

# Baptized!



## Acts 2:1–21

Acts chapter 2 begins with the day of Pentecost. Last Sunday, Kory talked about his son, G, and his new tractor, 20 horsepower, 36 inch cut. He mows the yard, he rides it down the driveway, and he drives it down the road. He loves his tractor. Kory didn't tell you the rest of the story. I'm going to tell you the rest of the story, but I'm not going to talk about Kory's son, G, I'm going to talk about my grandson, G. You see the difference. What Kory didn't tell you was that last Saturday after G learned to drive his 20 horse powered, gas powered, John Deere riding lawn mower 36 inch cut, on his own; across the road, his Papaw (me) was bush hogging, not in a 20 horse powered tractor that was green, but a 100 horse powered tractor, not a 36 inch cut, but a 180 inch cut. It wasn't long until G wanted Kory to bring him to Papaw, so across the field they came. I stopped the tractor, G gets out of the Mule (motorized, not the animal), he crawls up

into the cab of the tractor with me and he sits in the buddy seat. It wasn't long until I looked over at him and said, "G, are you ready to drive a real tractor?" Of course G said yes. So like we have done many times before, he gets out of the buddy seat and gets in my lap. While in my lap he can reach most of the controls, and you should have seen the look on his face when he went from a little 20 horse powered John Deere tractor to a real tractor, going from a yard to a pasture. It wasn't long until I said, "G, would you like to do this by yourself?" A big grin came on his face, so I stopped the tractor and we traded places. I crawl out of the main seat and am now sitting in the buddy seat and G has control of the tractor all to himself. You should have seen the look on his face. It wasn't long until I said, "Do you know what? The day is going to come when you will be able to drive this tractor all by yourself, but right now you still need Papaw here with you in the tractor just in case something happens you're not prepared for." G and I bush hogged for about two and a half hours, or should I say, he bush hogged about two and a half hours with the presence of his Papaw beside him, guiding him, enabling him, influencing him, telling him certain things. I could tell that he can't wait until the day comes when he can do it all by himself.

As we open our bibles to Acts chapter 2, we are going to see the church doing what the church is supposed to do, not by themselves, but with the presence of the Holy Spirit of God. They have learned to do what they are supposed to do during a three year ministry with Jesus, and they have depended on Him. He has been in the driver's seat in the ministry and they have been in the buddy seat. Now things are going to change. It will now be the church in the driver's seat, but not by themselves, with the presence of God's Holy Spirit within them. They are going to go from a 20 horse powered John Deere to a real tractor. They are going to be who God wants them to be, and that is empowered witnesses. As we dissect Acts chapter 2 over the next three weeks, I pray that when you hear the power that is available to you and me you will never have this thought, "I can't wait until I can do this by myself." You should never want to do what you do by yourself. You should never want to do anything in the power of your unredeemed flesh. We should want to do everything under the control of God's Holy Spirit.

## Scripture

***"When the day of Pentecost arrived, they were all together in one place. And suddenly there came from heaven a sound like a mighty rushing wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. And divided tongues as of fire appeared to them and rested on each one of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance."* (Acts 2:1–4)**

## Waiting on the Holy Spirit

After studying for chapter 2, I wish I could go back and redo the introduction to the book that I did a couple of weeks ago. If I could redo it, I wouldn't say anything different but my emphasis would have been different. Here is what is happening in Acts chapter 1. The church is waiting. For ten days, they are waiting. They are waiting to be baptized, literally.

I don't know about you, but I remember when I got saved on March 24<sup>th</sup>, 1974. On that day I repented of being a sinner, put my faith and trust in Jesus Christ, and God justified me. He made me right and forgave me of all my sins because of Jesus' death on the cross and my acceptance of that gift of eternal life. I knew I was going to get to identify my new faith through believer's baptism, but here was the problem; my church didn't have a baptistry. When we baptized, we had to go to the lake. We normally baptized in the summer months and this was March. It was kind of cold at that time and the church did not want to baptize me in the lake. So I begged them not to make me wait until summer and asked if they would try to find a neighboring church that would let us borrow their baptistry. Sure enough, Flint Baptist Church allowed us to borrow their baptistry, but I had to wait two weeks. It killed me having wait fourteen days to be baptized! I don't know if any of you were like me and got saved on one day but had to wait a few days to get baptized. Do you remember waiting, anticipating, and being so excited to go down in the water and let

