

## **BAPTIZED WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT, WERE THE "ONE HUNDRED TWENTY" David Lipscomb**

Brother Lipscomb: As our Bible class differs on some scriptures found in Acts 2, I write this query, hoping you will give us some light. "And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place." Does the word they in this verse refer to the hundred and twenty or the twelve apostles only? "And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance." Now, who was filled with the Holy Ghost—the hundred and twenty or the twelve only? "And there were dwelling at Jerusalem Jews, devout men, out of every nation under heaven." The trouble in this verse is in the words Jews, devout men. Some of the class think these words teach that devout Jews were present only; others think it should read Jews and devout, men.

We have never heard it called in question that the whole one hundred and twenty were present. If the hundred and twenty were present the days preceding Pentecost, when Matthias was chosen in lieu of Judas, certainly there were additional reasons why all should be present on Pentecost.

There will always be a difference in opinion as to whether more than the apostles received the gift of the Spirit on that day. We think likely the tongues like as of fire sat upon each of the apostles, but that all in the room received this outpouring of the Spirit, but in different degrees. There are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit. The apostles received the greatest measure of it. But others were doubtless indued with the gifts of the Spirit in a less measure than the apostles. Our reason for the supposition that all present received a measure of the Spirit is, Peter says this is the fulfillment of the prophecy of Joel : "I will pour out of my Spirit upon all flesh: and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy." If this prophecy was fulfilled in all its parts, the sons and the daughters prophesied. They were endowed with gifts prophetic afterwards. We know of no reason why the lesser gifts bestowed for the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ, until they come to the stature of the measure of the fullness of Christ, should not be given on this first outpouring 'of the Spirit.

We find some from this time on exercising spiritual gifts. We are constrained to believe that none on that day received the apostolic measure of the Spirit, because then all would have been apostles. Yet none exhibited the fullness of apostolic powers, save the apostles. The Jews were the devout persons present. None but Jews or Jewish proselytes attended the Pentecostal feast at Jerusalem, The Jews had been scattered among all nations by the wars that drove them from Judea, but the devout ones came back at the appointed times to worship. It was undoubtedly Jews dwelling in the different countries enumerated. (Acts 2: 9.) The proselytes are here mentioned as distinct from the Jews. The eunuch was a Jew of this character. (QUESTIONS ANSWERED BY LIPSCOMB AND SEWELL, pp. 56-57)