

Acts 2:26-28 No wonder my heart is glad,
and my tongue shouts his praises!
My body rests in hope.
27 For you will not leave my soul among the dead
or allow **your Holy One** to rot in the grave.
28 You have shown me the way of life,
and you will fill me
with the joy of your presence.” (Psalm 16:8-11)

Acts 2:29 “Dear brothers, think about this! You can be sure that the patriarch David wasn’t referring to himself, for he died and was buried, and his tomb is still here among us. ³⁰ But he was a prophet, and he knew God had promised with an oath that one of David’s own descendants would sit on his throne. ³¹ David was looking into the future and speaking of the Messiah’s resurrection. He was saying that God would not leave him among the dead or allow his body to rot in the grave.

6. Discussion: (a) What were some of the miracles that endorsed Jesus as being the Messiah? (v. 22) (b) Who did Peter accuse of being accomplices in the death of Jesus? (c) In Psalm 16 (Acts 2:27), Who is the *Holy One*? How do you know? (d) As Peter spoke to the Jews in Jerusalem, why was the resurrection of Jesus such an important part of his argument that the Messiah had arrived and that his audience needed to place their faith in Jesus? (e) Why is this same argument still important today?

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An Interactive Life Application Bible Study of the Acts of the Apostles for Small Groups

Key: *Blue* = New Testament *Red* = Words of Jesus

Green = Old Testament Quotes

Lesson 2

1. Background: In preparation for the events that occurred on the day of Pentecost (50 days after Passover), the faithful followers of Jesus obediently stayed in Jerusalem and continued to pray in a spirit of unity. Although we can’t be sure where they were when the day arrived, we are told they were together in one place. Perhaps they were meeting on the wide steps at the **House of God** (Temple) where rabbis and their followers often met to discuss various teachings and doctrines, or to pray for the Messiah to come. The people often called the Temple **God’s House**.

2. The Holy Spirit Comes

Acts 2:1-13 On the day of Pentecost all the believers were meeting together in one place. ² Suddenly, there was a sound from heaven like the roaring of a mighty windstorm, and it filled the house where they were sitting. ³ Then, what looked like flames or tongues of fire appeared and settled on each of them. ⁴ And everyone present was **filled with the Holy Spirit** and began speaking in other languages, (Gr. tongues) as the Holy Spirit gave them this ability.

⁵ At that time there were devout Jews from every nation living in Jerusalem. ⁶ When they heard the loud noise, everyone came running, and they were bewildered to hear their own languages being spoken by the believers.

⁷ They were completely amazed. “How can this be?” they exclaimed. “These people are all from Galilee, ⁸ and yet we hear them speaking in our own native languages! ⁹ Here we are— (1) Parthians, (2) Medes, (3) Elamites, people from

(4) Mesopotamia, (5) Judea, (6) Cappadocia, (7) Pontus, the province of (8) Asia, ¹⁰ (9) Phrygia, (10) Pamphylia, (11) Egypt, and the areas of (12) Libya around (13) Cyrene, visitors from (14) Rome ¹¹ (both Jews and converts to Judaism), (15) Cretans, and (16) Arabs. And **we all hear these people speaking in our own languages about the wonderful things God has done!**" ¹² They stood there amazed and perplexed. "What can this mean?" they asked each other.

¹³ But others in the crowd ridiculed them, saying, "They're just drunk, that's all!"

3. Discussion: (a) Count the places representing various parts of the Roman Empire, where different dialects or languages were spoken by Jewish people who had come to the festivals in Jerusalem. (b) Three signs accompanied the pouring out of the Holy Spirit upon the followers of Jesus: sound of wind, flames of fire, speaking in unlearned languages. Explain the significance of each sign associated with the Holy Spirit's coming among the People of God. (c) Why do you think some people even today still react with ridicule when God does something unusual?

4. Peter Preaches to the Crowd—Part 1.

Acts 2:14-21 Then Peter stepped forward with the eleven other apostles and shouted to the crowd, "Listen carefully, all of you, fellow Jews and residents of Jerusalem! Make no mistake about this. ¹⁵ These people are not drunk, as some of you are assuming. Nine o'clock in the morning is much too early for that. ¹⁶ No, what you see was predicted long ago by the prophet Joel:

¹⁷ 'In the last days,' God says,
'I will pour out my Spirit upon all people.
Your sons and daughters will prophesy.
Your young men will see visions,

and your old men will dream dreams.
¹⁸ In those days I will pour out my Spirit
even on my servants—men and women alike—
and they will prophesy.
¹⁹ And I will cause wonders in the heavens above
and signs on the earth below—
blood and fire and clouds of smoke.
²⁰ The sun will become dark,
and the moon will turn blood red
before that great and glorious day of the LORD arrives.
²¹ But everyone who calls on the name of the LORD
will be saved.'" (Joel 2:28-31)

[Note: "Last days" (v. 17) implies "*Last phase*." Some phases: (1) Conscience (to Noah's Flood) (2) Abraham's family, (3) Laws given to Moses, (4) Prophets, (5) Jesus Christ, (6) Last Phase: Apostles, Pentecost, the Church Age until the return of Christ.]

5. Discussion: (a) Based upon Joel's prophecy (2:17) what are some signs of the last phase? (b) The Holy Spirit is still being poured out upon *God's servants*. Who qualifies as God's servants? (c) The Holy Spirit is now available. He produces fruit and brings spiritual gifts throughout the last days. What evidence of this have you experienced?

Acts 2:22 "People of Israel, listen! God publicly endorsed Jesus the Nazarene by doing powerful miracles, wonders, and signs through him, as you well know. ²³ But God knew what would happen, and his prearranged plan was carried out when Jesus was betrayed. With the help of lawless Gentiles, you nailed him to a cross and killed him. ²⁴ But God released him from the horrors of death and raised him back to life, for death could not keep him in its grip. ²⁵ King David said this about him:

'I see that the LORD is always with me.
I will not be shaken, for he is right beside me.