

I trust you have been praying, as I requested, for this special time when we read of the pouring out of the Spirit. I pray our hearts are all open to hear what the Spirit would say to us as we go over this passage. I'm asking for God to fill us afresh with His Spirit, and if there is anyone who does not yet know Jesus as the Lord of their life, that today would be they day they accept His invitation to be forgiven and begin a new life in Him.

The 120 had been praying for a week in the upper room. They were still praying on the day of First Fruits, the Feast of Pentecost. As they prayed, a sound of a rushing wind filled the room. The Shekinah appeared in their midst and split into tongues of fire settling upon each of their heads. They began praising God in languages they had never learned. The sound of the wind drew thousands who had come for the feast from different lands, and they heard in their own languages the wonderful works of God. The 120 were so full of joy that some in the crowd suggested they were drunk.

¹⁴ But Peter, standing with the eleven, lifted up his voice and addressed them: "Men of Judea and all who dwell in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and give ear to my words. ¹⁵ For these people are not drunk, as you suppose, since it is only the third hour of the day. Acts 2:14-15 He begins by disputing the claim that they are drunk with a simple defense, it's only 9a.m. Most of the time the world's accusations against us can be answered with a simple defense. For example, if they claim we want to control a woman's body, in other words we are against abortions, a simple answer is to ask whose body, the one in the womb or the one carrying the baby? If they claim we are bigots for not approving of certain lifestyles, the simple answer is that we don't approve of sin in any lifestyle, including our own, as it is detrimental to health and wellbeing now and eternally. Our convictions are those of loving concern and faith in God's true Word. If they say we are too narrow minded, we can ask if they have considered that it is narrow minded not to consider that God provided one way to be saved. Keep it simple and to the point, and then stick to that simple truth (1Peter 3:15-16). It was simply too early to be drunk.

¹⁶ But this is what was uttered through the prophet Joel: ¹⁷ "And in the last days it shall be, God declares, that I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh, and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams; Acts 2:16-17 Peter's audience is Jewish so Peter gives his proof text of what is happening from Joel 2:28-32. Note that "the last days" began at Pentecost. This age, that some call the church age, began at Pentecost and ends when the Times of the Gentiles concludes (Luke 21:24). Then the Millennial Age will begin. Joel predicted that God would pour out His Spirit on all flesh. In the past, the Spirit came upon kings and prophets for a season for God's purposes and revelation. Now anyone who becomes a sanctified vessel through the saving work of Jesus will be filled with the Holy Spirit.

Sons and daughters shall prophecy. The Spirit is available to men and women. **Prophecy** means to speak forth or write under the inspiration of the Spirit for a given people at a

Commented [PW1]: 1 Peter 3:15-16 (ESV)

¹⁵ but in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect, ¹⁶ having a good conscience, so that, when you are slandered, those who revile your good behavior in Christ may be put to shame.

Commented [PW2]: Luke 21:24 (ESV)

²⁴ They will fall by the edge of the sword and be led captive among all nations, and Jerusalem will be trampled underfoot by the Gentiles, until the times of the Gentiles are fulfilled.

certain time. In other words, it **is to be inspired with the God's message at the right time for a specific audience** (1 Corinthians 14:3). While the New Testament church was clear that the role of elders of the individual churches were to be men (Titus 1:5-6; 1 Timothy 2:12-14), women have equal access to the Spirit and can hear from God just as well as men, sometimes better. In the Old Testament we find that the vast majority of the time it was men who were the instruments anointed with the Spirit, with just a few notable exceptions. Now the Spirit gushes forth on men and women.

Young men will see visions. I know people that have been inspired and directed by a vision. Old men will see dreams. I know I must be getting old because that is one way the Lord has been speaking to me. We all dream, but when your dream is vivid and wakes you up and isn't just a bunch of nonsense but leaves you with a very clear impression, God is probably speaking to you. The last dream I had from the Lord was convicting me of a wrong attitude through the dream as an analogy. Like David of old, we can justify a sin and not see its damaging effects until someone describes it in a parable like Nathan did (2 Samuel 12:7). Dreams can prompt us to service, give an answer we seek, or convict us. Of course it will be in accord with the Word of God and you will know in your heart it was from God.

