

We have examined the annual Feasts in outline as originally given to Israel by God through Moses. We found they extended over a 7 month period, three at the start of the year and three at the end. First of the last three is Trumpets and the first of the early three was Passover.

Exo 12:1 And Jehovah spoke to Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt, saying,

Exo 12:2 This month *shall be* to you the beginning of months. It shall be the first month of the year to you.

Exo 12:3 Speak to all the congregation of Israel, saying, In the tenth of this month they shall take to them each man a lamb for a father's house, a lamb for a house.

Israel were obliged to be present at three of these Feasts as the Lord commanded:

Deu 16:16 Three times in a year shall all your males appear before Jehovah your God in the place which He shall choose: in the Feast of Unleavened Bread, and in the Feast of Weeks, and in the Feast of Tabernacles. And they shall not appear before Jehovah empty,

Deu 16:17 but each with his gift in his hand, according to the blessing of Jehovah your God, which He has given you.

This is why there were so many Jews and proselytes "dwelling" at Jerusalem on that day in Acts 2. These were "devout", having obeyed the Lord's instruction coming from the four corners of the known world. Because of distance, many of them had been in Jerusalem from Passover:

Act 2:5 And dwelling at Jerusalem there were Jews, devout men out of every nation under heaven.

These were the Jews of the dispersion who may not have spoken their native Israeli tongue but the language of those lands in which they lived.

There would have been huge crowds at Pentecost and the gift of language was perfect for the occasion. Look how many received the gift;

Act 1:13 And when they had come in, they went up into an upper room, ...

Act 1:14 these all were continuing with one accord in prayer and supplication, with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with His brothers.

Act 1:15 And in those days Peter stood up in the midst of the disciples and said, (the number of names together was about a hundred and twenty,)

One hundred and twenty disciples received the gift of language on that day, and while only Peter's speech is recorded you can be assured that the other 119 were saying the same things among the huge crowds. Wasn't the gift of language the best gift for that situation?

Act 2:4 And they were all filled of the Holy Spirit, and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them utterance.

Act 2:7 And they were all amazed and marveled, saying to one another, Behold, are not these who speak all Galileans?

Act 2:8 And how do we each hear in our own dialect in which we were born?

Another very important thing to remember is that not only did the Holy Spirit give these disciples the ability to speak in another (unknown to them) language, but He inspired them in the very words used. Remember these passages:

Joh 14:26 But the Comforter, the Holy Spirit whom the Father will send in My name, He shall teach you all things and bring all things to your remembrance, whatever I have said to you.

Mar 13:11 But whenever they lead *you* away and deliver *you* up, take no thought beforehand what you should speak or think. But speak whatever shall be given to you in that hour. For it is not you who speaks, but the Holy Spirit.

Please think carefully insofar as this gift is concerned. It was not just the ability to speak in another language, it was the Holy Spirit speaking through them, see 2 Samuel 23:2. We should not be surprised that many were "pricked in their heart" and 3000 were converted.

While inspired tongue was the only gift recorded in Acts 2 there were many other gifts and powers in evidence during the Acts period which ran for about 35 years, and today I bring them back to our remembrance. As we examine ALL the powers of that time let us be honest and carefully examine what is claimed to be the "Pentecostal experience" of today.

The other Gifts of the Spirit as found in 1 Cor. 12.

Twice in this chapter the Word of God tells us that the Holy Spirit gave gifts to everyone in those days, see 1Cor.12:7, 11. Every believer had a gift during the Acts period, everyone. The gifts of the Spirit are mentioned below. Notice there is no mention of gifts of love, giving, mercy, or any of the other "gifts" that are claimed to be "of the Spirit".

Paul lists the other eight gifts of the Holy Spirit and they are; the “word of wisdom”, the “word of knowledge”, “faith”, “gifts of healing”, “workings of powers”, “prophecy”, “discerning of Spirits”, and “interpretation of tongues”.

The Workings of God, also found in 1 Cor. 12.

The gifts of the Spirit are not the “workings of God” or “diversity of operations” as seen later in the chapter. These are, “apostles”, prophets”, “teachers”, “miracles”, “gifts of healing”, “helps”, “governments”, and “diversity of tongues”, see 1Cor.12:28. These were other powers which were in operation at that time. There might be some similarities between the gifts of the Spirit and the operations of God but we must analyse things differing, Phils.1:9-10.

The powers the Lord Jesus foretold.

Apart from the drinking of any deadly thing, the things below followed the preaching of the Word during Acts and some of these are NOT listed as gifts of the Spirit, or operations of God but they were powers of that time:

Mar 16:17 And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues;

Mar 16:18 They shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover.

