

## ***Revolution***

### ***Revolutionary Community Acts 2:1-13***

***May 2***

Introduction: What do you think of when you think of an interpreter?

A tour guide on a trip, translating the language of another country? Someone who works at the United Nations in international diplomacy? Maybe someone interpreting for the hearing impaired at a public event?

These are the kinds of things I used to envision whenever I heard the word "interpreter:" all are someone with whom I do not have regular contact. Then my wife began working a Memorial hospital in Downtown Colorado Springs, and almost daily they need an interpreter for medical care. But I'm beginning to see the need for my own personal, full time interpreter.

It used to be that rural areas, all people spoke the same language, even if it was with a twan they all had the same twang! Not so today, even in rural areas, is rapidly becoming multicultural and multilingual. My pet peeve, is a bill collector or a sales person call me at my home: and they do not speak fluid English! Have you ever tried to ask directions at seven eleven or for a part at home depot and what comes out of the clerks mouth is tongues!

Not only do we need interpreters for those who speak in foreign languages, have you noticed how even those who speak the same language many times need an interpretation! How husbands and Wives live in the same house for decades, need a counselor or interpreter to figure out what they are saying to each other!

Recently, a judicial friend was presiding over a case in a small, rural county. The defendant was charged with drunk driving and trying to assault the police officer who arrested him. To convict the defendant on the assault on an officer charge, the District Attorney had to proved that the defendant knew the person he was assaulting was a police officer. And the easiest way to do that is to show that the officer was wearing a police uniform, and therefore the defendant knew that this was a police officer.

So the District Attorney asked the officer on the witness stand "And how were you attired when you pulled the defendant over?"

The witness looked at him blankly. It was clear he didn't know what the District Attorney meant by "attired". Everyone saw this but the District Attorney.

"Would you repeat the question, please?"

In a slightly irritated voice the District Attorney said, "And how were you attired when you pulled the defendant over?"

The witness still was puzzled. "Say that again", he pleaded.

"How were you attired when you pulled the defendant over?" barked the District Attorney.

My friend said you could suddenly see the light bulb come on in the officer's head, and he proudly proclaimed "I was traveling on standard issue radial tires!"

This officer needed an interpreter even within the English language!

That's what I'm getting at: We all need our own personal interpreter, full time, 24/7. So much of what we hear, even within the English language, we don't understand.

Computer lingo. Medical terms. Legal terms. Technical jargon in someone else's field. New technical jargon in our own field.

### ***Who Received the Interpreter?***

***When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. <sup>2</sup>Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. <sup>3</sup>They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. <sup>4</sup>All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues<sup>[a]</sup> as the Spirit enabled them. Acts 2:1-4***

But maybe most of all, we need an interpreter in our relationships.

We talk to others and are not understood.

They talk to us and they're not understood.

Perhaps this is most true of the relationships where we might expect the best communication, the relationships with those we love the most.

Our parents.

Our children.

Our husbands.

Our wives.

Our friends.

All too often, we talk the same language, but it might just as well be . . . Greek.

Circle the pronouns they in the above verses-they are the key to understanding just who was miraculously gifted to be an interpreter of God's Good news Jesus on the day of Pentecost! In this small church; we have how many who grew up Baptist? Catholic? Assembly of God-Pentecostal or charismatic church? Church of Christ and Christian Church? How about None? Do you know that each one of those backgrounds, interpret they differently! No wonder we need the divine interpretation of the Holy Spirit, to get along with those we love as brothers and sisters in Christ!

This is my humble interpretation of who they are in this passage. Luke's description that "they were all together in one place" (v. 1), cries out for attention and addresses just who received this divine interpreter! Luke does not say merely that they were together, or all were present, but instead "all together" and "in one place." I believe the wording is a picture of the manifestation of the Holy Spirit-when the divine interpreter is in the house we are all together! Unity is one of gifts of the Spirit.

Notice neither the number of persons present nor the place is specified. Acts 1:26 ***states Then they cast lots, and the lot fell to Matthias; so he was added to the eleven apostles.*** Apostle is the proper noun that precedes the pronoun they-meaning they means the twelve Apostles. So Doctor Luke I believe is telling us the Twelve were given the miraculous gift of divinely interpreting the gift of Jesus to different language groups in their own native tongue through the power of the Holy Spirit.

Notice, though tongues is not the only gift present their was unity-their was understanding and testimony to God's great wonders. When the Holy Spirit shows up in our

relationships God events explode: His Fire burns off destructive habits, that destroy relationships, His wind blows in life to relationships that have been dead, and bring new life. The Holy Spirit is the interpreter that makes unity possible in diversity!