Today the dreams and visions certainly are on the increase, especially in the Middle East with the descendants of Abraham, both Jews and Arabs. I've spoken with both cultures and heard the vivid dreams that caused them to realize Jesus is Lord. It's a wonderful instrument as these cultures take great stock in dreams. It also makes me think that God is wrapping up His work in the world and setting things in order for the final events of this age. Whether that means ten years or a hundred, I don't know, but it is an interesting sign.

¹⁸ even on my male servants and female servants in those days I will pour out my Spirit, and they shall prophesy. Acts 2:18 If this verse is a reference to those who were servants of an earthly master but belong to Christ, is the servant who is filled with the Spirit any less of a person than their master? Paul speaks of this leveling of the value of people in his letter to the Ephesians and to Philemon telling masters to treat their slaves like brothers and sisters in Christ (Ephesians 6:9). The granting of communion to slaves in Europe was the beginning of the end of slavery there. Slave or master, God values all the same. The Spirit and the image of God in them makes them of immeasurable worth. This is God's true gender and socioeconomic equality.

¹⁹ And I will show wonders in the heavens above and signs on the earth below, blood, and fire, and vapor of smoke; ²⁰ the sun shall be turned to darkness and the moon to blood, before the day of the Lord comes, the great and magnificent day. Acts 2:19-20 This is an example of how prophecy speaks to one time period and then of another. The Day of the Lord is the day of vengeance upon evil and deliverance of those who have sought God (Revelation 16:14, Isaiah 2:12-19; 13:9). Jesus spoke of similar signs to come after the tribulation. *²⁹ "Immediately after the tribulation of those days the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, and the stars will fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken.* Matthew 24:29

Commented [PW3]: 1 Corinthians 14:3 (ESV)

³ On the other hand, the one who prophesies speaks to people for their upbuilding and encouragement and consolation.

Commented [PW4]: Titus 1:5-6 (ESV)

⁵ This is why I left you in Crete, so that you might put what remained into order, and appoint elders in every town as I directed you—

⁶ if anyone is above reproach, the husband of one wife, and his children are believers and not open to the charge of debauchery or insubordination.

Commented [PW5]: 1 Timothy 2:12-14 (NIV)

¹² I do not permit a woman to teach or to have authority over a man; she must be silent.

¹³ For Adam was formed first, then Eve.

¹⁴ And Adam was not the one deceived; it was the woman who was deceived and became a sinner.

Commented [PW6]: 2 Samuel 12:7 (ESV)

⁷ Nathan said to David, "You are the man! Thus says the LORD, the God of Israel, 'I anointed you king over Israel, and I delivered you out of the hand of Saul.'

Commented [PW7]: Ephesians 6:9 (ESV)

⁹ Masters, do the same to them, and stop your threatening, knowing that he who is both their Master and yours is in heaven, and that there is no partiality with him.

Commented [PW8]: Revelation 16:14 (ESV)

¹⁴ For they are demonic spirits, performing signs, who go abroad to the kings of the whole world, to assemble them for battle on the great day of God the Almighty.

Commented [PW9]: Isaiah 2:12-19 (ESV)

¹² For the LORD of hosts has a day against all that is proud and lofty, against all that is lifted up—and it shall be brought low;

¹³ against all the cedars of Lebanon, lofty and lifted up; and against all the oaks of Bashan;

¹⁴ against all the lofty mountains, and against all the uplifted hills;

¹⁵ against every high tower, and against every fortified wall;

¹⁶ against all the ships of Tarshish, and against all the beautiful craft.

¹⁷ And the haughtiness of man shall be humbled, and the lofty pride of men shall be brought low, and the LORD alone will be exalted in that day.

