

Going deeper...



If you would like to go deeper with this passage then here is an idea

Find a quiet place where you are not going to be disturbed. Allow yourself at least half an hour and don't be rushed. Read through the following story until you feel you know it well.

On the day of Pentecost all the believers were meeting together in one place. ²Suddenly, there was a sound from heaven like the roaring of a mighty windstorm, and it filled the house where they were sitting. ³Then, what looked like flames or tongues of fire appeared and settled on each of them. ⁴And everyone present was filled with the Holy Spirit and began speaking in other languages, as the Holy Spirit gave them this ability.

⁵At that time there were devout Jews from every nation living in Jerusalem. ⁶When they heard the loud noise, everyone came running, and they were bewildered to hear their own languages being spoken by the believers.

⁷They were completely amazed. "How can this be?" they exclaimed. "These people are all from Galilee, ⁸and yet we hear them speaking in our own native languages! ⁹Here we are—Parthians, Medes, Elamites, people from Mesopotamia, Judea, Cappadocia, Pontus, the province of Asia, ¹⁰Phrygia, Pamphylia, Egypt, and the areas of Libya around Cyrene, visitors from Rome ¹¹(both Jews and converts to Judaism), Cretans, and Arabs. And we all hear these people speaking in our own languages about the wonderful things God has done!" ¹²They stood there amazed and perplexed. "What can this mean?" they asked each other.

¹³But others in the crowd ridiculed them, saying, "They're just drunk, that's all!"

¹⁴Then Peter stepped forward with the eleven other apostles and shouted to the crowd, "Listen carefully, all of you, fellow Jews and residents of

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Jerusalem! Make no mistake about this. ¹⁵These people are not drunk, as some of you are assuming. Nine o'clock in the morning is much too early for that. ¹⁶No, what you see was predicted long ago by the prophet Joel:

¹⁷'In the last days,' God says,

'I will pour out my Spirit upon all people.

Your sons and daughters will prophesy.

Your young men will see visions,
and your old men will dream dreams.

¹⁸In those days I will pour out my Spirit
even on my servants—men and women alike—
and they will prophesy.

¹⁹And I will cause wonders in the heavens above
and signs on the earth below—
blood and fire and clouds of smoke.

²⁰The sun will become dark,
and the moon will turn blood red
before that great and glorious day of the LORD arrives.

²¹But everyone who calls on the name of the LORD
will be saved.'

Imagine the scene, find a place within it. Let the story unfold in your imagination.

Who are you within the story? Are you a central figure or an unnoticed bystander?

What can you see, hear and feel around you?

Listen to what is said and look around you.

Look at the expressions on people's faces and listen to the tone of people's voices.

What else can you hear, see or feel?

Perhaps you will notice things not mentioned in the text.

What seems important?

What surprises you?

How does this whole event make you feel?

Is there anything you would like to ask God or to say to God about it?

Is there anyone you want to engage in conversation?

If you want to, finish off with a simple prayer, or write down some of the things you have felt or noticed.