

NUMBER AND TITLE: 240 They spoke ... as the Spirit enabled them

REFERENCE AND KEY VERSES: Acts 2: 4, 6-8, 12-13



All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them. When they heard this sound, a crowd came together in bewilderment, because each one heard their own language being spoken. Utterly amazed, they asked: 'Aren't all these who are speaking Galileans? Then how is it that each of us hears them in our native language?' Amazed and perplexed, they asked one another, 'What does this mean?' Some, however, made fun of them and said, 'They have had too much wine.'

LOOKING FURTHER: Acts 1:4-5, 1 Peter 3:15, Acts 2:1-13

What does the Bible passage tell us?

Although God often deals with us very personally and individually, sometimes wonderful things happen when we all come together. On this occasion, the followers of Jesus had come together in a private room as instructed, when the Holy Spirit began to fill the room. They couldn't see the Holy Spirit, but they could hear a mighty rushing wind. They couldn't see the Holy Spirit filling someone, but they could see the tongues of fire! God used things that they could all bear witness to, so that what was happening inwardly was being seen outwardly.

It happened to them all – no-one was left out; they were all equal. No matter what we may think of ourselves, God sees the potential in us. He sees what we could be, not just what we are. He used this random bunch of individuals to be the core of the future church; to be His mouthpiece for the entire world. Is it any wonder then that all those languages were heard clearly?

The Holy Spirit wasn't something special for a select group in Jerusalem, it was something for everyone – even today. They were told to wait for 'the gift my Father promised.' Why did they need to wait? Because, without the infilling of the Holy Spirit, they would have no strength, no authority, no courage. Look how Peter changed – he preached and thousands listened and believed. It says, 'Some made fun.' There will always be someone to spoil and deny the truths of God. But, we must take the wonderful things God gives us and treasure them in our hearts where others can't dispute or say hurtful things. God is OUR Father, Jesus is OUR Saviour, the Holy Spirit is OUR Baptiser, OUR Anointer. Who is there who can take the joy of those things away from us?

Reflection

- Has it ever dawned on you that God has entrusted His Word to you, too? As much as we need to guard it, we also need to speak about it with anyone who will listen. Ask the Holy Spirit to help you to share it wisely. Ask Him for one person to speak to this week!
- We are not all designed to be preachers or evangelists. However, we are meant to 'Always be prepared to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect.' We are not meant to crush people with long rants and big words; but instead we could try to let them see the joy in us, which is very contagious!

Write or draw something you read in this Bible Study that stood out to you.



Do you have any questions about this week's Bible Study?



How does this week's message apply to your life?



What can we learn about God from this week's passage?



What would you like to ask God this week?



Has God responded to your prayers this week in the way you had hoped for?
It's okay to talk to God about this.