everybody know that your faith for salvation was in the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ, and the person you used to be was dead and gone and you are now a brand new person in Christ? You just couldn't wait to get wet with water in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Do you remember waiting? That is what the church in Acts is doing. They are waiting because Jesus has told them they are going to be "baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now." The title of this message is simply this, Baptized! Baptized...but not with water, with the Holy Spirit.

### **The Day of Pentecost**

It is the day of Pentecost. I think you know this from your study of the Old Testament, but the Pentecost was a Jewish feast. It was one of what we call the big three, meaning that if you were a Jewish male, under the Law of Moses you had to be in Jerusalem to celebrate this feast. If you lived in Rome, or another city or country besides Israel, you had to make that journey back to Jerusalem to celebrate this feast. The word, Pentecost, literally means 'fifty' in the Greek language. It is a feast that takes place fifty days after the Feast of First Fruits. On the tenth day of Nisan, the Jewish people would select a lamb to offer during Passover. They would watch that lamb for three days, and then on the fourteenth day at twilight they would kill the lamb. Then on the fifteenth day, they would begin a one week celebration of the Feast of Unleavened Bread. On the second day of that feast, they celebrated the Feast of First Fruits. It was a celebration that they were an agricultural people, and as an agricultural people, they depended on God. So before they could harvest their barley, God wanted them to have a feast and they would literally go out into the barley fields, pluck one of the first fruits, and bring that to the priest. The priest would take that first fruit of barley and wave it before the Lord. They did this in anticipation of the harvest of barley that was to come. And then starting on that day, fifty days later, they would begin to harvest their wheat. In the Hebrew language, this harvest day would be called Shavuot. They would begin fifty days of anticipation getting ready to harvest their wheat.

Now, before they could harvest the wheat, they had to celebrate this day, this fiftieth day. But they would not go into the fields and gather wheat, bring it to the priest to wave before the Lord. No, they would gather the

first fruit of the wheat, and then they would take leaven, mix that with dough made from that wheat to make two loaves of bread, and they would bring those to the priest. Then the priest, on this day, would take those two loaves and wave them before the Lord. In Leviticus chapter 23, Numbers chapter 28, and Deuteronomy 16, we have the instructions of how the Jewish people were to celebrate this feast.

Today, the Jews still celebrate Pentecost; however, today they will not wave two loaves of bread before Lord because they do not have a temple in Jerusalem anymore. Today on Shavuot, they celebrate the giving of the law because the rabbis believe that God gave the law to Israel on this sixth day of Sivan. In Jesus' day, it is not a celebration of the giving of the law; it's a celebration of the anticipation of the wheat harvest that is coming. And Deuteronomy 16 teaches the first thing you do as an individual Israelite is to start counting from the Feast of First Fruits. So you have day one, then count day two, day three, day four, and so on. You are anticipating what you are going to do in fifty days. Then when that fiftieth day comes, you do what God said for you to do, and so they waved these two loaves before the Lord. They are going to rejoice because as they have gathered the first fruit of the wheat they know what kind of crop they can anticipate God has blessed! Then, they are to remember. They are to look back and remember when they were slaves in Egypt. That is what the church in Acts has been doing. If you were a Jewish person, you would be counting, even if you were a Christian, and now it is day fifty. (I don't know if you realize this, but the resurrection of Jesus occurred on the Feast of First Fruits. Is that not amazing? The Apostle Paul tells us that Jesus Christ is the first fruit of the resurrection, and when He comes the second time, all of us who are believers will be resurrected just like He was, amen!)

### **The Baptism of the Holy Spirit**

So get this picture. You are waiting. But because you are a Christian, you are not waiting for the wheat harvest. Jesus has just told you ten days before that not many days from now I will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.

