

THIS WEEK'S MESSAGE

ACTS OF THE APOSTLES

IT BEGINS (ACTS 2:1-4) THE DAY OF PENTECOST

In the OT Jewish people would celebrate 50 days after the Passover offering (also known as the Feast of Weeks). In the NT it signifies 50 days after Jesus died.

- As the 120 followers of Jesus were praying and waiting on God, something "like a violent wind" rushed through the room. This wind was mentioned in John 3:7-8.

FILLED WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT

The 3rd phenomenon was speaking in different languages that they didn't know, but the Holy Spirit enabled them to do so. **This was a unique event that was never repeated the exact same way.**

- Acts 2 is commonly used to argue that one must speak in tongues to show evidence of the HS. Though speaking in tongues is a Gift of the Spirit, this kind of speaking in tongues (Acts 2) is a very rare occurrence. Acts 2 is different from the "tongues of angels" and "interpreting tongues" Paul addresses in 1 Corinthians.

FILLED WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT (V4)

People also argue over what the "infilling of the Spirit" means. In NT teaching on being filled with the Spirit, we see baptism of the spirit is associated with conversion and filling is associated with ministry.

Baptism of the Spirit seems to happen once, while infilling should be a continual occurrence.

A COMMOTION (ACTS 2:5-13) WHAT ARE THE JESUS PEOPLE DOING?

As the disciples were praising God in languages they shouldn't have been able to speak, many people from all over could hear the commotion from the Upper Room.

AREN'T THESE GALILEANS?

Galilee is a region in Northern Israel where the majority of the disciples were from. People from this region would have only spoken Aramaic and Greek unless they were scholars. Though there were 15 languages, the message from them all was the "magnificent acts of God." God essentially gave them the ability to proclaim the Gospel to people from almost every corner of the world.

LOOKING FOR ANSWERS OR SHRUGGING IT AWAY

We find the people who heard the commotion of God filling His people with His Spirit at a crossroads. **Do they open their minds and ask what God is doing, or do they simply laugh it off and go about their daily lives?**

PROPHECY (ACTS 2:14-21)

The **now Spirit-filled Peter** steps up when he notices the confusion of the onlookers, and brings clarity to what is happening.

- We must remember that God transforms us!** Look at the change in Peter who now starts to take the reigns and lead people.

"THEY ARE NOT DRUNK AS YOU SUPPOSE"

Peter reminds them that 9am isn't really a drinking hour. He also drops a lesson on history and prophecy as he launched into a recitation of Joel 2:28-32. Roughly 800 years before Jesus was born, Joel prophesied that God would "pour out My Spirit."

EVERYONE WHO CALLS ON HIS NAME WILL BE SAVED

Through the death, burial, resurrection, and ascension of Jesus, we now have access to God's Spirit.

Because of this direct access, **we are no longer saved by religious works, but through the "calling of His name" that invokes His grace.**

THIS IS THE END OF THE BEGINNING

Jesus' ministry was about to be passed to His followers after Pentecost. The 3 ½ years of prepping the 12 were now coming into fruition. **The mission of showing love and sharing the gospel still continues today through Christians.**

RESPONSIBLE (ACTS 2:22-36) PETER'S FIRST SERMON IS A DOOZY

Peter reminds the massive crowd about the life and ministry of Jesus that displayed amazing signs, wonders, and miracles. Peter is essentially calling them out for not recognizing that 100s of prophecies were fulfilled by Christ.

HE WAS "DELIVERED UP" TO FULFILL THE PLAN

Peter informs them that Jesus' crucifixion was God's preordained plan, but they had willingly chosen to allow officials to unlawfully take Jesus' life.

- Like several other places in the Bible, we see the parallel roads of predestination and free will. This is often called the "divine paradox."

THERE WERE 4 PIECES OF EVIDENCE PETER USED TO SHOW HE WAS RAISED FROM THE DEAD

David's prophecy from Psalm 16, the **500 witnesses of the ascension**, the **miracle at Pentecost**, and the

testimony of the 11 disciples.