¹⁸ And the idols shall utterly pass away.

¹⁹ And people shall enter the caves of the rocks and the holes of the ground, from before the terror of the LORD, and from the splendor of his majesty, when he rises to terrify the earth.

Commented [PW10]: Isaiah 13:9 (ESV)

⁹ Behold, the day of the LORD comes, cruel, with wrath and fierce anger, to make the land a desolation and to destroy its sinners from it.

²¹ And it shall come to pass that everyone who calls upon the name of the Lord shall be saved. Acts 2:21 This verse is also found in Romans 10:13. This is the most basic salvation verse. Do not think "name of the Lord" means saying God's name in Hebrew or Greek or getting the right pronunciation of YHWH. That kind of thinking is akin to magic expressions. The name of the Lord is the authority and power of God, the sum of His attributes. In other words, it means to look to God for salvation because of His mercy and grace and trusting Him to provide the way of salvation. People look to God for their soul's salvation or they refuse to do so. Salvation is as simple and straight forward as that. Trust in yourself, works, religious rituals, OR you can trust in God alone with your whole heart - calling out to Him with a recognition of your sinful condition. Everyone is brought to this decision point and must decide what to do with the grace and faith God has given them. Turn from your ways and your false hopes and accept His provision or reject His goodness and grace and face His just wrath.

Commented [PW11]: Romans 10:13 (ESV)

¹³ For "everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved."

²² "Men of Israel, hear these words: Jesus of Nazareth, a man attested to you by God with mighty works and wonders and signs that God did through him in your midst, as you yourselves know—" Acts 2:22 Jesus of Nazareth, attested by God with mighty works (power), wonders, signs (miracles) that God did! They had seen or heard about Jesus cleansing lepers, healing the sick, delivering from paralysis, casting out demons, and even raising the dead. This is why Jesus healed all who came to Him (Matthew 9:35). God was attesting to Jesus' claims to be the way of salvation, the Son of God, and Savior of the world, by showing He had power over every curse on this fallen world. People were awestruck by His healing a person born blind, commanding demons to flee, and most recently by His raising Lazarus after four days dead in a tomb, not to mention His own resurrection. What further proof would anyone require?

Commented [PW12]: Matthew 9:35 (ESV)

³⁵ And Jesus went throughout all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom and healing every disease and every affliction.

²³ this Jesus, delivered up according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of lawless men. Acts 2:23 The Jewish leaders did it (Luke 24:20), but it was God's plan and according to His foreknowledge. The leaders chose of their own freewill to do so, but it was God's plan. Nicodemus and Joseph of Arimathea chose not to participate and to instead forsake their esteemed positions to follow a crucified Messiah (John 19:38-39). Our choice is between this world or Jesus!

Commented [PW13]: Luke 24:20 (ESV)

²⁰ and how our chief priests and rulers delivered him up to be condemned to death, and crucified him.

Commented [PW14]: John 19:38-39 (ESV)

³⁸ After these things Joseph of Arimathea, who was a disciple of Jesus, but secretly for fear of the Jews, asked Pilate that he might take away the body of Jesus, and Pilate gave him permission. So he came and took away his body.

³⁹ Nicodemus also, who earlier had come to Jesus by night, came bringing a mixture of myrrh and aloes, about seventy-five pounds in weight.

"You crucified and killed" - How could they be responsible? "By the hands of lawless men." The Sanhedrin broke many of their own laws to kill Jesus. In other words, these listeners could have stopped the Sanhedrin. They could have rioted. They could have shouted for Jesus instead of Barabbas (Matthew 27:21). They could have offered their lives to block the route to Golgotha as they did in Caesarean revolt (26 A.D.). By not doing so, they became culpable. But in another sense, we all are, for it was our sins that Jesus went to the cross.

Commented [PW15]: Matthew 27:21 (ESV)

²¹ The governor again said to them, "Which of the two do you want me to release for you?" And they said, "Barabbas."

