

# THE STORY OF PETER And THE STORY OF RUTH

Aunt Hattie's Bible Stories

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by

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## CHAPTER NINE

### PETER, A MIGHTY PREACHER

NOT long after the seashore breakfast with the Lord, the disciples met Jesus for the last time on the Mount of Olives. It was at this time that He gave them His great plan of work, leaving it for them to do.

He said, **“You will receive power after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you; and you shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.”**

Then, **“He lifted up his hands and blessed them and while he blessed them he was parted from them and carried away into heaven.”**

While the disciples were watching Him go into heaven two angels came to tell them that this same Jesus whom they had seen go into heaven would come to earth again **“in like manner,”** that is, in bodily form and in the clouds of heaven.

Hearing this good news, the disciples went back to Jerusalem filled with joy and gladness. In an upper room, with an hundred and twenty believers, they continued with one accord in prayer, waiting for the coming of the Holy Spirit whom Jesus had promised to send.

This company of Christians, or Christ-followers; were in a few days to become the first Christian Church.

The Bible says, **“And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting.**

**“And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.”**

Some think that the wind that came from heaven that day shook not only the house in which these friends were gathered but the whole city of Jerusalem.

What a scene it must have been, with the wind blowing like a hurricane and tongues of fire resting, I think, upon the shoulders of them all! But the wind and the fire were not the Spirit, but only came to announce the Spirit, The Spirit could not be seen, but He filled every one of them with such power that they left the upper room and went out into the streets praising God and telling of His mighty works.

Jerusalem was filled with people from many countries who had come to attend the Feast of Pentecost. And, while these men were Jews by birth they had learned only the language of the countries in which they had been brought up. They could not speak the Jewish tongue. These visitors were greatly troubled to know what the Christians were talking about. God wanted them to know. Therefore He gave His followers power to speak in the language of every stranger.

Let us pretend that we were in Jerusalem that day, listening to an inquiring group on one of the streets.

“That was a hard wind that we had a little while ago, but nothing seems to be blown down. Can’t understand it,” says one.

“Who are these queer people running around our streets talking about the wonderful works of God?” asks another.

“I do not know, but I have noticed that every stranger in our city finds one of them who speaks his language and can tell him what they are talking about,” answers a third.

“The strange part to me is the fact that they are all Galileans. We know very well that not many of them speak foreign tongues,” sneers another.

“Well, well, it is queer, but I wonder if they really do understand?” puts in a doubter.

“Don’t get excited,” adds a critic, “there is nothing the matter with these folk but too much wine. They are drunk.”

You see the crowd was first amazed, then doubtful, and last of all critical.

I know that you are wondering why some of the Christians did not stand up and explain these strange things to the troubled people.

That is just what Peter did. Our old friend Peter who had been the spokesman for the disciples all through Christ's earthly ministry, now became the first preacher of the new Church.

We are not told where Peter stood, but in all probability it was upon the steps leading to the Temple. He found a place where the people could both see and hear him.

How still the crowd must have been as Peter, with the disciples around him, lifted up his voice in words that all could hear and understand and said, "Listen to me, men of Judea and you who live in Jerusalem. You ought to know that these are not drunk, for Jews do not drink a drop of wine nor eat a bite of bread until this hour of the day. How then can they be drunken?"

Then Peter explained to them that this great manifestation was but a fulfillment of the prophecy of their own prophet, Joel. God had sent His Holy Spirit as He had promised. From this Peter went on to say that Jesus of Nazareth was approved of God. They with their wicked hands had crucified Him, but God had raised Him from the dead and exalted Him at His right hand in heaven. He told them that this same Jesus, whom they crucified, God had made both Lord and Christ.

How did Peter dare to deliver such a cutting message to these who hated the Lord? Some of the men who had urged the death of Jesus were in that very gathering. They would have enjoyed killing Peter, too.

When later Peter wrote his two letters to the Church he said that Christians are partakers of the divine nature. What does that mean?

It means that when the Holy Spirit came down that wonderful day of Pentecost and filled the disciples, that God had put into each of them a part of Himself. It was God's power in Peter that enabled him to preach that great sermon without fear of men. And today God puts His Spirit into all who believe and trust Him for salvation.

What was the result of Peter's sermon? The Bible tells us that three thousand were saved that day!

I am sure when Peter saw that great multitude accept Jesus Christ as Saviour, he thought of the day when, from the shores of Galilee, Jesus had said to him, "**Simon, fear not. From henceforth you shall catch men.**"

And not only on that day but on every day men and women came to Jesus Christ and accepted Him as their Saviour.

~ end of chapter 9 ~

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