Acts 2:1-13 (NIV)
1 When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place.  
2 Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting.  
3 They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them.  
4 All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them.  
5 Now there were staying in Jerusalem God-fearing Jews from every nation under heaven.  
6 When they heard this sound, a crowd came together in bewilderment, because each one heard them speaking in his own language.  
7 Utterly amazed, they asked: Are not all these men who are speaking Galileans?  
8 Then how is it that each of us hears them in his own native language?   
9 Parthians, Medes and Elamites; residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia,  
10 Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya near Cyrene; visitors from Rome  
11 (both Jews and converts to Judaism); Cretans and Arabs--we hear them declaring the wonders of God in our own tongues!”  
12 Amazed and perplexed, they asked one another, “What does this mean?”  
13 Some, however, made fun of them and said, “They have had too much wine.”
II. Jesus Is Still Implementing God’s Global Gospel Plan—v.5-11

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 them speaking in his own language. Utterly amazed, they asked: “Are not all these men who are speaking Galileans? Then how is it that each of us hears them in his own 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!”

A. Divine power was displayed by this miraculous ability of believers to speak in languages they’d never learned; but divine wisdom was evident in the timing of that miracle and the nature of the miracle:
1. Miraculous speech might have drawn spectators, without doing them any good; but at Pentecost season, Jews from foreign lands were visiting in Jerusalem just at the right time: God’s timing!
2. Saying the right words at the wrong time can be wasted breath. (God knows the exact timing that’s best for us to speak about “the wonders of God” to someone; so, we must be alert and ready at any time to be a channel, to speak up by the Spirit’s prompting.)

B. Jesus told His Jewish disciples—John 10:16— I have other sheep that are not of this sheep pen. I must bring them also. They too will listen to my voice, and there shall be one flock and one shepherd. (At Pentecost, He began to do this, setting His words on the lips of believers by the Spirit.)
1. Visitors, soon to return to different parts of the Roman Empire, heard them declare “the wonders of God” in languages foreign to the Jewish culture. (Jews sought cultural sameness and uniformity; God wants to bring cultural diversity into the unity of one faith.)
2. If race, culture, education level, economic status, political party, shape how we relate to others, Jesus is calling us to follow Him in seeking lost sheep across all these so-called barriers.

III. Jesus Is Still Addressing Questioners and Skeptics—v.12-13

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.”

A. That latter group—the skeptics, the mockers, the ridiculers—are not a group easily won to Christ.
1. They set a trap for themselves by their words of mockery and ridicule. (Repentance [metanoia=change of mind] would be to admit they were wrong—a direct blow to their pride and reputation.)
2. But a deeper preventative to faith might be a stubborn self-will: unwillingness to submit their moral choices to the laws of God.
3. Despite miracles and signs, their hearts remain hard in unbelief, just as those who mocked Christ on the Cross. (But Jesus showed us how to confront them: “Father, forgive they don’t know what they do.”)

B. There are also legitimate questioners: those asking about miracles and supernatural events with an authentic desire to know the truth. (Jesus gives such people a promise—Mat 7:7—Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you.)

CONCLUSION:

In his sermon that follows this passage, Peter directly answers what true seekers ask: “What does this mean?” But what we’ve looked at today is the underlying meaning of the Holy Spirit’s outpouring: Pentecost meant that Jesus hadn’t finished His work on earth. Jesus is not done working through His followers; He’s not done reaching out with His global Gospel message; and He’s not done confronting skepticism and answering true seekers. Because of this outpouring of the Holy Spirit on the Day of Pentecost, He is still doing His work on earth. So, let’s be ready and available for Him to continue doing His earthy work through us.