**Unstoppable - wk 2 - The Adventure Begins**

**Jesus is Alive, now what? Acts picks up right after the resurrection.**

**See baby Christians grow into powerful leaders – a small group explode into an international movement – that lead to us here.**

**Acts is Jesus: The Sequel**

* **A continuation of Luke's gospel - A narrative - a story – childlike**

**Starts in Jerusalem ends in Rome / 30yrs/ 32 countries/ 54 cities/ 9 Islands /95 characters /From Rome officials to hobos.**

* **Descriptive, not prescriptive - Letter to Christian friend Theophilus. Roman citizen not Jewish – helpful... Jesus is just getting started.**

**Luke tells us the crystal-clear mission Jesus gave us –**

**Acts 1:8 - But you will receive power (Dunamis) when the Holy Spirit comes on you; you will be my witnesses (Mar-toos) in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” (This sums up entire letter)**

**We are not merely saved for heavens sake and hells avoidance**

**We are commissioned with purpose to tell the world, by the HS**

**That’s the WHAT NOW - and now the BUT HOW**

**The Adventure Begins**

**(Jesus said wait - so, they stayed, prayed, and waited. 10 days later it happened) Acts 2:1 When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place.**

**Jerusalem full - 2 big Holy days (holidays) Passover (God sets us free) and Pentecost, 50 days after Passover (God gave the Law on Mt. Sinai) unifying them. (Pentecost means 50)**

**A setting free and binding together. At Passover Jesus set us free / now at Pentecost - a new grace is to be given to unify.**

**2 Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven filled the whole house where they were sitting. 3 They saw what seemed to be tongues (glossai – languages) of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. 4 All of them were filled (filled - pletho - fully supplied) with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues (languages) as the Spirit enabled them. (miraculously began to speak in other dialects)**

**Imagine waiting - asking the apostles - 10 days of… what is going to happen? DK. What will look like? DK. Are we there yet?**

**Then is happened (Storm track) - suddenly the sound of a tornado fills the place - Fire & flashes burst into the room and sparks out to each person - resting on each of them (lighter) and they began to talk in languages never learned - whatever they were waiting for... it came.**

**As God appeared in fire and spoke from a burning bush 1300 yrs earlier - like the fire from Heaven in the desert leading the people – This is the Shekinah!**

**God now appears on them as fire - it's the baptism Jesus spoke of.**

**Wind & fire throughout scripture are a sign of the HS – The (wind) a sign of power (fire) a sign of purification**

**"All them were filled" In OT - Spirit of God rested on select people - but now - washed clean by Jesus precious blood - the HS now abides with every man and woman of God in Christ - God in us!**

**An audible sound, a visible fire, miracle languages... no doubt God is there... (fade track)**

**Under the Influence!**

**5 Now there were staying in Jerusalem God-fearing Jews from every nation under heaven. (Figure of speech - remember city packed) 6 When they heard this sound, (tornado / explosion sound) a crowd came together in bewilderment, because each one heard them speaking in his own language. (Puzzled by hearing diff languages) 7 Utterly amazed, they asked: "Are not all these men who are speaking Galileans? (aren't these hicks from up north) 8 Then how is it that each of us hears them in his own native language? 9 Parthians, Medes and Elamites; residents of Mesopotamia... (then lists 16 diff places from across the Mediterranean) 11 ...we hear them declaring the wonders of God in our own tongues!" 12 Amazed and perplexed, they asked one another, "What does this mean?" 13 Some, however, made fun of them and said, "They have had too much wine." (Acting intoxicated)**

**This is one of the most controversial passages in the NT. Pentecostals, who focus on tongues, get their name from this.**

**Four Big Questions from this passage**

1. **When does a Christian receive the Holy Spirit?**
2. **Does that mean we are all supposed to speak in tongues?**
3. **Why would God give the gift of tongues - what is its purpose?**
4. **Does it still happen today?**

**We have had people leave over this – this is a non-essential.**

**Q1 Answer - When does a Christian receive the Holy Spirit?**

**NT clearly teaches that we receive the HS at the moment of salvation.**

**Because of this some teach the HS is a separate event. Differences between Pentecostals & charismatics…**

**I like to say – when you are born again – the Holy Spirit moves in.**

**Romans 8:9 - You, however, are not in the flesh but are in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God lives in you. And if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, they do not belong to Christ. (You can not be a Christian without the HS in you)**

