians chapter 14 he says I speak tongues more than all of you, which then proves the point that he was filled with the Holy Spirit, he must have had tongues, either then or later but it wasn't mentioned. Now that underscores the problem with this kind of literature. This kind of literature is called narratives. Narratives just tells you what it is, it is not prescriptive.

So it is possible that tongues would have come upon the Samaritans as with Paul that Luke did not mentioned because it could have been assumed. The problem with assumptions because it is left open equally you can say that there weren't tongues and Luke was very accurate being a doctor and not describing it. So that is the possibility, the problem with narratives. If that is the case what about the wind and the fire? Did the wind and the fire happen in the Samaritan church and the Jerusalem church and Ephesian church but Luke didn't bothered to write it. It was so common that they have, but then again you look at all our experiences where we see Holy Spirit most people don't have wind and fire. So that is the problem with using narratives to interpret.

This is descriptive,

Act 2:4 And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance.

This is prescriptive,

1-Cor 14:27 If any speak in a tongue, let there be only two or at most three, and each in turn, and let someone interpret. **28** But if there is no one to interpret, let each of them keep silent in church and speak to himself and to God.

There is no rule for argument here because it is prescriptive. We cannot make doctrine out of descriptive passages.

Act 2:**43** And awe came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. **44** And all who believed were together and had all things in common.

45 And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need.

So let's say this is prescriptive what will happen? We have to sell our belongings also.

This is prescriptive and what Paul writes

2-Cor 9:7 Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.

So when you go through the Book of Acts you must not simply make doctrine when there is none to make. It simply tells you what happened. Otherwise if you are going to go Paul and Silas kept in prison in Philippi and they started singing songs, after singing songs got earthquake. So next time they put you in prison under ISA, you sing songs. It will not happen.

This passage is descriptive.

How will we know therefore that we have the Holy Spirit? Bible says very clearly,

John 15:8 By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples.

You have to bear fruit, without fruit you are not his disciple and then we have got the fruit of spirit, love, joy, peace and it goes on.

Gifts of Tongues:

Not all have the gift of tongues

27 Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it. **28** And God has appointed in the church first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then miracles, then gifts of healing, helping, administrating, and various kinds of tongues. **29** Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work miracles? **30** Do all possess gifts of healing? Do all speak with tongues? Do all interpret? **31** But earnestly desire the higher gifts....

This shows you that not everybody have got these particular gifts.

How do I get filled with the Holy Spirit?

Eph 5:18 And do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery, but be filled with the Spirit, **19** addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with your heart,

Getting filled with the Holy Spirit is a command. That is an imperative in the Greek. God does the filling but then He is commanding you to be filled.

Col 3:16 Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God.

Paul wrote Colossians and Ephesians back to back and there is a similarity in the two verses. Putting these two verses together, we get filled with the spirit by

Act 6:5 And what they said pleased the whole gathering, and they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit...

Acts 11:24 Banarbas - ---for he was a good man, full of the Holy Spirit and of faith

That means filling of the Holy Spirit and faith come together.

Rom 15:13 May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope.

So there is a full of faith equals to fill of the spirit.

Petrol Technique

Somebody lay hand on you and pray for you and then the Holy Spirit fills you and you get joy, ecstasy and gifts but it only happens if you are stepping out and believing in faith. If you just depend on somebody else, your pastor lay hands on you it does not fill you like petrol. A lot of people think like that so they come forward for the blessing. This is called petrol technique; it is not good because it does not involve faith. The only faith you have is that the pastor lay hand on you and you will get some blessing. *Filling with Holy Spirit means reading the word with conviction.* When we take the words of Bible and by faith apply it in our lives whether we share the gospel or you feed the poor or anything else in life, then we get the joy, the hope and the filling of the Holy Spirit. On one hand the conservative churches have a problem, because they keep on coming for Bible study. They got all these Ph.Ds. they learn from Bible but they never believe what they study. So they don't go out in faith. On the other hand we see a lot of churches never read Bible just go out and most of it is their own emotions and they fall flat as well. The Bible is very clear, we need the word and we need to believe the word and step out in faith. We need to somehow transform the word of God into action that is called filling of the Holy Spirit.

Acts 2b

They all had this experience of speaking in tongues. There are two parts of the prophesy, Peter stood up and says, explained this phenomenon, he took the opportunity because this is speaking in tongues and everybody is wondering how come there are people who don't know Malay or Mandarin and they actually can speak all these languages. So he said it is due to a prophesy and this prophesy is taken from the Book of Joel.

Act 2:17 "And in the last days it shall be, God declares, that I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh, and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams; **18** even on my male servants and female servants in those days I will pour out my Spirit, and they shall prophesy.