Commented [PW16]: John 14:6 (ESV)

⁶ Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

²⁴ God raised him up, loosing the pangs of death, because it was not possible for him to be held by it. Acts 2:24 Jesus was resurrected by God for death could not hold down the One who is Life (John 14:6; 10:17-18). This was the witness that Jesus told the apostles to proclaim to the world. Jesus conquered death.

Commented [PW17]: John 10:17-18 (ESV)

¹⁷ For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life that I may take it up again.

¹⁸ No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down, and I have authority to take it up again. This charge I have received from my Father."

²⁵ For David says concerning him, "I saw the Lord always before me, for he is at my right hand that I may not be shaken; ²⁶ therefore my heart was glad, and my tongue rejoiced; my flesh also will dwell in hope. ²⁷ For you will not abandon my soul to Hades, or let your Holy One see corruption. ²⁸ You have made known to me the paths of life; you will make me full of gladness with your presence. Acts 2:25-28 Psalm 16 is quoted by Peter as referring to Jesus (skipping the last line of the psalm). As we saw in the previous chapter, the Apostles had been taught by the risen Lord to read the psalms in a new light, with David foreshadowing what Jesus would experience and sometimes prophetically speaking of details of His life (Luke 24:44).

David was writing that he placed the Lord always before him and because the Lord was with him, he would not waiver. Peter puts the words in the mouth of Jesus, as David foreshadowed events in Jesus' life and spoke prophetically of Him. Jesus sees the Father with Him and is not wavering at the impending crucifixion, for He knows God will not leave Him in the grave but will raise Him to life and fill Him with joy. The Apostle Paul will also quote this verse in regards to Jesus' resurrection (Acts 13:32-36).

Peter left off the last line of the psalm, "... with eternal pleasures at your right hand forever." That is where Jesus said He was going, and where Jesus sits even now, the right hand of the Father. (Matthew 26:64; Hebrews 1:3, also see Acts 2:33) That is the place of all power and authority. Sometimes the Word hints at things that are too wonderful for us to comprehend. Paul tells us that those who are in Christ Jesus are seated with Him in the heavenly realms (Ephesians 2:6).

²⁹ "Brothers, I may say to you with confidence about the patriarch David that he both died and was buried, and his tomb is with us to this day. Acts 2:29 Peter makes the point that the psalm wasn't just about David, because his body decayed. Apparently the tomb was still there in the days of the Apostles. There is a huge sarcophagus that is said to be David's tomb right below the Cenacle. It's interesting that the Jews would place it there below the place that commemorates the upper room, for these two places, the upper room and David's tomb, come together in this passage.

³⁰ Being therefore a prophet, and knowing that God had sworn with an oath to him that he would set one of his descendants on his throne, ³¹ he foresaw and spoke about the resurrection of the Christ, that he was not abandoned to Hades, nor did his flesh see corruption. Acts 2:30-31 Peter says this was understood by David when he wrote it under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit. He prophetically spoke of Jesus' resurrection (Psalm 89:36).

³² This Jesus God raised up, and of that we all are witnesses. Acts 2:32 Jews required two witnesses to verify a claim (Deuteronomy 19:15). There were many more than two witnesses! The 120 in the upper room had seen Jesus alive at the ascension only a week before. Peter is combining prophecy with eyewitness accounts of the fulfillment to convince the crowd that Jesus was more than a mere prophet.

³³ Being therefore exalted at the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, he has poured out this that you yourselves are

Commented [PW18]: Luke 24:44 (ESV)

⁴⁴ Then he said to them, "These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you, that everything written about me in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled."

Commented [PW19]: Acts 13:32-36 (ESV)

³² And we bring you the good news that what God promised to the fathers,

³³ this he has fulfilled to us their children by raising Jesus, as also it is written in the second Psalm, "'You are my Son, today I have begotten you.'

³⁴ And as for the fact that he raised him from the dead, no more to return to corruption, he has spoken in this way, "'I will give you the holy and sure blessings of David.'