**Ephesians 1:13 You also were included in Christ when you heard the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation. When you believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit, 14 who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God’s possession—to the praise of his glory.**

**1 John 4:13 This is how we know that we live in him and he in us: He has given us of his Spirit. 14 And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the Savior of the world. 15 If anyone acknowledges that Jesus is the Son of God, God lives in them and they in God.**

**Additional verses - 1 Cor 12:13, I Jn 2:26-27; Eph. 4:3;** **2 Cor. 1:21-22; Gal 4:6**

**Though Christians are given the HS many live life without Him. Walking under the influence of their own desires. Probably 95% of what happens in churches could be done w/out the Spirit.**

**Q2 Answer – Does that mean we are all supposed to speak in tongues?**

**The NT is clear not everyone speaks in tongues**

**Paul mentioning spiritual gifts, including tongues says - 1 Corinthians 12:11 All these are the work of one and the same Spirit, and he distributes them to each one, just as he determines. / 30 Do all have gifts of healing? Do all speak in tongues? Do all interpret? (rhetorical - no) 31 Now eagerly desire the greater gifts. (Paul lists tongues as the least important of all Spiritual gifts - 1 Cor 12:28)**

* **We are told not everyone will speak in tongues (1 Cor 12:11-30)**
* **We are not to seek or pursue speaking in tongues. (1 Cor 12:31, 14:1,12,39 – “seek (desire) the greater gift of prophecy” (intelligible proclamation of God’s word!)**
* **Tongues is not the sign of a true or mature Christian**
* **God gives as He determines not as we demand**

**We can't demand any spiritual gift from God or even expect to have certain ones - He gives by His will. Notice they were waiting on not searching for the HS.**

**\* This is for sure - A Christian can be under the influence, control and power of the Holy Spirit and never speak in tongues.**

**Every true Christian has been given the HS and has gifts.**

**Q3 – Why would God even give tongues? What is the purpose?**

**A lot of debate on this - diff views. We can respectfully disagree.**

**Glossia (GK) reference to known languages (where we get glossary) Glossolalia - is when the HS gives one the ability to speak a language they have not been taught.**

**Outside of acts the only other place mentioned is - 1 Cor 12-14 – as correction for improper use. What we know we draw from there. (some say the 1 Cor is diff kind of tongues than acts… I don’t)**

**Answer (this is my perspective – using scripture alone) Two Reasons.**

**\*\*Miraculous declaration of praise - communicates the wonders of God.**

**11 “...we hear them declaring the wonders of God in our own tongues!"**

**It was not evangelistic. Peter did not preach in tongues - Acts 2:14. There is not a single example of tongues as evangelism.**

**1 Co4 14:2 For anyone who speaks in a tongue does not speak to people but to God. (Praise to God – not evangelism) Indeed, no one understands them; they utter mysteries by the Spirit.**

**That’s it?? Well, then why speak in tongues?**

**Miraculous confirmation of God’s purpose**

**Just as signs from Jesus confirmed who he was - signs did the same thing to confirmed God’s purpose to them.**

**In Acts tongues is only mentioned 3X (in 30 yrs) Each time it is with a new people group. Hebrews (Acts 2) Romans (Acts 10) Greeks (Acts 19) possibly another (Acts 8) the Samarians.**

**We will see each one of them as we walk thru Acts.**

**In Acts Glossolalia was a confirmation that Jesus is for every tribe, tongue, and nation. Each time it happened the message sent back to the council was – tongues confirmed the gospel is for them too!**

**Keeping to the scripture (what we don’t see) - What it is not:**

**-It is not a “personal prayer language”**

**A verse used for a personal prayer language - 1 Cor 14:4 Anyone who speaks in a tongue edifies themselves, but the one who prophesies edifies the church.**

**But the context tells us this not an approval - but a correction from this 1 Cor 12-14 says all the gifts of the spirit are to serve of the body (the common good) not ourselves – 1 Cor 12:7-11)**

* **We are told in - 1 Cor 14 - they must always be interpreted and understood - how does a “personal prayer language” do that?**
* **We are also told the purpose of tongues in not for a believer but a sign for the unbeliever.**