THOUGH PETER KNEW THE OT, IT WAS JUST BECOMING ALIVE TO HIM

The Spirit allowed Peter to see that Christ is the connecting point of the OT and NT. Peter connected the dots of centuries of teachings to the pouring out of God's Spirit in that moment. **Jesus is the linchpin!**

- With the Spirit, the principles and instructions of the Word become life giving. The Gospel doesn't stop at the resurrection but continues with our infilling of His Spirit!

SALVATION (ACTS 2:37-40)

THE RESPONSE TO THE REVELATION OF JESUS

Acts 2:38 is one of the most pivotal scriptures in the Bible. Peter doesn't hesitate to answer, **"What should we do?"** with **"Repent, and be baptized in the name of Jesus** for the forgiveness of sins, and you will receive the Gift of the Holy Spirit."

THE METHOD OF BECOMING A CHRISTIAN

Acknowledge Who Jesus is: To know that He is the only Savior. **Repent:** To ask God to forgive us and to choose to step away from a life of sin. This is a lifestyle, not just a one-time occurrence. **Baptism:** A public profession that we follow Jesus. **Devoting our life to Jesus:** Prayer, study, and application of the Bible's teachings

THROUGH THIS WE RECEIVE HIS SPIRIT

Paul echoed Peter in Ephesians 1:13 when he said that when we believed in (devoted ourselves to) Jesus, we were sealed with the Spirit. **Belief beckons a response, both from us and God. We respond by repentance, baptism, and obedience. He responds with His promised Holy Spirit.**

THIS PROMISE IS FOR ALL HE CALLS

Peter "testified and strongly urged" them to "be saved from this corrupt generation" showing that some needed further convincing.

- Anyone who **humbles themselves, recognizes they need Jesus, and calls on His name** will receive His Spirit. Then, they're called to **a life of obedience to Him.**

THE APPLICATION (ACTS 2:41-47)

THE RAPID FORMATION OF THE EARLY CHURCH

After Peter's sermon, 3000+ people give their lives to Christ and are baptized. We start to see early Christian life as the followers of Jesus **devoted themselves to the teachings, fellowship, breaking bread (communion), and to prayer.**

THE GIFTS OF THE SPIRIT STARTED TO MANIFEST

Miraculous things happened through the apostles, and many became believers because of the Gifts of the Spirit that were being performed through them.

- Tongues, interpretation, healing, miracles, wisdom, knowledge, discernment, prophecy, and faith are used to edify the church and bring us closer to God

THE CHURCH GOES BEYOND THE GATHERINGS

We also see from the early Christians that following Jesus extends beyond the worship gatherings. They followed Jesus' command to **"love one another"** through **helping the less fortunate and even selling belongings to help those in need.**

ARE CHRISTIANS SOCIALISTS?

We are called to willingly and lovingly sacrifice for the greater good. Socialism mandates benevolence, **Christianity calls and inspires us to voluntarily and discretionarily give to others to make sure their needs are met.**

GOD ADDED MORE AND MORE TO THEIR COMMUNITY EVERYDAY.

They had a joyful and humble attitude, they praised God, and had a good reputation with all people. **The followers of Jesus were filled with His Spirit, which enabled them to have joy and be a good witness of Him to their world.**

WITNESSING

- Witnessing begins within the church. We're to be devoted to the Word, fellowship, communion, prayer, and worship.
- To be a witness means we show Christ outside our walls through benevolence, kindness, service, integrity, peacefulness, and love of all people.

TO WITNESS, WE MUST EXPERIENCE

- This is only possible if we're filled with the Holy Spirit. Sealed comes from conversion but ministry comes from being filled.
- Can we say we're **filled** with the Spirit of God? What are we doing to be continually filled?
- What are we doing with what is running over? Are we displaying the Fruit and Gifts of the Spirit?
- (Galatians 5, 1 Corinthians 12, Romans 12, 1 Peter 4)