

A Thunderous Sound

Acts 2

by Don Falkos

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The believers were gathered together on Pentecost morning when suddenly there came a thunderous sound that filled the entire building. They saw what appeared to be fire swirling around them – fire that did not burn; it separated into small tongues that settled on each one of them. They were all filled with the Holy Spirit and found themselves speaking languages they had never learned.

They moved outside where a large crowd had gathered. When these people, from all over the world, heard the apostles declaring God's mighty works in their own native languages they were very confused:

Aren't these men all from Galilee?
How is this possible?
They're speaking in *our* languages.
What is going on here?

But others said, "Ah, they've just had too much to drink."

That's when Peter stepped forward.

"Fellow Jews, these people are not drunk. They haven't had time to get drunk. It's only nine o'clock in the morning. Long ago, the prophet Joel wrote:

God says: When the time is right, I will pour out my Spirit on those who serve me, both men and women, and they will prophesy. And whoever calls to me for help will be saved.

"Jesus of Nazareth was crucified, but God raised him from the dead and took him up into heaven. Today he has poured out on us God's promised Holy Spirit. That is what you see and hear."

That day some three thousand people believed and were baptized.

The believers came to together and shared everything they had; they sold their possessions and gave to the poor; they worshiped at the Temple every day; they met in private homes for the Lord's Supper; all the while praising God. And every day the Lord added new believers to their number.