³⁵ Therefore he says also in another psalm, "'You will not let your Holy One see corruption.'

³⁶ For David, after he had served the purpose of God in his own generation, fell asleep and was laid with his fathers and saw corruption,

Commented [PW20]: Matthew 26:64 (ESV)

⁶⁴ Jesus said to him, "You have said so. But I tell you, from now on you will see the Son of Man seated at the right hand of Power and coming on the clouds of heaven."

Commented [PW21]: Hebrews 1:3 (ESV)

³ He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power. After making purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high,

Commented [PW22]: Ephesians 2:6 (ESV)

⁶ and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus,

Commented [PW23]: Psalm 89:36 (ESV)

³⁶ His offspring shall endure forever, his throne as long as the sun before me.

Commented [PW24]: Deuteronomy 19:15 (ESV)

¹⁵ "A single witness shall not suffice against a person for any crime or for any wrong in connection with any offense that he has committed. Only on the evidence of two witnesses or of three witnesses shall a charge be established.

seeing and hearing. Acts 2:33 Jesus was exalted to the place of authority He had before, only now with experiential knowledge of our temptations and suffering, and having provided the payment for our sin debt (Hebrews 9:11-12). Now that we have been sanctified by receiving the atonement for our sins, we are cleansed in God's sight and therefore can be vessels for the Holy Spirit. Peter is telling them that this is what they were witnessing, just as the Apostles witnessed the resurrected Lord. The crowd is accountable now because they have heard the Scripture and seen it fulfilled in the multitude of languages spoken (Isaiah 28:11).

³⁴ For David did not ascend into the heavens, but he himself says, *"The Lord said to my Lord, 'Sit at my right hand, ³⁵ until I make your enemies your footstool."* Acts 2:34-35 Now Peter refers to a verse which Jesus applied to Himself (Mark 12:35-37), Psalm 110:1 Again, Jesus' place is now at the right hand of God until He descends to reign on the earth throughout the Millennium. God will bring all the enemies of Jesus to kneel before Him at the end of the Tribulation. Until then, we must endure this conflict between good and evil here on earth. But we have a Savior in heaven whom we must set before our eyes, knowing that He will prevail in the end (Hebrews 12:2). We must seek His strength, the power of the Holy Spirit, to endure and His guidance to live lives of meaning as we do His will in living as witnesses to the world.

³⁶ Let all the house of Israel therefore know for certain that God has made him both Lord and Christ, this Jesus whom you crucified." Acts 2:36 All were to know for certain that God exalted Jesus as Supreme over all and is the Anointed One (priest and king). Again he tells them, "you crucified!" The Holy Spirit is opening their spiritual eyes to their guilt, just as He opens our eyes to our sins. Conviction is a gift of God to set us on the right path that is best for us and advances the kingdom of God.

³⁷ Now when they heard this they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, *"Brothers, what shall we do?"* Acts 2:37 When we realize we killed our Maker, that He laid down His life for our sins and suffered such a horrible death, our response should be the same as theirs. If we are cut to the heart (the word means stabbed), in this case with conviction, we should ask, "What must I do?" How can this guilt be lifted from me? We instinctively know the consequence of our sins is impending and deserved justice. How can we escape it?

How strange that philosophers like Nietzsche would say that they killed God through their vain philosophy, and recognize the horrible fruit of it, yet never ask what they must do to be saved. The difference is in how the heart receives the truth, whether with conviction or indifference.

In response to their question of how they should respond to this conviction, ³⁸ And Peter said to them, *"Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit."* Acts 2:38 Repent, a radical change in a person's central affections, convictions, and life direction. Turn around your position from thinking of Jesus as a blasphemer to recognizing Him as Messiah and Lord, showing it by immersion in water symbolizing you

Commented [PW25]: Hebrews 9:11-12 (ESV)

¹¹ But when Christ appeared as a high priest of the good things that have come, then through the greater and more perfect tent (not made with hands, that is, not of this creation) ¹² he entered once for all into the holy places, not by means of the blood of goats and calves but by means of his own blood, thus securing an eternal redemption.

