

Acts 2:12 And they all continued in amazement and great perplexity, saying to one another,

## "What Does This Mean?"

Response Questions for, "The Church Calendar, Pentecost and the Mission of the Local Church," (Acts 2:37-47, Misc.)



**Basic Ideas:** Pentecost and the Mission of God.

The Holy Spirit is calling to us from this passage to consider three ideas.

1. The Holy Spirit desires for us to know the person and work of the Holy Spirit in the storyline of God.
2. The Holy Spirit desires for us to choose Him and His ways over ours.
3. The Holy Spirit desires for us to feel the joy of resting in the person and work of the Holy Spirit.



**Basic Questions:** Pentecost and the Mission of God.

### John 14:15-20

1. How does Jesus describe the one who is to follow Him?
2. How long will this individual be with His people?
3. **Why is this so important at this juncture in the story of God?**
4. How else is this "Helper" described in verse 17?
5. Where will this "Helper" abide?
6. How will His people see Jesus?
7. What might this tell us about our message?
8. John 14:16, 15:26, 16:7 all refer to the Holy Spirit as the Helper. Who else is referred to in the same manner (cf. 1 John 2:1)?

### John 14:25-27

1. What role did the Holy Spirit occupy in the life of those early disciples?
2. Is this still true today? If so, note the contrasts and the comparisons.
3. What does Jesus leave His people, and how is this peace perpetuated?
4. Of whom does the Helper/Holy Spirit testify (cf. John 15:26)?
5. What might this tell us about our message?
6. What will the Holy Spirit do for those early disciples (John 16:13)? Is this the same or different than what He does for us?
7. What is the relationship between the Holy Spirit and Jesus Christ as noted in John 16:12-15?
8. What is the relationship between the Helper, teaching truth, glorifying Christ and the birth of the Church?
9. What does Jesus promise those early disciples just before He ascends to the Father (cf. Luke 24:49)?
10. Why is this so important at this point in the storyline of God?
11. How is this reaffirmed in Acts 1:7, 8?
12. What does the Holy Spirit's ministry look like in Acts 2:37-47?

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13. What might this gathering of believers be called?
14. Is this passage merely descriptive or is it prescriptive?
15. Is this passage telling us what we look like, or does it tell us what we are to be doing?
16. What's the difference between these two ideas?
17. What is the larger idea inside of Acts 2:37-47? Is it possible to miss the bigger picture by focusing too closely to the details?
18. Try to note the similarities between what Jesus promised in the Upper Room Discourse and what unfolds in Acts 2.
19. What might Acts 2 be telling us concerning the work of the Holy Spirit?



**Basic Application:** Pentecost and the Mission of God.

This entire story has but one idea, to preach Jesus for the converting of sinner and the gathering of His people for worship and the scatter of the same for evangelism.

1. Are you living in an awareness of the Holy Spirit's presence in your life?
2. Do you trust Him to do His work in and through you?
3. Do you see the church as His unique work?
4. The church, all churches and this church are uniquely the work of God.
5. What place does this church have in your life? Is this community of faith a priority in your life?
6. Is the message of your life Christ-centered?
7. Thomas Aquinas said, "Preach Christ and if necessary use words." Does your life preach Christ? How visible do you wish to make it?
8. Let us not be fuzzy of mind in this area. God has a mission and the church exists to see the mission fulfilled.