- **Sound from Heaven as a Rushing Wind**

They are waiting...and suddenly, in the place they were, in the house where they were all sitting, they heard a sound. This sound filled the house! Have you ever been in your house and heard a noise and you got up and went to find the noise to check it out? We have all done that. So they hear a noise. It is not a mighty rushing wind, but it is the sound *like* a mighty rushing wind. It is not in a certain room of the house; it is everywhere in the house! They hear it, suddenly. Luke didn't say a sound from heaven came; he tells us this: "...from heaven, a sound like a mighty rushing wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting." See, there were a lot of things they were going through, humanly, to get ready for this feast. Luke wants us to understand that what just happen didn't come from the church, it came from heaven; it came from God.

- **Divided Tongues as of Fire**

So there is a sound, and then they see "divided tongues as of fire." Whoa! Can you imagine this? I thought my baptism with water was something and I have never forgotten it! Can you imagine experiencing this? You hear a sound from heaven, and all of a sudden, you look and see fiery tongues! These divided tongues (not one tongue but multiple tongues) sit, rest, on each one of them. We are not exactly sure if this is talking about the twelve or all one hundred and twenty disciples. I personally believe that this baptism took place on the entirety of the church, so it is one hundred and twenty. Can you imagine one hundred and twenty people, all of a sudden, seeing fiery tongues on each other? There are different tongues on every person.

- **Filled with the Holy Spirit**

Then Luke says, "And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit..." We are seeing the baptism of the Holy Spirit on the church, and we see this phenomenon of a sound and this sight of fire and these tongues (*glóssa* in Greek). *Glóssa* can refer to the literal tongue in your mouth, or it can refer to the sound your tongue makes...words, speech, or language. So get this picture...I have not stopped talking since my baptism, but when I got baptized with water and I started talking I still spoke in English. But now, when Peter opens his mouth, a Galilean who speaks Aramaic and some Greek, he doesn't speak his native tongue, he speaks with other tongues,

as the Spirit gave each one utterance. Do you catch what is going on? All of a sudden, because of this baptism of the Holy Spirit each person in the church speaks in another language. It was not a language they had studied, but a different language. The reason they can do this is because the Holy Spirit is giving them utterance.

### **Each Heard in Their Own Language**

Then verses 5–6 say, “Now there were dwelling in Jerusalem Jews, devout men from every nation under heaven. And at this sound the multitude came together, and they were bewildered, because each one was hearing them speak in his own language.” Luke is going to shift from the people in the house to all of the people who are around that house. The first thing he tells us is there were devout Jews dwelling in Jerusalem, meaning they have come from all over the Roman Empire, the known world. They are there for this feast and there is a representative there from each nation under the heavens. Why does Luke tell us that? What is the purpose of the baptism of the Holy Spirit? Acts chapter 1 tells us it was to empower the church to be witnesses. That witness starts in Jerusalem, then to Judea, then Samaria, and then to the ends of the earth. Watch this. At this feast, there is a representative from every nation of the known world that the church is to take the gospel to, and they are now gathered in one place, in one city. Wow! I like to think God has given the church a head start here, amen. He has literally gathered a representative from the nations in the presence of the church, and when He baptizes His church, the crowd hears the sound.

What sound did they hear? I don’t know if you have thought about this, but I had to think about this. Did they hear a sound like a mighty rushing wind, or is the sound they heard the church speaking in all of these different languages? I just had this thought that when the church suddenly hears this mighty rushing wind...no, it’s not a mighty rushing wind; it is a sound *like* that. It grabs their attention. Is it possible that as the Holy Spirit baptized the church with His presence, that these divided tongues that were going to rest on the church, did that sound of all of them speaking sound like a mighty rushing wind? But now, it is not the Spirit speaking; it is the church speaking as the Holy Spirit leads and empowers them to

speak. All of a sudden, these hundreds and hundreds of people outside hear this sound and they rush to where the church is. They rush to where this sound is and they hear their own native language being spoken. Whoa, this would have been cool! My personal belief is that every one of these Jews who were there from all of those nations knew Aramaic or Greek, but because they lived in another country, they knew the native tongue of that country. Many of you know I consider Brazil my second home now. I am trying to learn the native language in Brazil. When I used to go to Brazil and sit among my pastors while they talked, it was just a sound.