So there is a Holy Spirit poured out on flesh. So what he is saying is that these people speaking in foreign languages is a sign that they have been filled with the Holy Spirit. The second part to the prophecy is very important. The bottom line is if this part is true then the second part of the prophecy is

Act 2:19 And I will show wonders in the heavens above and signs on the earth below, blood, and fire, and vapor of smoke; **20** the sun shall be turned to darkness and the moon to blood, before the day of the Lord comes, the great and magnificent day. **21** And it shall come to pass that everyone who calls upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.'

Whenever you look at these sort of prophecies, sometimes people get very confused and they start looking for when is blood, fire, vapor, smoke, sun turn to darkness, moon turn to blood, they look for eclipse of the sun, but this is apocalyptic language. If we look at various parts of the Bible the same thing will come over and over again telling you that this is like the end of days, judgment is going to fall. So whenever the Bible uses this language it does not mean it literally, it might or it might not but it just tells you there is judgment coming. All the Jews are expecting the day of the lord to come. When the day of the Lord comes the Messiah will come. The Jews believe the Messiah is going to come on the day of the Lord. So if the Holy Spirit comes and pours on all flesh now, everyone speak in tongues that means the other shoe must drop. If you hear tongues, the world is going to end, Messiah is going to come.

Whenever the spirit of God is mentioned it is actually conveys the issue of the presence of God either in action or in words. So basically what the Old Testament believers are doing, they are looking at God, they don't have the Holy Spirit unless you are a prophet or someone like David. So they see God's action from far away by looking at the lake. The New Testament is completely different, the coming of Holy Spirit, we are now bathing in the presence of God that is the kind of analogy that is there. In the presence of God he totally fills you and surrounds you and there is a worldwide outpouring and once you are filled with the presence of God, you got dreams and visions. It is like a pressure cooker that you are so full of God that every day dreams and visions come out. That is the concept of Joel that he is giving us. One day when you are going to say, all of flesh will experience this exciting experience of God that He is going to come into your life, you are going to be so filled with God and the knowledge of God and the excitement of God and joy of God that you cannot help having dreams and visions about what God is going to do in the world.

So when we experience the presence of God through the Holy Spirit you are going to be meditating and be filled, every day you wake up you are going to be so filled with his power and beauty and mercy and holiness and greatness and then you just cannot help speaking about him. That is the Holy Spirit that is the filling of the Holy Spirit in your life.

Prophecy:

Foretelling is telling people what is going to happen tomorrow. Foretelling is just telling what God has done in your life. Applying scripture in your life. So the prophesy which is due to tongues is what Joel is referring to. What is the meaning, your sons will dream dreams and then you have got daughters, the young and old, male servants, female servants, what is

all this meaning. Merism means taking extremes of both. So it tells you that the outpouring of spirit will be all. In the Old Testament certain people gets spirit, prophets but here is every single person, not only that worldwide, it is not Israel only, it is going to be worldwide. It is a fantastic phenomenon.

Judgment:

19 And I will show wonders in the heavens above and signs on the earth below, blood, and fire, and vapor of smoke; 20 the sun shall be turned to darkness and the moon to blood, before the day of the Lord comes, the great and magnificent day. 21 And it shall come to pass that everyone who calls upon the name of the Lord shall be saved (Acts 2:19-21 ESV)

So now the judgment is going to come. So if the spirit is being imparted, it will come a pass that everyone who calls upon the name of the Lord shall be saved. So the issue is that what Peter is now saying judgment is coming, the only people will be saved are those who call upon the name of the Lord Jesus Christ. Peter tells you how God authenticate Jesus Christ, his life, his ministry, his death, his resurrection and his exaltation. So the whole of the chapter 2 is divided into four sections and it proves to you that Jesus is this lord that you must call upon.

The truth that Jesus Christ is God's son through apostles witnesses and prophets that Jesus Christ is Lord and Messiah.

Apostles Witness:

- Death:

Acts 2:23 This Jesus, delivered up according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of lawless men(Acts 2:23 ESV)

- Life and miracles.

Act 2:22 "Men of Israel, hear these words: Jesus of Nazareth, a man attested to you by God with mighty works and wonders and signs that God did through him in your midst, as you yourselves know —

So the issue that when Jesus was here in the world he performed miracles, he healed the sick, he made the lame walk. All those miracles attest to the fact that basically only God can do miracles. If only God can do miracles and Nicodemus said that

John 3:2 This man came to Jesus by night and said to him, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher come from God, for no one can do these signs that you do unless God is with him."

So the miracles are the way God authenticates the ministry of Jesus and his identity.

At the mount of transfiguration, he was up there, he was all shinning in his glory and there is Moses there and then Elijah point to the fact that Jesus is God son. Book of John have seven

signs, signs that Jesus Christ has glory. So basically his life and miracle attest to the fact that he is the Messiah.

