

27. God's Spirit

Introduction: In the previous story, Jesus died and rose from the dead and, for forty days, he lived among his disciples and those who followed him. Then God took Jesus up to heaven. Before Jesus went to heaven, he asked his disciples and those who followed him to go back to Jerusalem and wait there for God to send them the Holy Spirit. (Luke 24:6, 49; Acts 1:2–5, 9)

It was seven weeks after Jesus rose from the dead and there was an important religious festival going on. Those who followed Jesus and Jesus' disciples were gathering in one place. (Acts 2:1)

At that moment, there was a loud sound coming down from the sky. That sound was like a strong wind blowing through, filling up the house where they were gathering. They also saw tongues that looked like fire, spreading out, and then stopping and falling down on the people. God's Spirit filled them completely. As a result, they had power and began to speak in different languages from different regions. (Acts 2:2–4)

During that time, there were many people in town who had come from different places to celebrate the religious festival. They were all surprised, and were wondering, because they all heard their own dialect spoken. Then they questioned each other, saying, "Those who followed Jesus and Jesus' disciples, are they all not local people? How can they can use the dialect of my hometown to speak about God. Is there something going on here?" (Acts 2:5–12)

However, there were some people who were laughing at those who followed Jesus, saying, "Maybe they are all drunk." (Acts 2:13)

Then, Jesus' disciple Peter and the other eleven disciples all stood up and Peter spoke loudly to the people. "Let me tell you what has just happened. Some of you say that we are drunk. I am telling you, no one should be drunk at nine o'clock in the morning. Let me tell you what you see happening today. Many, many years ago God sent his messengers to speak to His people. You have now seen very clearly what God has done through Jesus. He has done many miracles that no one else can do. You did not believe, and even nailed Jesus to a cross. (Acts 2:22–23)

But God brought Jesus back from the dead, and let him stand besides God. God also promised Jesus that He will send God's Spirit down to us. That is what you have just heard and seen. (Acts 2:32–33)

You need to know that the same Jesus whom you nailed to the cross, God has already given to become our Savior." (Acts 2:36)

The people heard what Peter said and they become very sad. They asked Peter and the other eleven disciples, "Brothers! Now what should we do?" (Acts 2:37)

Peter answered them, "You all must turn away from your sin and back to God's truth. Use the name of the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, to be baptized, so that God will not sentence you for your sin. You can also receive the Holy Spirit that God will send you. This is God's promise to all those who accept Jesus, and also to their family members. Even though they may not be the descendents of Abraham, they can still receive this." (Acts 2:38–39)

Peter continued whole heartedly to speak to them about Jesus. He also persuaded them to obey and to turn away from their sin. Those who believed what Peter said were baptized and joined the church. That day, about three thousand people became believers in Jesus. They met with Jesus' disciples and gathered to learn about Jesus' truth, to eat the dinner meal together, to remember Jesus, and to pray together. (Acts 2:40–42)

After this, Jesus' disciples also performed many miracles. Every day God brought more people to accept Jesus - to believe in Jesus. (Acts 2:43, 47)