



FILLED WITH GOD'S SPIRIT

(based on Acts 2:1–21)

Be as dramatic as you can be
when you describe the
wind and the
flames.

Before Paul and Silas told the jailer about Jesus and he and his whole household were baptized, before Paul and Silas could travel to Philippi to teach people about Jesus and stay with Lydia, before Saul became a believer in Jesus and became Paul, before Peter healed Tabitha in Joppa, before all this could happen, something beyond imagination happened in Jerusalem during the Jewish celebration of Pentecost.

When all the people who believed in Jesus saw Jesus the last time, they received a special message. “Stay in Jerusalem,” Jesus told them. “I will send God’s Holy Spirit to you.”

So they did. They waited and waited and waited. It was now time to celebrate Pentecost, when they thanked God for the grains, wheat and barley that they harvested in their fields. Many people were in Jerusalem for the Pentecost festival, just as they were every year.

The believers in Jesus gathered together to celebrate the day.

All of a sudden, without any warning at all, a great wind blew through the room with a loud noise. Everyone looked around and they were amazed! Over the heads of the people, it

seemed like little tongues of fire were dancing. Yet no one was getting burned and the great wind didn’t put out the fire.

And that wasn’t all. Now when they spoke, they could speak languages that they had never been able to speak before. Some spoke the language of the Medes; some, the Parthians; others, the people of Mesopotamia! Oh, this was too incredible!

The people in the street heard all this noise and commotion and came to the door to see what was going on. They listened. “Why, that person is speaking my language but he isn’t from my country.” “She is talking the way I talk, but she doesn’t live in my town.” “What is going on?” “What does this mean?” Some people laughed, “They must have been celebrating Pentecost too much. Too much wine, I would say.”

Peter saw the crowd that had gathered and Peter, who had never spoken to a crowd like this before, stood before them. “All who have come here, it is only nine o’clock in the morning. We have not been celebrating a long time. No, we are filled with God’s Holy Spirit, as the prophet said would happen. But I want to tell you about Jesus of Nazareth, who died and was resurrected from death by God. We can witness to this because we saw him. Now, because we have been given God’s Spirit, we can teach and preach as Jesus did.” Peter told them all about Jesus that day and many became believers of Jesus too.