

Bible Workshop:

Acts of the Apostles 2

Outline

- vv. 1-4 Outpouring of the Holy Spirit
- vv. 5-13 Reaction of crowds
- vv. 14-21 Peter's explanation
- vv. 22-28 Seal of God's approval
- vv. 29-36 Consequence of resurrection
- vv. 37-40 Anguish of crowds and remedy
- vv. 41-47 A new way of living

Discussion points

- 1 What is the significance of the feast of Pentecost, and why is it so called?
- 2 What do you think the apostles did, and where did they stay, between the ascension of our Lord and Pentecost? How many days elapsed?
- 3 Discuss the outpouring of the Spirit (*pneuma*) in verse 2 in relation to Jesus' words in John 3:5-8.
- 4 Why do you think the first Spirit gift to be given was the ability to speak in foreign languages (v. 11)?
- 5 There are fifteen groups of people named in verses 9-11 but only twelve apostles. How did they all hear in their native tongues (v. 6)?
- 6 Peter's quotation from Joel 2:28-32 in verses 17-21 changes "afterward" to "in the last days". How many 'last days' do you think are referred to?
- 7 What is Peter offering to those who would repent and be baptised (v. 38)? Is it just miraculous powers, or more than that?
- 8 Who exactly is the promise made to in verse 39? How many groups or classes of people is the promise made to?
- 9 What kind of fear came upon every soul (v. 43)? Marginal references may help.

Details

- 1 What was this feast called in Exodus 34, and what was unusual about the offerings required in Leviticus 23? What lessons can we draw from this?

- 2 Consider the gifts given here to the infant ecclesia and those given at the time of the Exodus in Exodus 31:1-5. What was the purpose of these gifts in both cases?
- 3 Where is Peter quoting from in verses 34,35? Where else in the New Testament is this passage quoted, and by whom? Why is it quoted, and does Psalm 2 have any bearing on this quotation?

Tasks

- 1 Find the real meaning of the phrase, "with one accord" (v. 1), and look at the other occurrences in the early chapters of Acts. What conclusions can we draw?
- 2 What is a "proselyte" (v. 10)? Where else do we find them in the New Testament, and in what context?
- 3 Find other occasions where 'calling on the name of the Lord' (v. 21) is a means to salvation. What does this really mean?

Information

The gift of tongues given here was the ability to set forth the wonderful works of God in languages previously unknown to the speaker (vv. 8,11). It is not the incoherent ramblings of Pentecostals. The word "unknown" in 1 Corinthians 14:1-27 is not in the original.

Take-home point

The deep remorse for past actions in this chapter, the enthusiastic desire to reform their way of life, and the unity of purpose and action, should stimulate us to follow the same example. The exhortation of Paul in Philippians 2 should ring in our ears.

David Lawrence

Comments are welcome and will be considered for publication. Please send them to the Publishing Editor, Brother Eric Marshall, address inside front cover.