**(And if God gives “personal prayer languages” why does the Bible say this?) 1 Cor 14:21 In the law it is written: “With men of other tongues and other lips I will speak to this people; (Abraham’s descendants - Jewish people) And yet, for all that, they will not hear Me,” says the Lord. 22 Tongues, then, are a sign, not for believers but for unbelievers… (Not just any unbeliever)**

**Quoting Isaiah 28:11-12, tongues are a sign to unbelieving Jews that the Messiah is for the whole world. But yet they did not believe as a whole. Jesus & disciples were rejected.**

**I know someone who spoke in tongues in a service with a non-believing Jewish person present and they understood it… Me**

**-It is not an unknown language (Acts, 1 Cor 12-14)**

**1 Cor 13:1 – “tongues of angels” Phrase only found once. Angels always spoke intelligible words. “look at us, we even speak angel - elfin and Vulcan”**

**1 Co 13:1- even if you speak “angel” and don’t have love it’s just noise. Remember 1 Cor is a harsh corrective letter.**

**Tongues was never to make you feel close to God, that is the purpose of the Blood of Jesus. It was never a goose bumps prayer language for you – but as a sign to unbelieving Jewish people.**

**Biblical Tongues points to and praises Jesus!**

**It is not referred to a tool for corporate experiences, to create environment, as an evangelistic tool, or to encourage ourselves.**

**4. Does speaking in tongues still happen?**

**Two primary views - Cessationist and Continuist (range of emphasis)**

**There is no biblical reason to believe God stopped miracles or gifts,**

**We must always remember that they are given as God determines to meet his purpose and for his glory – not for our glory. (1 Cor 12)**

**So, are tongues still happening and possible? Yes, but true gift of tongues, I think, are rare. Many experiences I think are created out of a church’s cultural, teaching, and personal coaching.**

**Understand this:**

**The HS is not a voice in our head- Jiminy Cricket "Don't do it Pinocchio"**

**The HS is not an experience or a what – the HS is a who – God with us**

**The filling of the HS is about living under the influence of God in you.**

**The baptism of the HS according to Jesus is for the purpose of taking Jesus to the world. (Acts 1:8)**

**I want to end with 2 thoughts:**

* **The Holy Spirit is active in the people of God**

**HS is given to believers as a gift to mark us, teach us, convict us, remind us, sanctify us, and empower us – for God’s glory!**

**Don’t ignore or be afraid of the work of the HS in us - with us.**

**The Holy Spirit invites Christ followers to yield to his leading.**

* **God is relational, emotional, and experiential (but test to scripture)**

**There is a reason why Chari & Pent movements are growing - Because people are tired of cold dead religion – they’re very expressive.**

**I love how they encourage an active presence of God in our life**

**Yes, emotions & feelings can be a counterfeit for spirituality - however God does want us to experience him and sense and his presence – but those experiences are to always be subject to scripture. Not flipped.**

**Sadly, many Christians function as deists. God’s up there somewhere – not here. We can’t interact w/ Him.**

**Thru Jesus we have a relationship with the Living God who communicates his love, direction, comfort, peace, and power in our lives. God is alive and works in our lives – through the HS.**

**We may not smack people in the head, flop like a perch on a porch, use the words Holy Ghost, anointed, revival, dominion, rain, fire, flood, down pour, soaking, shekinah, or glory in our church name. You probably won’t pull a hammie during our worship, or have to duck from banners & flags. We don’t pass out tambourines w/ ribbons on them and have catchers on front row.**

**But we are led of the Spirit and God is transforming lives here!**

**Acts2:2 Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven filled the whole house where they were sitting.**

**“from heaven” No laser or colored lights, LED screens, guitars, drums, amps, or repetitive choruses… but God said – now and, “suddenly…” it happened. They were actively waiting on God.**

**Point of Pentecost is not “you need to speak in tongues” but that the power of God is here to give you boldness to take the good news to the world – from Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, and the ends of the earth!**

**Pentecost is about turning a weak faction into unstoppable followers. Uniting us in the Spirit to speak boldly the Word of God! Let’s pray for that kind of power!**

**Is that a onetime event for each Christian? Is there a difference between being filled and baptized in the Spirit? And what happened when the people around them heard this… next week.**