*What was the reason for the interpreter presence?*

*Now there were staying in Jerusalem God-fearing Jews from every nation under heaven.*

*<sup>6</sup>When they heard this sound, a crowd came together in bewilderment, because each one heard them speaking in his own language. <sup>7</sup>Utterly amazed, they asked: "Are not all these men who are speaking Galileans? <sup>8</sup>Then how is it that each of us hears them in his own native language? <sup>9</sup>Parthians, Medes and Elamites; residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, <sup>10</sup>Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya near Cyrene; visitors from Rome <sup>11</sup>(both Jews and converts to Judaism); Cretans and Arabs—we hear them declaring the wonders of God in our own tongues!" <sup>12</sup>Amazed and perplexed, they asked one another, "What does this mean?"*

*<sup>13</sup>Some, however, made fun of them and said, "They have had too much wine."<sup>[b]</sup> Acts 2:1-13*

Sisters and Brothers, we need the Holy Spirit-to revolutionize our World! Amen? Amen!

Acts chapter two is a revolutionary message: That God, the Holy Spirit, who lives within us, will be our own interpreter to the world, if only we will let the Spirit free.

Let me set the scene for you.

Jesus' followers are huddled in the upper room of a house on the morning of the Jewish Festival of Pentecost, shortly after Jesus has ascended onto heaven. They are Discouraged. Frightened. They feel abandoned, and suddenly, there came from heaven a noise like the blowing of a rushing, violent wind.

Wind, the biblical symbol for the Spirit of God's presence, for the creative and renewing power of the Lord. And suddenly, what appeared to be tongues of fire flickering away, a separate flame rested on each one of these ragtag Apostles. Fire. The symbol of God's cleansing and purifying power. And suddenly, they all began to speak in foreign tongues, which was miraculous, because they had never learned these languages.

Dr. Luke, who wrote the book of Acts, makes it clear that he is talking about known foreign tongues, foreign languages here. He is not talking about glossolalia, the kind of speaking in tongues we hear from people that describe them as ecstatic utterances not intelligible to the human ear without the gift of interpretation.

No, these followers of Jesus were experiencing the Holy Spirit translating their vocal emissions in such a way that the words came out in a foreign language. And they were words that brought understanding and not confusion! They had their own interpreter-the Holy Spirit!

Meanwhile, a huge crowd has gathered in the streets of Jerusalem to figure out where that loud wind sounding like a tornado came from. And the sound of all these languages.

Apparently The Apostles and other disciples so excited by the divine events had moved from the Upper room into the streets, the courtyards, and the temple precincts, praising the wonders of God in these different foreign languages.

And guess what? The people who were in the crowd were foreign Jews, who understood the languages being spoken! They were what was called the "Diaspora Jews"; that is, Hebrews who lived in different foreign countries, who were visiting Jerusalem because of the Pentecost feast, or who had moved to Jerusalem from another country. From Rome. Or Libya. Or Mesopotamia. Or Asia.

And these foreigners were amazed they could read these Galilean Jews LOUD AND CLEAR! What they couldn't understand is how these country hicks from Galilee could learn these exotic foreign languages these Galileans with their redneck accents, their difficulty pronouncing guttural sounds, their habit of swallowing their syllables when they spoke.

And why were they praising God at nine o'clock in the morning?

No wonder the crowd began to get restless, with some people saying, "What's going on here?", and others saying "Are these people drunk?"

They could understand the words of their native language, but they couldn't understand what was going on. That's when the Holy Interpreter, the Holy Spirit, steps in through Peter and the other Eleven Apostles in verse 11 it says declaring the wonders of God! That is another manifestation

of the Holy Spirit the ability to clearly declare the wonders of God! But we all know it is not just words that declare the wonders of God, it is also sacrificial acts of Grace and it is changed lives!

The Divine interpreter declares the wonders of God through you in Two ways. . .

**Fruit** declares the wonders of God by displaying Christlike Character in a sinner. This fruit is developed over a life time and prepares us for heaven. **Grace Gifts**- Doing the work of Christ and receiving and be equipped by the power of the Holy Spirit!

God the Father uniquely S.H.A.P.E.D. you to Declare the wonder of Jesus, using the Holy Spirit to interpret your

Words and so Jesus may be understood! Look at S.H.A.P.E.D. each letter represents one way God is revealing his

glory through you. S stand for Spiritual gifts, everyone who believes in Jesus is equipped by the Holy Spirit to serve

in a special way. H. stands for Heart. There are things I care about, you could care less about-that is heart! God has

given us a heart or care for problems or Joys that others do not have to tell the good news. A. stands for Aptitude, in

life we have all learned certain skills that others do not have. So God is not going to call a demolition expert

probably to be a brain surgeon. A cowboy and a welder because of their aptitude will declare the wonders of God

differently! P. Stands for Pain. Your unique pain is a conduit for God to express his love to similar hurting people.

An addict will most likely help other hurting addicts. A person from a dysfunctional home, is often found healing

the broken family! E. Stands for Experience. God used Paul's experience as a Jewish Rabbi to reach out to Jew, so

they might know the Messiah had come. God uses your life experience to interpret his divine love to a lost world.

D. stands for destiny. All of us were born in a certain place to a certain group of people, this was a destiny given by

God the Father. This destiny is often who God uses us to share his wonders too!