### **The Crowd is Amazed and Perplexed**

Imagine you have come from Brazil where your native tongue is Portuguese, and you are back home in Jerusalem and you speak Aramaic. But when you hear the church begin to speak, you do not hear Aramaic or Greek, you hear Portuguese. While you are hearing Portuguese, someone else is hearing the native language of their country. Verses 7–8 say, “...they were amazed and astonished, saying, “Are not all these who are speaking Galileans? And how is it that we hear, each of us in his own native language?” How much clearer can Luke be? The baptism of the Holy Spirit was given to the church not for our own personal edification, but so we could communicate the gospel to the world! God had a representative of the world there to hear, and when He baptized His church with the presence of the Holy Spirit they got an ability they didn’t have before, and that is to speak another tongue, another language.

The crowd is amazed. They are astonished! They cannot figure it out. Let me paraphrase what they say...*Isn’t he from Dexter? Isn’t she from Hardin?* If you are from here, you know what I mean. That is what it meant to be from Galilee. They didn’t have all the advantages the people from Judah had. You weren’t considered as educated or as classy. When you spoke, you had an accent. Now these people are scratching their heads saying, how are these Galileans speaking my language? We know it is because they have just been baptized with the Holy Spirit, but the crowd doesn’t know.

In the next verses, Luke is going to be careful to record that there are fifteen different countries represented here. This is why I think this fell on



not just the twelve but the one hundred and twenty. We have at least fifteen different languages being spoken on the day of Pentecost and everybody is hearing it. Verse 12 says, "And all were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, "What does this mean?" They were speaking with these different tongues about the mighty works of God, and the crowd says what does this mean? This has to mean something. Remember, this is the day of Pentecost and Pentecost was the first fruits of the future harvest. Why is this question being asked? It is because, ultimately, here is what Pentecost is for, here is what the baptism of the Holy Spirit is for, and here is why the day of Pentecost took place and three thousand souls were saved. This is just the church anticipating what is going to happen next in the harvest of souls for the Kingdom of God! This is not going to be about being delivered physically; this is going to be about being delivered spiritually. It is not talking about a physical harvest; it is talking about a spiritual harvest.

So, what does this mean? In verse 13, someone said this, "They are filled with new wine." I am just amazed sometimes. You guys know I have never had a drink of alcohol in my life. I am not bragging; I just never have. It just never appealed to me. I had a lot of friends at school who loved alcohol and they would get drunk. Let me just be on record saying that usually when my friends got drunk, they slurred the language they spoke. I never saw one of my friends get drunk on a Friday night and start speaking German, or French, or Portuguese, or Spanish! In a state of drunkenness, I never had one of my friends lose their West Kentucky accent. They slurred their words!

Can you imagine hearing someone suddenly being able to speak your language? You would be amazed and astonished. But there was also a group there that wasn't hearing. That group mocked. That group ridiculed. What is Luke trying to say? Even as empowered witnesses, not everybody is going to hear and not everybody is going to respond. Many are going to make fun of, make light of, or ridicule, and you need to be prepared for that. It has nothing to do with you as a witness; it has everything to do with them, the person whose eyes are blinded to the gospel, the person who is dead in their sin.

## **Peter Preaches the Prophecy of Joel**

Peter takes the floor. I think all of the others hush, and Peter is going to tell the crowd what this means. In verse 17, he basically says this is what the prophet Joel spoke about and he quotes Joel, "And in the last days it shall be, God declares, that I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh..." What happened on the day of Pentecost in Acts chapter 2 was God fulfilling His word to the prophet Joel. What Joel saw was God baptizing His church with the Holy Spirit. And when God baptized His church with the Holy Spirit, it was for all flesh. It was for everyone in the church of Jesus Christ. Then, and I know it is going to cause some of you to struggle, but God specifically says your sons *and* your daughters will prophesy. It is not just the sons, but the daughters. He says young men will see visions and old men will dream dreams. Servants, male and female, will have the Spirit of the Lord poured out upon them and all of them will prophesy.