Commented [PW26]: Isaiah 28:11 (ESV)

¹¹ For by people of strange lips and with a foreign tongue the LORD will speak to this people,

Commented [PW27]: Mark 12:35-37 (NIV)

³⁵ While Jesus was teaching in the temple courts, he asked, "How is it that the teachers of the law say that the Christ is the son of David?"

³⁶ David himself, speaking by the Holy Spirit, declared: "The Lord said to my Lord: 'Sit at my right hand until I put your enemies under your feet.'"

³⁷ David himself calls him 'Lord.' How then can he be his son?" The large crowd listened to him with delight.

Commented [PW28]: Hebrews 12:2 (NIV)

² Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

declare you have a new Master, and your sins were forgiven, and then you will also receive the Holy Spirit. Peter does not separate the gift of the Holy Spirit as a secondary act that only some receive. "Do this and *you will* receive the gift!" he said.

³⁹ *For the promise is for you and for your children and for all who are far off, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to himself.*" Acts 2:39 The promise of the Holy Spirit (from the Father as predicted in the Scriptures) is for you and your family and for everyone God calls to Himself. "Far off" is a phrase referring to [Isaiah 57:19](#) where Isaiah predicts peace for all whom God calls to Himself. Paul tells us that this means not just the dispersed Jews, but Gentiles too ([Ephesians 2:17](#)). We can have peace with God.

Commented [PW29]: Isaiah 57:19 (NIV)

¹⁹ creating praise on the lips of the mourners in Israel. Peace, peace, to those far and near," says the LORD. "And I will heal them."

⁴⁰ *And with many other words he bore witness and continued to exhort them, saying, "Save yourselves from this crooked generation."* Acts 2:40 The sermon went on, but we have the essence of it. We must choose to not conform to the world but repent and receive the Holy Spirit. By choosing Christ we decide to step out of the world system and its mindset that leads to destruction.

Commented [PW30]: Ephesians 2:17 (ESV)

¹⁷ And he came and preached peace to you who were far off and peace to those who were near.

"Save yourselves" is a theological balance to "everyone whom the Lord our God calls to Himself." It is God's sovereign work, but we must cooperate with His enabling power. We are free to reject it. We must save ourselves from this crooked (*skolios* as in scoliosis of the spine) generation in which we live by choosing to accept the salvation of Jesus. The crookedness of our generation is becoming increasingly evident as the lines between faith in Christ and the way of man become increasingly evident.

⁴¹ *So those who received his word were baptized, and there were added that day about three thousand souls.* Acts 2:41 That is just the number of men! To receive the Word is to act on it. They changed their thinking (repented) and accepted Jesus as their Lord and Savior. What a baptism scene that must have been! It was an explosive beginning for the newly born church. They had come to celebrate the Feast of Firstfruits and they became the first fruits of the church.

In front of the Southern Steps of the temple today, there are the ruins of numerous mikva where a crowd this size could have been baptized. It was a regular Jewish ritual of cleansing by immersion in water before entering the temple, but in their case it was a sign of dying to the flesh by being buried with Jesus and rising to a new life in Him ([Romans 6:3-4](#)). Jesus died and rose that you might have new life. Have you repented and welcomed Him as the Master of your life? Have you died with Him and been raised to live in His resurrected life? Have you invited the Holy Spirit to have every area of your life?

Commented [PW31]: Romans 6:3-4 (ESV)

³ Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death?
⁴ We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life.

Questions

- 1 Who can receive the Holy Spirit? 2 What is prophecy?
- 3 Where was the world's first gender and socioeconomic equality?
- 4 What does verse 21 mean? 5 How did God attest that Jesus is the Savior?
- 6 Why did Jesus rise from death? 7 Where is Jesus now?
- 8 How do we know Psalm 16 is about Jesus?
- 9 Why is conviction a blessing? 10 How should we respond to it?