

Study Hints for Thinking Further
International Bible Lessons

Acts 2:1-16

Sunday, April 14, 2013

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Some Bible study groups or classes can further discussion by asking some or all of the **Five 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 Thinking Further* below are not actually intended to be answers to the discussion questions, but hints a teacher may use to help students think through and discuss the questions in class.

**Five Questions for Discussion
and Thinking Further**

1. Why do you think the disciples obeyed Jesus and waited in Jerusalem until they had received the Holy Spirit?

They obeyed Jesus because they loved Him as their Savior and Lord; furthermore, He had convinced them that He had risen from the dead and was not a ghost or mere vision that could not be trusted. Jesus had always done what He said He would, and they had seen Him work mighty miracles; so, they knew He would do what He said and was able to do what He said. The disciples who had

first followed John the Baptist had heard John preach that the Messiah would baptize with the Holy Spirit; since they knew John was a prophet commended by Jesus and Jesus was the Messiah, they expected John's prophecy and Jesus' promise to come true.

2. Why do you think the Holy Spirit came with a loud noise instead of quietly?

So people would know definitely that a miracle had happened, because they had heard it. Whether or not those outside the house were followers of Jesus, the Holy Spirit got everyone's attention, which raised questions that Peter could explain from Jesus' teaching and the prophets.

3. Why do you think the Holy Spirit visibly rested individually on each one in the upper room instead of simply giving each one a special feeling?

So each one would know by experience that everyone who believed had received the gift of the Holy Spirit and no one was left out. So each one could say to the others, "I saw the Holy Spirit rest on you as a flame of fire," and the other could reply, "I saw the Holy Spirit rest on you too." The Holy Spirit is Jesus' gift to all who believe in Him according to the Scriptures.

4. Describe the miracles of hearing and speaking?

When the Galilean disciples spoke in a variety of foreign languages, a variety of people who spoke foreign languages

heard them speak in their language—the miracle of speaking. When Peter spoke with his Galilean accent, those who spoke foreign languages heard him speak in their native tongue—the miracle of hearing.

5. Why did Peter refer those looking for an explanation to what the prophet Joel had said?

Jesus and the Apostles always pointed people to the Scriptures, the Word of God written, as the basis for believing the truth. Jesus, the Word of God in human flesh, and the Holy Spirit gave the proper application and interpretation of the Word of God written. Jesus and the Apostles always referred to the teachings of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms to teach about the meaning and purpose of Jesus coming (remember how Jesus taught the two on the road to Emmaus).

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