What is the purpose of the baptism of the Holy Spirit according to Acts chapter 2? If we are going to be a pentecostal church, if we are going to be a charismatic church here at Hardin, if we are going to be a church that proclaims we are baptized with the Spirit of God, what is Acts chapter 2 communicating? Why do we have the presence of the Holy Spirit in our lives? It is so we will prophesy, and not just the boys but the girls also. It is not just the old, but the young too. It doesn't matter what your social economic status is, free or slave, you will prophesy. Whoa! When we get to Acts chapter 21 we are going to meet Phillip who was one of the deacons in the first church. He had four daughters who weren't married yet, and all four of them prophesied. I am just telling you what the Bible says.

Now, what does it mean to prophesy? It means you announce something that is true. You announce something that is going to happen. That is what a prophet does. In the context here, what is the prophecy? The first thing we see is "in the last days," it will happen in the last days. Now, the day of Pentecost happened two thousand years ago, so what this means is we are in the last days. How long have we been in the last days? We have been in the last days for two thousand years. People ask me if I believe we are in the last days, but what they are usually meaning is, are we in the last days

of the last days? Here is how we ought to live. We ought to live as if we are in the last days because we are in the last days.

Then Joel talked about the day of the Lord coming, a great magnificent day, and there would be signs in the heavens and signs on the earth on the day He comes. But before that, there is no sign but one and that sign is the church prophesying. That is the only sign a person is going to get. Please hear me. The only sign God is going to give the world is empowered witnesses who prophesy. Then verse 21 tells us what the prophecy is, "...everyone who calls upon the name of the Lord shall be saved." May I make a prophecy now? If you call upon the name of the Lord right now, you will be saved. This is not just for pastors to do. This is not just for missionaries to do. This is not just for evangelist to do. This is for the entire church to do. It is not just for the male side of the church to do; it is for the female side of the church to do too. Each one of us has been anointed with the Holy Spirit. We have been baptized with the Holy Spirit so that we can communicate the gospel, and what we are communicating is if you call upon the name of the Lord, you will be saved. Paul takes us a little farther when he said whoever calls on the name of the lord shall be saved, and then says how can they call if they have not believed, how can they believe if they have not heard, and how can they hear unless they be sent? Nobody in Hardin, Murray, Benton, or the surrounding area is going to call upon the name of the Lord until they believe. But they can't believe until they hear, and they can't hear until someone tells them. That is why we have been baptized with the Holy Spirit, to be a witness to what we know is true, that whoever calls upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.

I want to share something with you. I have wished and prayed for God to repeat this in our church's life, and He has never answered it. Several years ago, there was a Sunday where we had about thirteen different languages represented in Hardin. There were people here from China, Vietnam, Taiwan, Brazil, and other nations from all over the world. I just prayed *God, let this be the Sunday that while I am preaching somebody hears it in their native tongue and comes to know Christ!* It never happened. Several years ago, I was in Brazil teaching my pastors. I teach in English and then I have to stop and let William translate my English to Portuguese because most of the people there speak Portuguese, except some of the Wai-wai,

Cawishana, Sateré, and Munduruku, and some of them don't speak English. So here is how it goes. I speak English, stop, and then William speaks Portuguese. And then, while I start back teaching in English, the Wai-wai who also knows Portuguese now translates what William said into Wai-wai. I prayed again *God, please! Let them hear, let me experience Acts chapter 2, let a Wai-wai hear in his own tongue!*

But that is not what God wants. God did this on the day of Pentecost so that every nation that was represented there would know God wanted all the nations of the earth to hear the gospel in their own tongue. What He wants is not me speaking a supernatural inspired language that I didn't study for, what God wants me doing is communicating the gospel! That is what He wants you doing, communicating the gospel! Are we doing what God has called us and empowered us to do? G doesn't have a John Deere tractor to ride up and down the road. He has a John Deere tractor to mow the yard. I have a 100 horse powered tractor that I don't drive to town. I bush hog with it. Why do you think you have the presence of God's Holy Spirit living inside you? It is to be a witness, a powerful witness. Are you that witness? If you aren't, then we aren't because you are us.