- Jesus Death:

Act 2:23 this Jesus, delivered up according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of lawless men.

This was prophesized in Isaiah

Isaiah 53:10 Yet it was the will of the Lord to crush him; he has put him to grief; when his soul makes an offering for guilt, he shall see his offspring; he shall prolong his days

So therefore he is saying that God authenticated Jesus Christ not only by his life as a miracle but also his death because he died according to God's definite plan with God's foreknowledge, basically which is for ordination.

- Resurrection.

Act 2:24 God raised him up, loosing the pangs of death, because it was not possible for him to be held by it.32 This Jesus God raised up, and of that we all are witnesses

They stood there as witnesses and this is the main thing that Peter will go on and Paul will go on throughout the whole Book of Acts that apostles are witnesses of Christ resurrection. So the twofold when they actually witness is apostle witness and then there is biblical prophecy. The prophecy is taken from Psalm 16 and because they are Jews from all parts of Asia Minor he goes back to the Bible to prove to them that Jesus is the messiah. Because they were Jews Peter quoted them Psalm 16 where David says you will not abandon my soul. This is a Psalm by David, it applies to David when he is being pursued and being persecuted but Peter takes this to apply to David's greatest son,

Acts 2:27 For you will not abandon my soul to Hades, or let your Holy One see corruption.

David died and was buried. Solomon died and was buried, every single Davidic king died and was buried. Jesus was the only one who rose again and because of this Peter can apply this.

- Exaltation

Act 2:33 Being therefore exalted at the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, he has poured out this that you yourselves are seeing and hearing.

So therefore because he is exalted at right hand of God he sends the Holy Spirit to us and then he proves it from Psalm 110.

Act 2:34 For David did not ascend into the heavens, but he himself says, "'The Lord said to my Lord, "Sit at my right hand, 35 until I make your enemies your footstool."

So with this he proves historical events, life, death, resurrection and exaltation of Jesus that Jesus Christ is Lord and Savior. Then he says by concluding.

Act 2:36 Let all the house of Israel therefore know for certain that God has made him both Lord and Christ, this Jesus whom you crucified."

Features of the Conversion Process:

- Mind

Acts 2:36 Let all the house of Israel therefore know for certain that God has made him both Lord and Christ, this Jesus whom you crucified

Acts 2:38 And Peter said to them, "Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ

The word repent is Metanoia which is basically changing your mind. So you got to change your mind, so you repent of your old ways and you go for the new way. So that is important too.

- Grace

In Acts chapter 2 we have the historical event of life, death and exaltation of Jesus Christ to prove that he is the Lord and Savior and the issue is the whole thing about this is grace.

Gospel is life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. The entire thing is based on someone who has done something for you.

Second Adam: Adam was supposed to be born in the image of God to live up the image of God but he did a terrible job. So Paul calls Jesus the Second Adam.

Perfect David: David was supposed to be king but he slept around and Jesus is the. So Jesus Christ is a type of David. David used a sling shot to kill Goliath. Jesus Christ gave his life to kill Satan.

High Priest: Jesus Christ is the best high priest Hebrews will tell us, why because he was suffered and he was tempted with sin. He knows us when we are actually suffering, he gave his life. He is not a priest who offers sacrifices using animals. He offers his own life. He is the only high priest, most holy high priest.

Greater Rock: If we look in Corinthians 10, there is a rock that followed the people of Moses in Exodus, you just tap on the rock and water comes out, people lives were saved. You take a big rock and you whack Jesus and you killed him and come out the water of life.

Lamb: When John sees Jesus coming what does he call him, behold the Lamb of God who comes to save the world. Jesus is the greater lamb. He is the perfect paschal lamb by giving up his life the angel of death bypasses.

So every single bit of the bible is telling you that salvation is not you doing something to go good following a manual. It is about someone doing something for you, so therefore it is about grace. So the Bible is not just a book where you can read how to be good but it is a book telling you How Jesus did all these things so that you could receive him as Lord and Savior. So we need to read Jesus Christ into every single part of the Bible that is how you read the Bible. If you read the Bible and just see this is how I need to be good, how to improve my lifestyle that you read it wrongly. When Jesus actually rose again from the dead he spent time going through the scriptures and telling them every part that spoke about him.

- Heart

Act 2:37 Now when they heard this they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, "Brothers, what shall we do?"

The word cut to the heart is stab, pierce. They felt something especially when he says; you are the one who killed Jesus Christ. They were stabbed in the heart. There is an emotional response when Peter denied Jesus Christ he felt guilty. When Jesus looked at him there was a passage in Luke,

Luke 22: 60 ...While he was still speaking, the rooster crowed. 61 And the Lord turned and looked at Peter. And Peter remembered the saying of the Lord, how he had said to him, "Before the rooster crows today, you will deny me three times." 62 And he went out and wept bitterly.

