

The Urgency of Community / Rekindle Series

[Acts 2:1-13](#)

EXPLORING THE SERMON

- * What did you hear?
- * What did you think or feel about what you heard?
- * What is one thing you can take away from the sermon this week?

KEY VERSES

When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them. Now there were staying in Jerusalem God-fearing Jews from every nation under heaven. When they heard this sound, a crowd came together in bewilderment, because each one heard their own language being spoken. Utterly amazed, they asked: "Aren't all these who are speaking Galileans? Then how is it that each of us hears them in our native language? Parthians, Medes and Elamites; residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya near Cyrene; visitors from Rome (both Jews and converts to Judaism); Cretans and Arabs—we hear them declaring the wonders of God in our own tongues!" Amazed and perplexed, they asked one another, "What does this mean?" Some, however, made fun of them and said, "They have had too much wine."

REFLECTION

Sometimes when we find clarity, connection, or are moved by something specific, we might say, "they were speaking my language", or "that really spoke to me." The miracle of Pentecost was that those in the crowd *each heard in their own language the wonders of God*, declared by the disciples, who were all Galilean (v. 6, 10). God reaches us through the people and experiences He strategically places in our lives. **Think of a time when you felt really "spoken to," or moved by a specific event. How do you see God's grace orchestrating that experience?**

In May the US Surgeon General declared that loneliness is an epidemic. Loneliness is of the main reasons people come to church right now, but we will always be disappointed if our experience of community doesn't fit our specific demands and needs. The ideal community does not exist, just as the first church community was not ideal - they didn't even speak the same language! **What has been your experience with community? How has it disappointed, surprised, or blessed you?**

In community, we have to keep showing up and tolerating things - but it is through the hard times that true friendship is built. The cultural forces that keep us from each other are stronger than they've ever been, but if we can learn to stand in awe of God's grace together and translate it for one another, maybe we can live lives worthy of "eulogies" when they're offered for us. **Where might it be your turn to translate God's grace for someone else?**