

# Acts 2:12

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And they were all amazed, and were in doubt, saying one to another, What meaneth this?

## Analysis

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The dual response - amazement (Greek 'existanto') and doubt (v. 13's mockery) - typifies humanity's reaction to divine revelation. The honest inquiry 'What meaneth this?' represents genuine spiritual seeking, while others' ridicule demonstrates hardened hearts. This division fulfills Christ's prophecy that He came not to bring peace but a sword, separating those whom the Father draws from those who resist grace.

## Historical Context

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The phrase 'doubting' (Greek 'diaporeo') means 'thoroughly perplexed' rather than skeptical disbelief. These observers lacked categories to explain supernatural phenomena contradicting natural order. Their question invited apostolic explanation, which Peter provided in his sermon (Acts 2:14-40).

## Related Passages

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**Romans 10:9** — Confession and belief for salvation

**Ephesians 2:8** — Salvation by grace through faith

**Romans 1:17** — The righteous shall live by faith

**Hebrews 11:1** — Definition of faith

## Study Questions

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1. How do you respond when confronted with God's works that exceed your understanding - with humble inquiry or skeptical dismissal?
2. What role does perplexity play in the journey toward genuine faith?

## Interlinear Text

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ἐξίσταντο	δὲ	πάντες	καὶ	διηπόρουν	ἄλλοι	πρὸς	ἄλλοι
amazed	And	all	and	were in doubt	another	to	another
G1839	G1161	G3956	G2532	G1280	G243	G4314	G243
λέγοντες	Τί	ἄν	θέλοι	τοῦτο	εἰναι		
saying	What	G302	meaneth	this	G1511		
G3004	G5101		G2309	G5124			

## Additional Cross-References

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**Acts 17:20** (Parallel theme): For thou bringest certain strange things to our ears: we would know therefore what these things mean.

**Luke 18:36** (Parallel theme): And hearing the multitude pass by, he asked what it meant.

**Luke 15:26** (Parallel theme): And he called one of the servants, and asked what these things meant.