

Powered Up
Acts 2:1-13
Notes

- The church can look good, sound good, even do good things, but can't do what it is designed to do without power.
- You as a believer can look good, sound good, come to church regular, but without power you can't really effect change in your own life.
- We are in a desperate need of the power of God, the power of the Holy Spirit.
- No church can function without the power of God. It may exist as an institution, but it will never bring about change, without the power of God.
- You may live a "good" life, but you will never live an impactful life without the power of the Holy Spirit.
- Think about your life. Are you living to the full potential God desires? Are you serving God in the fullness of your giftedness? Are you making kingdom level differences? Why or why not?
- Our impact in the world, our fulfilling the will of Christ in our lives is in direct relation to the power of the Holy Spirit in our lives.
- And for many of us, we forget, or at the very least downplay the power that lives within each of us.
- Acts 1 teases the birth of the church, but Acts 2 delivers the goods.
- We will see: How God prepared the way for the Spirit through Jesus, The Spirit is for all believers, and the goal of the Spirit is to bring men to Christ.

I. God Prepared the Way for the Holy Spirit Through Jesus (vv. 1-2)

- *When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. ² And suddenly there came from heaven a noise like a violent rushing wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. (Acts 2:1-2)*
- It has been 9 days since Jesus' was taken up to heaven. For 9 days these individuals have been praying, fasting, and seeking the will of God.
- They are all gathered together in a large room. The room is heavy with anticipation, as they all trust Jesus' words, they do not know what to expect.
- The day was the Jewish holy day of Shavuot or Pentecost, which is the single most important event in Israel's history which celebrates the giving of the Torah (first five books of Moses) on Mount Sinai following the Passover and Israel's exodus from Egypt.
- It is called Pentecost, meaning "50" because the giving of the Law occurred 50 days after Passover.

- So, they are in the room and the religious tension, expectation, and celebration are already high at this point.
- In the middle of this tense and exciting time the sound of rushing wind, possibly the noise level of a tornado or hurricane filled the room.
- At that moment, they did not realize, but their lives would never be the same and subsequently the world would never again be the same.
- The same is true for all believers. As we come into Christ our lives can never be the same.
- The events of the day were preceded and planned before they ever took place.
- The way the Holy Spirit came to the church was thru Jesus' death, burial, resurrection, and ascension-Jesus had to leave in order to for the Spirit to come down.
- Jesus himself gave instructions concerning the coming of the Holy Spirit.
 - o *"I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may be with you forever; that is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it does not see Him or know Him, but you know Him because He abides with you and will be in you."* **(Jn. 14:16-17)**
 - o *"But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all that I said to you."* **(Jn. 14:26)**
- We see, even before the Spirit's coming that he would come through Christ.
- Christ's ascension to heaven brought the Spirit.
- Luke records the descending of the Spirit in the current passage.
- The Spirit arrived because Jesus promised He would come.
- God prepared the coming of the Spirit through Jesus.
- This is important because the Spirit is also God-third person of the Holy Trinity.
- The Holy Spirit is no less God than Jesus, no less God than the Father.
- At Jesus' baptism (Mt. 3:13-17), Jesus himself is filled with the Spirit (dove) and empowered to do ministry.
- God gives us the Spirit so that we can live the life he commands us to live.
- The reason this is important is twofold:
 - o God always fulfills his promises
 - Encouraging for those of us who are anxious, worried, fearful, broken.
 - o We have a great need for the Spirit in our lives
 - God has given us power to do what he called us to do.

II. The Holy Spirit is for All Believers (vv. 3-4)

- From this loud wind what appears to be a giant tongue on fire appears from the center and this one tongue then breaks up into 120 tongues and lands on top of each of person.
- IMMEDIATELY there is a change within the crowd, for just moments earlier they were simply sitting here in the room with a bag full of good intentions, but in a moment, in a blink of an eye they are immediately filled with the very Spirit of God himself. (This filling takes place at salvation for all)
- Then, as a sign of this great miracle, each of us begin to speak in another language.
- ³And there appeared to them tongues as of fire distributing themselves, and they rested on each one of them. ⁴And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit was giving them utterance. (Acts 2:3-4)
- Fire often depicted the presence of God in the OT/fire represented God's holy presence. (Gen. 15:17; Ex. 3:2).
- As they were filled, they began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit gave "utterance"=ability.
- There is unnecessary confusion here from this text and I want to take a moment to offer some clarity.
- English "tongues" translates from Greek "glossa" which means physical tongues and the spoken word, human language/the language or dialect used by a particular people distinct from that of other nations.
- There should be no misunderstanding that what these individuals were doing were speaking known, understandable human languages.
- There are 3 reasons why we can know that the "tongues" mentioned here in the Bible is not some ecstatic prayer language which a person has to earn or work for as has been proposed by many charismatic teachers.
 - o **First**- "other tongues" is plural. "other" is a Greek word "heteros" meaning various. The languages were distinct from one another. "Tongues" is "glossa" which means human language. The people spoke in more than one actual language, not some heavenly prayer language-the idea of heaven having more than one language simply doesn't make since.
 - o **Second**, the practice of incomprehensible ecstatic speech known today as "speaking in tongues" has a long history in pagan religion-as seen in the prophets of Ba-al on Mt. Carmel (1 Kings 18) as they danced, cut themselves, and spoke in tongues wanting Ba-al to come and answer them. If these Christians had spoken in the ecstatic tongues seen today, their behavior would not have been regarded by onlookers as special, unique, or miraculous of God because it was done in the pagan temples daily.
 - o **Third**, as will be shown in verses 5-13 the spectators heard their native languages. The word for "language" means "dialect." People understood them because the "the Spirit gave them utterance."
- It is vitally important for us to understand something here-from this point on in church history, save a few very specific incidents in Acts, which we will cover- the Holy Spirit is given to each