Peter, through the Spirit, interprets this for the crowd. He says "Fellow Jews, these people aren't drunk. Why it's too early to drink it's only nine o'clock in the morning" (Peter obviously didn't know some of the people I've known in my life).

Peter said "What you see isn't a bunch of drunks. You see people filled with the Holy Spirit!

People empowered with the Spirit, telling you of the wonders of God's love. Of His grace. Of His goodness. Of the Gospel of Jesus Christ!"

And he went on saying:

All of this was promised long ago. The prophet Joel prophesied that God would send his Spirit to everyone:

Everyone will have the opportunity to be plugged into a power source that will interpret and transform their misguided human efforts at expressing love into crystal clear drops of true communication. To be plugged into a power source that we allow us to live and love in ways that would otherwise be unimaginable!

And through this interpretation of and by the Holy Spirit, Peter went on to preach a great sermon of salvation through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. The Bible tells us that 3000 souls were saved that day!

We plug into the power, not through tips and tricks-but through a personal relationship with Jesus who the divine interpreter points to! Pentecost is when we celebrate the fact that each one of us can have our own personal interpreter with us, 24 hours a day, seven days a week, 365 days a year.

Pentecost is when we are invited to plug into the power of that interpreter, who can express our love for Jesus, our lives of faith, and the gospel in ways we can't even begin to imagine.

But there is a price tag for this personal interpreter.

We have to be willing to stop being control freaks about our lives. We have to learn to trust the Spirit.

We don't like that, do we? Many of us are uncomfortable talking about the Holy Spirit. When it comes to the Trinity, we often feel, as Leonard Sweet puts it, "Two's company, three's a crowd!" This is the same Spirit in Romans that Paul tells us interprets our feeble prayers, through groans that words cannot express.

To let the Holy Spirit take control of our lives means that we let the Spirit's wind blow away our cobwebs of selfishness and the dust of our insensitivity. The Bible says the Spirit "blows where it wills." Barbara Brown Taylor says it "Blows down the chimney of our lives and turns all the lawn furniture upside down."

To let the Holy Spirit take control of our lives is to let the purifying power of the Spirit burn away our jealousies, and refine and galvanize us, so that we CAN break down language barriers and be heard.

To be plugged into the power of the Spirit means that we can no longer focus on our own desires and accomplishments, like the people of the Tower of Babel did. At Babel, their selfishness and pride resulted in a worldwide breakdown of communication. But Pentecost REVERSES Babel and says, "If you ride the wings of this wind, nothing can limit your love, not even the Babel language and communication barriers!"

The divine interpreter has some souls he wants to speak to through you. But the spirit is a gentleman and will only go where he is invited. Will you say yes to Jesus and divine wind of God?

***How is the Interpreter going to revolutionize the world? 2:21***

***Let's all read that outloud together on the count of three:*** And everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.

The interpreter is turning the world upside down one soul at a time. He took a religious terrorist Saul and made him into the Apostle Paul who spent his life loving the unlovable, writing the New Testament and being a prisoner for Christ! The divine interpreter took the Son of Thunder and transformed him into an apostle of Love!

William Wilberforce of England spent 59 years to end slavery in the united kingdom. The divine interpreter spoke freedom to the slave and freedom to the sinner through the salvation of William Wilberforce! Martin Luther King was used by the Holy Spirit to speak Love for all and non-violent change for the kingdom of God by the salvation of one man!

Letting the Holy Spirit be your interpreter may mean that you wind up talking to people that you wouldn't ordinarily talk with.

Like foreigners in our comfort zone.

Modern day Parthians, Medes, Elamites, and Cretes.

Such as people of a different race.

Or people of a different class.

People of a different sexual orientation.

People with a different set of values.

People who don't travel in our circles.

People we may not WANT to read us loudly and clearly.

To let the Holy Spirit interpret your life is to step out of our comfort zones. To risk becoming, as Leonard Sweet puts it, "Dangerously Christian." To risk that people might think we are drunk or even crazy! To really focus on people we are relating to- to stoop, if necessary!

To let the Spirit interpret our lives means that we will be able to communicate the Gospel of salvation through Christ to people that we might not even want to speak with.

To let the Spirit interpret our lives means that we risk experiencing true intimacy with our loved ones, with all the sacrifice that true love and commitment brings.

Are we ready for this?

Or is it easier to go through life without our personal interpreter? To live life at half speed? To batten down the hatches when the Holy Spirit's wind blows our way? To, as Barbara Brown Taylor puts it, "Reach for an umbrella when God starts to pour down the fiery flames of the Spirit."

Are we ready to trust the Spirit to lead us where the Spirit will?

And take us to people and places will the Spirit will? Let us pray that we are!

Because the divine interpreter, does not only use the Pauls or Martin Luther Kings He wants to speak through you! Think of it-if does not have your heart-a heart that love Jesus-how will he speak to your dad-your son-your wife-your co-worker that only you can speak to!

Conclusion: Rosetta Stone