Mar 16:20 And going out, they proclaimed everywhere, the Lord working with *them* and confirming the Word by *miraculous* signs following. Amen.

Here are some more features of the Acts period showing the diversity and quantity of the powers and miracles in operation then. Please read every reference and list all the things that happened during the Acts period. As you make this list you will see that speaking in tongues was a small weave in the tapestry.

Miracles and powers were not in short supply and were very visible by others.

Please note in this group the effect of shadows and handkerchiefs.

Acts 2:6-8, 43, 3:7, 5:12-16, 6:8, 8:6, 15:12, 16:18-19, 19:6, 12, 28:8-9 and 1Cor.1:4-7.

Buildings were shaken, earthquakes had purpose, and poisonous snakes were discarded safely.

Acts 4:31, 16:26 and 28:2-5.

Believers were raised from the dead.

Acts 9:40, 14:19-20 and 20:9-12.

Believers sold their possessions.

Acts 2:44-45 and 4:32-35. The Lord told the rich young man to sell all he had in Matt.19 and these people were doing that very thing. The reason being that the Lord's return was expected at the next Feast, Trumpets, when all the Land of Israel would be reapportioned as it always was at Jubilee.

The centre of worship and witness was predominately Israel's Temple and the Synagogues.

Many feel that Paul's missionary journeys were directly to Gentiles, but this is not so. Paul initially preached to Israelites, and when Israel rejected the message then he preached locally to those Gentiles who had been drawn to Israel and their God.

Acts 2:46, 5:12, 42, 9:20, 13:5, 14, 14:1, 17:1, 10, 17, 18:4, 7, 19, 19:8, and 21:18-30.

The powers of the apostles during the Acts' period were very powerful.

We also see God smiting those opposing Him and restoring His servants. Kings who did not give Him honour were struck down.

Acts 5:5, 10, 12:21-23, 13:11, 1Cor.5:3-5, Roms.15:18-19 and compare Matthew 10:1,5-8.

Divine judgment against believers was in evidence, blessings and curses were hand in hand.

Believers during that time who sinned became sick and died.

1 Cor.11:26-30 and read carefully James 5:14-16.

Angels delivered believers and spoke directly to them, as did the Holy Spirit and the Lord Himself.

Acts 5:19, 8:26, 29, Acts 9:4, 10:19, 12:7, 13:2, 16:6, 26, 20:23, 21:4, 11, 22:17-18, 23:11, and 27:23-25,

Detractors and opponents could not resist the wisdom of God through those so gifted.

Don't we wish we had this power today?

Acts 6:10.

Believers were transported by the Holy Spirit and had visions from God.

Yes, believers were carried around by the Spirit.

Acts 8:39, 9:12, 10:3, 10, 16:9, and 18:9. See 1 Kings 18:12 and John 6:19-21.

Acts period prophecies actually came to pass.

Acts 11:27-28.

These are all the miracles, powers and signs of the Acts' period. Speaking in tongues and all the other Gifts of the Spirit were not the only supernatural powers visible at that time. It is very important we know all the things operational way back then.

If all the things of the Acts period were really happening today there would not be enough TV stations to broadcast the reports.

Disease would be wiped out, dictators would be destroyed, apostles and prophets would be transported all around the world without the use of an aeroplane, false spirits would be recognised, demons cast out and false teachers exposed. Every believer would possess one or more of the gifts or powers, and we would be selling our possessions and having all things common. Those who were gross sinners would die out with sickness unless they repented and confessed their sins.

But wait! We have read that these feasts were given to Israel not the Church which is His body.

Pentecost belongs to Israel. And the writer of Hebrews clearly tell us, that these powers were the powers of the coming age;

[Heb 6:4.....those who were once enlightened, and have tasted of the heavenly gift, and were made partakers of the Holy Spirit,](#)

[Heb 6:5 and have tasted the good Word of God and the powers of the world to come,](#)

The coming world or age was the earthly reign of Christ covering one thousand years, the kingdom of God on the earth. This has nothing to do with the church which is His Body. Our sphere is the heavenly places, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God, see Eph.1:3, 19-20, 2:6 and Col.3:1.

Perhaps that is why we do not see all these things happening today, Israel were cast aside at the end of the book of Acts and all these things ceased with them. After Acts a new administration was revealed to Paul without all these supernatural things. This is not to say God may not heal His servants today through prayer, but we are not seeing the powers of the Acts period today. Please carefully compare the gifts of the ascended Christ in Ephesians 4.

Next lesson we will visit Mount Sinai, the first Pentecost. We shall see that way back then the Holy Spirit gave gifts to Israel. I hope to show where Pentecost fitted into the national deliverance of Israel in type and shadow and how this was unfolded in the New Testament.