

***Study Hints for Discussion and Thinking Further***  
***International Bible Lessons***

**Acts 2:1-7, 12**  
**1 Corinthians 14:13-19**  
**Sunday May 24, 2015**  
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Some Bible study groups or classes can further discussion by asking some or all of the **Questions for Discussion and Thinking Further** below. Others may want to send the bulletin size *International Bible Lesson* home with their students for further study in the coming week to encourage continuing Bible study. The *Study Hints for Discussion and Thinking Further* below are not actually intended to be *the answers* to the discussion questions. These indeed are “hints” a teacher may use to help students think through and discuss the questions in class.

**Questions for Discussion and Thinking Further**

**1. Why do you think it was important for the Holy Spirit to come with the sound of a rushing wind?**

The disciples needed to have a physical expression of the coming of the Holy Spirit that they could describe to others rather than just talk about a personal “feeling” they had experienced. Perhaps others outside the house would have heard such a loud sound of a rushing wind that they would have almost demanded an explanation that would help the disciples share with them the good news about the coming of the Holy Spirit. In a similar way and for similar reasons, Jesus, the Son of God, came as a real human being in real human flesh, rather than as a spirit or a ghost. The disciples handled and touched Jesus as a real person: “We declare to you what was from the beginning, what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes, what we have looked at and touched with our hands, concerning the word of life” (1 John 1:1). On the Day of Pentecost, the disciples could say the same type of things about the coming of the Holy Spirit.

**2. Why do you think it was important for the Holy Spirit to rest individually upon each follower of Jesus in the house?**

Each person needed to see with their own eyes that no one was left out when the Holy Spirit came as the Power from on High, and each one needed to tell one another that they saw the Holy Spirit come as a tongue of fire, because no one could see the tongue of fire over their own head. If anyone asked later, others could say, “I saw the Holy Spirit as a flame of fire rest upon him.”

**3. Why do you think it was important for the Holy Spirit to give the gift of speaking in tongues to Jesus’ disciples?**

So those who did not know the language of the disciples with their Galilean dialect could hear the gospel in their own language and come to believe as a miracle they could share with others and tell about when they returned to their homes in other nations.

**4. Why do you think Paul wrote so much about the gift of speaking in tongues?**

Because the misuse or misunderstanding of the gift had caused division in the church, with some thinking and saying they were more gifted than others because they spoke in tongues, instead of realizing that there are a variety of gifts that the Holy Spirit gives as He chooses.

**5. Why should both the spirit and the mind be engaged and work together when believers preach, teach, and praise God?**

With the mind we study the Scriptures to learn the truth, and the Holy Spirit helps the mind understand the truth. The right understanding of the truth helps a person maintain a Christian spirit and prevents a misunderstanding that a false spirit might put into a person's mind. The mind and spirit both need to be engaged so the truth can be taught to others in a reasonable way according to the Scriptures as the Holy Spirit helps. The mind helps Christians discern the spirits using the gift that the Holy Spirit gives.

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