

The Saved

“Unknown by Name”



The day when all the people could hear God's word in their own tongue has long been in discussion and wonder. All the apostles and disciples were supposedly gathered together for this great day. The crowd of people did not know each other, but they had been gathered because the word of this “Jesus” had traveled far and they were there to hear. They were confused and scared. The Scripture says they were from every nation under heaven.

I imagine they came from all walks of life, from the poor and needy, to the rich. There were probably even some of the people involved with the Roman government there because we know from other Bible studies that several Centurions came to accept Christ as their personal Savior. We read that the people were scared and thought the ones standing next to them were drunk because there were so many different

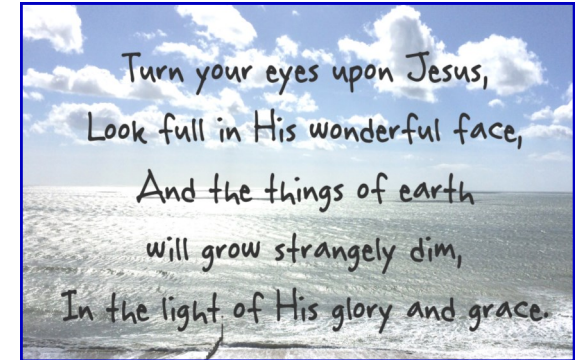
languages being spoken. They thought the people speaking were from Galilee, but they were able to hear in their own the language of the country or region where they were born even the Roman Empire.

The only person named is Peter. All the rest, both the poor, the rich, and even the disciples and apostles are not named. It was a great occasion, but no one had taken role and reported it to us. Do we need to know?

This time is considered by many to be the beginning of the church. The apostles had been told to spread the word. When I think of today's missionaries, they learn the languages of others so they can do one thing – spread the Good News of Jesus Christ. They don't go to another land to tell about Christ in their language. They have to learn to live in that life style and speak the language of the people. Sometimes this is just a dialect in a small region, but they must learn it.

I pray that my faith is young even though I am getting older. I can only read that they were “filled with the Holy Spirit” and my faith has to be that of a child and accept that all things can happen to any of us when we are “filled with the Holy Spirit.”

“If you think you've blown God's plan for your life, rest in this. You, my beautiful friend, are not that powerful.” Unknown



The disciples had doubted earlier. We read in Matthew that they doubted, but Christ didn't let them off the hook. He told them “*All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always even unto the end of the world.*” That message is to us today.

This being “filled with the Holy Spirit” is not limited to Peter's talking to a large group of unknown people. It is available for all people in all parts of the world. It is wherever you are. We teach a child that the love of God is with him at all times, but often forget that it is also with us. In church, we often sing a song called “Spirit of the Living God.”

“Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me. Spirit of the living God fall afresh on me. Melt me, Mold me, Fill me, Use me. Spirit of the living God fall afresh on me.”

I have sung this song from early childhood, but as I grew I began to listen to what I was singing. Do I want to be in the potter's hands? I know the potter is God. Do I want to be melted? That could mean changing the form I am in so that I could be molded to another form. I do know that my heart needs to change, and sometimes I like the way I am.

Neither the song nor God stops there. I continue and ask God to fill me and use me. This song is a prayer that we need to think as we pray. Sometimes I am weak and like to be in control. But when I ask for God's help, I need to ask for it all the time. Sometimes I don't want to be used. Let someone else do it. Can you imagine the thoughts running through the minds of all those people at Pentecost? Were they really ready for what they would hear?

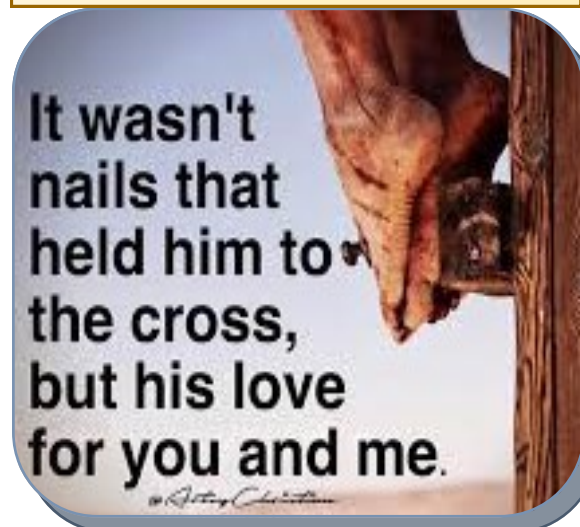
Is it important that we have membership roles? I often wonder why we get so concerned over numbers and forget that God has a book and our names are in it. That is all that matters. My denomination doesn't matter. The amount of money I give doesn't matter. The services I attend don't matter.

Maybe that is a little extreme, but if we accept Christ as our personal Savior and we are doing God's will, that is all that matters. The Scripture verse that tells us *"faith without works is dead"* does matter to me. If I believe I will want to give. I will want to work for my Lord. I will be willing to pray and seek God's guidance.

I know that I sometimes fail to do His will, but I pray for His grace and seek to do His will to the best of my ability, knowing that my feet are made of clay. Through His love and grace, I know my name will be in the book that matters.



"If you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved." Romans 10:9



Dear Heavenly Father, we ask to be filled with the Holy Spirit, but often don't really mean it. Help us to understand that Your love is beyond anything we can comprehend and then ask the Holy Spirit to guide us. Then Dear Lord, help us to let You guide us to tell others about Your love and power. Amen

1. How can we have the same eagerness these people had to want to learn more and to love our Lord more?
2. Do you often wonder if your speech is good enough to talk to others about Christ?
3. Do you feel alone in a world that knows everything and has a confidence that you cannot accept? Do you feel threatened by their confidence?
4. How can we accept the Christ of the Pentecost?
5. How can we always remember what Christ said at the Sermon on the Mount, *"Wherefore, if God so clothe the grass of the field, which today is, and tomorrow is cast into the oven, shall he not much more clothe you, O ye of little faith?"* Matt 6:30

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info@rgscripts.com

"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life." John 3:16