and every person who calls on the Lord, repents of their sin, and places their faith in Christ Jesus-ALL NEW BELIEVERS.

- No one has to work for the Spirit wait for the Spirit or wish for the Spirit. It's a package deal: repent to the Father, the Son washes you, and the Spirit fills you-permanently identifying you with Christ from now to eternity.
- The Spirit identifies the believer, unifies the church, and glorifies the Son.
- You don't have to wait to get your present/God gives you the gift of everlasting life and his very Spirit on the same day at the same time.
- Why is this important? We need to know that God does not simply save us and throw us to the wolves of the world.
- Jesus promised the Spirit of God for you, to you, and in you and God has delivered on that promise.
- The Spirit is a seal of the promise of your salvation, of God's love, and of heaven.
- The moment you enter into a relationship with Jesus you have all you need to live for Christ and glorify him.
- Does this mean you are perfect and complete, lacking nothing?
- No. The work of the Holy Spirit in our lives is a lifelong process called sanctification. We will not be perfect until we see Jesus in glory.
- But the work of God giving you all you need, justifying you before the Father, washing you with the Son, and empowering you with all you need to serve and glorify God is intact at the moment of salvation.
- You are indwelt with the living God. There is nothing God cannot accomplish through you because he has given you all you need-his Son and his Spirit.

III. The Goal of the Holy Spirit is to Bring People to Christ (vv. 5-13)

⁵ Now there were Jews living in Jerusalem, devout men from every nation under heaven. ⁶ And when this sound occurred, the crowd came together, and were bewildered because each one of them was hearing them speak in his own language. ⁷ They were amazed and astonished, saying, "Why, are not all these who are speaking Galileans? ⁸ And how is it that we each hear them in our own language to which we were born? ⁹ Parthians and Medes and Elamites, and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, ¹⁰ Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the districts of Libya around Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, ¹¹ Cretans and Arabs—we hear them in our own tongues speaking of the mighty deeds of God." ¹² And they all continued in amazement and great perplexity, saying to one another, "What does this mean?" ¹³ But others were mocking and saying, "They are full of sweet wine." (Acts 2:5-13)

- These 120 people are suddenly and miraculously filled with the Spirit and began speaking in languages other than their own-naturally this makes a ruckus and so people are drawn to where they were gathered.
- The Bible tells us that because of the Diaspora, there were Jews scattered all across the known world, Luke mentions 15 different countries/geographic regions here.

- Because Pentecost was one of the three pilgrim festivals the city had an enlarged population coming from many nations.
- This crowd came together with at least 15 different languages, more than likely more, and each heard the men and women speaking in their own native language.
- What astounded them was that all these people were from Galilee. Galilee was like the Woodville of Palestine. Judea was the upper East Side with the deluxe apartments in the sky and Galilee was the hillbilly playing the empty moonshine bottle on the back porch. They were generally seen as unintellectual.
- Which is why the crowd was so shocked. How does a group of 120 untrained people begin to speak over 15 languages that are not theirs? THE HOLY SPIRIT.
- Now to be sure, some thought they were drunk, for there will always be people who refuse to recognize the work of God.
- The majority of the people were amazed because, notice what they were speaking-they were not speaking some ecstatic language no one could understand, they were speaking in human languages and they were speaking about the mighty deeds of God!
- The mightiest deed of God is the forgiveness of human sin.
- God filled the believers with the Holy Spirit and immediately they began to minister and share the gospel.
- The Holy Spirit brings individuals to Christ.
- The Holy Spirit within each of us yearns to use each of us to bring others to Christ.
- What about you this morning? Are you allowing the Spirit to empower you to use you for the glory of Jesus?
- Are you being filled with the Spirit so your life can be used for missions and ministry?
- Are you allowing the Holy Spirit to fill you and share the great grace of Jesus with others?
- The Holy Spirit filled these men and women so they could go out in their communities and their world and share the good news of Jesus Christ.
- And guess what-he has done the same thing and expects the same thing for us today.