

HOW TO START A REVOLUTION

The Power

Acts 2:1-13

THIS IS THE BIRTH OF A BRAND-NEW MOVEMENT CALLED THE **CHURCH**. The church is the entity to which Jesus has entrusted his life mission. The church is, as far as Jesus is concerned, his light in the world.

INTERPRETING THE BOOK OF ACTS:

Since it is an historical book, that tells us what happened, we need to be careful about applying what happened in the early church to our present-day lives. A key question to ask when interpreting Acts is, *"Are the actions we see simply describing what happened or are they prescribing what we are to do as well?"*

Two Questions Can Help Us Here:

1. Is this a rare occurrence, or do we see this activity consistently described and practiced through the book?
2. Is this practice taught elsewhere, especially in the letters to the churches?

THE DAY OF PENTECOST:

- There were three great Jewish festivals . . . Passover, Pentecost and the Feast of the Tabernacles.
- Pentecost means "the fiftieth". It fell 50 days (in the day following a week of weeks or 7 weeks of 7 days) after Passover.
- Never was there a larger more international crowd in Jerusalem than at the time of Pentecost. Leviticus 23:21 tells us that it was a national holiday. No one worked on Pentecost.
- Pentecost has two main significances:
 1. Historical – it commemorates the giving of the Ten Commandments to Moses on Mt Sinai.
 2. Agricultural – the crops first harvest was offered to God in thanksgiving.

Luke clearly intends to describe something new, something that launched a great movement, as a fleet of ships is launched by the strong wind that drives them out to sea or a forest fire is started by a few small flames. He intends to explain how it was that a small group of frightened, puzzled and largely uneducated men and women could so quickly become, as they undoubtedly did, a force to be reckoned with right across the known world.

NT Wright (Acts for Everyone p 23)

When the day of Pentecost came, they were **ALL TOGETHER** in **ONE** place. Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on **EACH OF THEM**. **ALL OF THEM** were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them.

Acts 2:1-4

We see two activities of the Holy Spirit here:

1) HE BAPTIZES:

For John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit."

Acts 1:5

They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them.

Acts 2:3

Some of us are Jews, some are Gentiles, some are slaves, and some are free. But we have all been baptized into **ONE** body by **ONE** Spirit, and **WE ALL SHARE THE SAME SPIRIT**.

1 Corinthians 12:13 NLT

2) HE FILLS:

All of them were filled with the holy spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the spirit enabled them.

Acts 2:4

Don't be drunk with wine, because that will ruin your life. Instead, be filled with the Holy Spirit,

Ephesians 5:18 NLT

We can't win if we're not one.

We don't strive for you unity.
We live out the unity that is already ours.