

## At the Beginning

*by John Isaac Edwards*

In connection with the conversion of Cornelius, Peter said, “And as I began to speak, the Holy Ghost fell on them, as on us at the beginning” (Acts 11:15). This takes us back to the day of Pentecost in Acts 2, one of the great beginnings of the Bible. Not only did Peter look back to that occasion as the beginning, the Lord looked forward to it as the beginning in Luke 24:47. Notice some things which took place *at the beginning*:

**1) The Apostles Were Filled with the Holy Spirit.** The beginning scene finds the apostles in Jerusalem waiting for the promise of the Father, the baptism of the Holy Spirit, as instructed by the Lord (Lk. 24:47-49; Acts 1:1-26). Acts 2:4 records concerning the apostles, “And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost...” This Holy Spirit filling served to empower the apostles as witnesses unto Christ (Jn. 15:26-27; Acts 1:8). They were guided

by the Holy Spirit into all truth (Jn. 14:26; 16:13).

**2) The Apostles Spoke with New Tongues.** When giving the apostles a world-wide gospel preaching commission, the Lord said, “And these signs shall follow them that believe...they shall speak with new tongues” (Mk. 16:17). This took place at the beginning when the Holy Spirit filled apostles “...began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance” (Acts 2:4). This supernatural tongue-speaking ability enabled the apostles to speak in the languages of the people from every nation assembled in Jerusalem (Acts 2:6-11). Tongue speaking, also one of the nine spiritual gifts (1 Cor. 12:8-10), served to confirm the word (Mk. 16:20) and edify the church (1 Cor. 14). It came in when the day of Pentecost was come (Acts 2) and went out when divine revelation was complete (1 Cor. 13:8-13).

**3) Prophecy Was Fulfilled.** When the apostles spoke with new tongues, they were said to be full of new wine. Peter said, “These are not drunken...But this is that which was spoken by the prophet Joel...” (Acts 2:13-16). He quoted Joel 2:28-32, in which the prophet announced a new day of divine revelation with the promise that “... whosoever shall call on the name of the Lord shall be saved.” Thus, Joel two has its fulfillment in Acts two. Fulfilled prophecy is one of the irrefutable evidences “...that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation. For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost” (2 Pet. 1:20-21).

**4) The Gospel Was Preached.** The preaching prescribed by the Lord in the Great Commission (Mk. 16:15-16; Lk. 24:47) was

done for the first time at the beginning (Acts 2:22-36). Peter preached Jesus at the beginning, the middle, and the end! He preached Jesus taken, crucified, slain, buried, raised up, and exalted. The heart-pricking sermon caused the audience to ask, "Men and brethren, what shall we do?" (Acts 2:37). The answer: "Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins..." (Acts 2:38). The response: "Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls" (Acts 2:41). We need a return today to the kind of preaching that was done at the beginning!

**5) The Church Was Established.** Isaiah and Micah prophesied that the Lord's house would be established in the last days,

among all nations, in Jerusalem (Is. 2:2-4; Micah 4:1-2). At the Acts 2 beginning, we have the right time (vv. 16-17), the right people (v. 5) and the right place (v. 5). The Lord's house, which is the Lord's church (1 Tim. 3:15), is first spoken of as being in existence when, "...the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved" (Acts 2:47).

Daniel declared that the God of heaven would set up "a kingdom" (Dan. 2:44). The kingdom of God was to come with power during the lifetime of some of the disciples (Mk. 9:1). If we can put our finger on when the power came, we will know when the kingdom came. Acts 1:8 tells us power was to come after the Holy Spirit came upon the apostles. Now, when did this happen? At the beginning, as recorded in Acts 2! Thus, the kingdom

of God, the New Testament church (Mt. 16:18-19; Heb. 12:23, 28) was established on the day of Pentecost (Acts 2).

**6) Disciples Continued Stedfastly.** Acts 2:42-47 describes the church at the beginning. These converts "... continued stedfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers" (v. 42). This contains four of the five acts of worship in which the first church was engaged. They also sang praises to God from the heart (Eph. 5:19; Heb. 2:12). We look to the church at the beginning to find out what the church today is to be and do. May it be said of us as it was said of them, "...they continued stedfastly..."

This all took place at the beginning. Acts 2, what a beginning!

**The Terre Haute **SPEAKER**** is published weekly by the church of Christ at Terre Haute, Indiana.

**Assembling At:**  
4017 E Margaret DR  
Terre Haute, IN 47803  
[Exit 11 (I-70) W on HWY 46,  
W on Margaret DR approx. 1 mile]

**Assembling Times:**  
Sunday @ 10:00 a.m. & 3:00 p.m.  
Wednesday @ 7:00 p.m.

***Come be with us!***



***We Speak Where the Bible Speaks.***

***We Are Silent Where the Bible Is Silent.***

***We Do Bible Things in Bible Ways.***

**[www.churchofchristatterrehaute.com](http://www.churchofchristatterrehaute.com)**