

Valley Bible Church
Sermon Notes for June 14, 2009

“The Amazement of the Jews”
Acts 2:5-13
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Speaking in tongues was a supernatural ability to communicate in a language that the speaker had never learned in order to validate God’s prophetic message.

Speaking in tongues was not:

- An ecstatic utterance
- A “heavenly” language
- A private prayer language
- A way to edify ourselves
- Is not the sign of baptism in the Holy Spirit
- An expedient way to spread the gospel

1. The response of the devout (2:5-12)

A devout Jew was someone whose inner being was characterized by piety.

a. The question of where the sound came from (2:5-6)

The sound that drew thousands of people was not the tongues speaking but the noise like a rushing wind.

Therefore this sound was important to gather the variety of people who would hear and believe (cf. Acts 2:41)

b. The question of who was speaking (2:7)

Galileans could be distinguished by their accent.

Galileans were also looked down upon by many citizens of Jerusalem.

That the tongues speakers were identified as Galileans appears to indicate that only the apostles spoke in tongues (cf. Acts 2:14).

c. The question of how this could happen (2:8-11)

Luke’s use of the word “language” in Acts 2:7 shows that the speaking was in an existing human language (cf. 1 Corinthians 14:10-11; 14:21).

The answer to the question of how these Galileans could speak in their language was God.

d. The question of what this could mean (2:12)

They asked the right question but to the wrong people.

The answer to why the apostles spoke in tongues is critical to understanding this passage.

The reason Jesus did not speak in tongues was because he was sent to the lost sheep of the house of Israel (Matthew 15:24).

The reason the apostles were given the ability to speak in tongues was because they were sent to all the nations (Luke 24:47; Acts 1:8).

The giving of the Holy Spirit turned the focus of God's work from the nation of Israel to the nations of the world.

2. The response of the doubters (2:13)

Just as with those who did not believe Christ's works, the response of the doubters had no validity (cf. Acts 2:15).

A common way for those to do not believe God's message is to attack God's messengers.

May we, by God's grace, respond well to God's word by upholding what it says even if we may be unfairly criticized by others