

“RELATIONSHIPS” (ACTS 2)

READING: **John 16:8**

“And He, (the Holy Spirit) when He comes, will convict the world...”

INTRODUCTION:

The advent of the Holy Spirit coincided perfectly with the Divine revelation of the New Covenant details.

From a human perspective, it (what happened and the apostles’ subsequent utterances) seemed like ordinary occurrences, which could easily be explained by the influence of excessive alcohol intake. However from God’s perspective, this was the fulfilment of prophecies delivered many years before. (**2 Peter 1:19-21**)

Some in the audience, tried to dismiss these disclosures as the “ramblings” of drunken men, but others, in paying closer attention, were convicted of their wrongdoings (in crucifying the Son of God) and asked the most important and most appropriate question, which would correct their horrendous actions (of crucifying the Son of God).

DISCUSSION:

The coming of the Holy Spirit was manifested by the appearance of “tongues as of fire” and the sound “like a mighty rushing wind” This audio-visual effect was for the benefit of firstly the apostles (visual) and then to all Jews gathered in Jerusalem (audio).

Peter’s assurance (that what happened was not due to intoxication) brought out the next relationship, between the crowd and the message preached. As per Peter’s sermon (revealed by the Holy Spirit) the invitation was issued as a comprehensive invitation from God

Verse 21 summarises it well: “And it shall come to pass that everyone who calls upon the name of the Lord shall be saved”

The next important relationship, was depicted as that which concerned the interaction between the believers (those who responded positively to the invitation)

1. They are together and had all things in common
2. They devoted themselves to whatever the apostles taught them.
3. They were praising God and the rest of the people admired them.

God then continued to add to their number those who became convicted (by the Holy Spirit, through the message preached) and were baptised for the remission of sin (**verse 38**)

CONCLUSION:

Their response (conviction) to the message preached, classified them into two categories: Obedient (and consequently “saved”) or disbelieving and therefore disobedient (and consequently “lost”)

In which category are you?