

Heaven and Earth Overlap – Acts 2:1-22

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.

Open: When you think of the Holy Spirit, what comes to your mind?

→What words in the passage need to be explained for you?

1. Who are the main characters mentioned in this story?
2. What do the believers hear, see, and do as the Spirit comes and fills them?
3. What kind of crowd gathered when the noise of the Spirit's coming was heard? What were they excited about? What were their questions?
4. How does Peter answer them?
5. What parts of Joel (the prophet Peter quotes) fit what is happening? See *Joel 2:28-32*
6. How is the Spirit being "poured out"? On whom?
7. Describe the signs that will accompany God's final judgement. Who will be saved in that time?

Apply

- What do you think is the most amazing thing that happens in this passage?
- What are the various ways people experience God's presence in this passage?
- What is it that men who "call on the name of the Lord" shall be saved from?
- Peter finishes up with a call to action. Is there anything you should do as a result of your understanding of this passage?

Christian spirituality combines a sense of the awe and majesty of God with a sense of his intimate presence.

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