There is a time in your life when God will look at you and it will pierce your heart and you will weep bitterly. Many of the Jews who were there on that day are not the same crowd that said crucify Jesus and they were not responsible for killing Jesus and yet Peter said, you killed him. So everyone felt that their rejection of the Messiah is a personal indictment of God. They felt personally responsible and they have this emotional response. So this Jesus you crucify and killed, this Jesus who you crucified there is ownership of sin. You are experiencing true conversion when you feel the revulsion of sin.

Charles Simeon, a very famous preacher says, "When you preaching the gospel like Peter you need three things that you need to put forward,

- Exalt the savior
- Humble the sinner
- Promote holiness. "

If you want to be true Christian, you got to feel the emotional response where you actually not only broke God's law, you broke His heart, that is when it cut to the heart.

Man Centered Evangelism: *We don't need to be humbled. We need to hear more how we are made in the image of God."*

It is a kind of evangelism that goes by and it did not tell the people much about the heart, it didn't tell much about how you broke God's heart but tells people how wonderful you are,

God made in his image, now you discover more of God. It is very man-centered idea. The actual gospel if you go back is talking about sin, talking about judgment; it is all part of amazing God. So when we evangelize we have got to cut to the heart that actually feel that we take ownership and responsibility of our sin.

- Life

Act 2:38 And Peter said to them, "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.
39 For the promise is for you and for your children and for all who are far off, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to himself."

- Baptize, you join a new family
- Forgiveness of sins, you got new freedom
- Gift of Holy spirit; you got a new power

Three things that will come into your life out of this conversion process.

The First Church

The early church have

- ✓ Fellowship every day
- ✓ They have prayer
- ✓ The apostles teaching
- ✓ Sharing all things in common, selling their possessions.
- ✓ They use to do worship and as a result of this they have people's favor.

They actually have a good impact on society because people saw that these people were so absolutely different. The difference was the things that they did. The features of the early church must have to be our feature.

An early historian wrote, "*Their founder taught them that they should be as brothers to each other and therefore they despise their own privacy and view their possessions as common property*"

This was more shocking to them in those days because they were together and they have all things in common, attending temple together. So the problem in our society is that we are not together, we are very individualistic. The line and circle of our love usually does not extend beyond our family, we are very selfishly family orientated. The New Testament people were the Greeks and Romans were no different, suddenly they found people who actually started to breakdown this where they reach out to other people. It is completely different. Luke often writes about this, Luke is very passionate writing about poor and sharing. Luke is the one who writes about the Good Samaritan, he is the one who talks about the rich man who builds barns, he is the one who talk about the parable of the great banquet, and all the rich people did not want to come, all the poor people come. He is the one who writes about Lazarus, the poor guy and rich guy.

Radical Unselfishness Is Based On Faith

They gave themselves away their money, possession, their time, emotional capital to create community and even to this day to the extent of which a church is able to create community by sharing will be extend of which will be powerful in the community, everybody sees them and they like what they see.

So ancient societies are all based on authority and strength, the strong eat the weak and if we look at today's economy the rich get richer and the poor get poorer, the stronger will eat the weak.

Jesus Christ introduced the idea to love your enemies, forgiveness repeatedly, reconciliation of those who are wrong, care for the weaker, life of service, human rights. In those days if you say, you won't do this they say you are crazy, everything is by force of mind and this is how Jesus actually changed the entire world.

The Appeal of Christianity

It is so different and so attractive that spread to the whole known world, became the dominant culture within 300 years.

Judaism did not make an impact because it never got past his its exclusiveness and male centeredness. If you are a Jew it would be woman outside and that is why it never grew.

Roman and Greek Gods, they never got past their elite society, only morally and socially educated people, male-centered and they favor the rich

Christianity gloried in his appeal to all races, all cultures, all masses appealed to both sexes rich and poor that is why it grew. This idea of sharing is very-very important.

Acts 2:43 And awe came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles.

So the word awe in Greek is word Phobos. It is not all, it is fear. The fear of the lord was upon every soul which means they actually have very tangible presence of God in their life. They are so tangible they think that God is there judgment, he is full of love but yet He is not just one great teddy bear, he is a tangible presence of the almighty God and that presence fueled the society. They really felt He is real in their life and that fueled the entire church.

In modern society today we all decide what we want, we go to the church that we like that provide services for our children and we do things as we please and we do whatever we want because we have very little fear of God in us. So we have lost a kind of reality in our lives and that fear fuels the entire church together.