



Acts: And They Devoted Themselves

Acts 2:1-48
June 19, 2022

Be sure you have read through the passage before discussing the questions with your small group. Also, you can watch or rewatch the sermon by going to <http://switzerlandcommunitychurch.org>

When the day of Pentecost arrived, they were all together in one place. And suddenly there came from heaven a sound like a mighty rushing wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. And divided tongues as of fire appeared to them and rested on each one of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance.

Now there were dwelling in Jerusalem Jews, devout men from every nation under heaven. And at this sound the multitude came together, and they were bewildered, because each one was hearing them speak in his own language. And they were amazed and astonished, saying, "Are not all these who are speaking Galileans? And how is it that we hear, each of us in his own native language? Parthians and Medes and Elamites and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, Cretans and Arabians—we hear them telling in our own tongues the mighty works of God." And all were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, "What does this mean?" But others mocking said, "They are filled with new wine."

But Peter, standing with the eleven, lifted up his voice and addressed them: "Men of Judea and all who dwell in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and give ear to my words. For these people are not drunk, as you suppose, since it is only the third hour of the day. But this is what was uttered through the prophet Joel:

"And in the last days it shall be, God declares, that I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh, and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams; even on my male servants and female servants in those days I will pour out my Spirit, and they shall prophesy. And I will show wonders in the heavens above and signs on the earth below, blood, and fire, and vapor of smoke; the sun shall be turned to darkness and the moon to blood, before the day of the Lord comes, the great

and magnificent day. And it shall come to pass that everyone who calls upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.

“Men of Israel, hear these words: Jesus of Nazareth, a man attested to you by God with mighty works and wonders and signs that God did through him in your midst, as you yourselves know— this Jesus, delivered up according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of lawless men. God raised him up, loosing the pangs of death, because it was not possible for him to be held by it. For David says concerning him,

“I saw the Lord always before me, for he is at my right hand that I may not be shaken; therefore my heart was glad, and my tongue rejoiced; my flesh also will dwell in hope. For you will not abandon my soul to Hades, or let your Holy One see corruption. You have made known to me the paths of life; you will make me full of gladness with your presence.’

“Brothers, I may say to you with confidence about the patriarch David that he both died and was buried, and his tomb is with us to this day. Being therefore a prophet, and knowing that God had sworn with an oath to him that he would set one of his descendants on his throne, he foresaw and spoke about the resurrection of the Christ, that he was not abandoned to Hades, nor did his flesh see corruption. This Jesus God raised up, and of that we all are witnesses. Being therefore exalted at the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, he has poured out this that you yourselves are seeing and hearing. For David did not ascend into the heavens, but he himself says,

“The Lord said to my Lord, “Sit at my right hand, until I make your enemies your footstool.”

Let all the house of Israel therefore know for certain that God has made him both Lord and Christ, this Jesus whom you crucified.”

Now when they heard this they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, “Brothers, what shall we do?” And Peter said to them, “Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is for you and for your children and for all who are far off, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to himself.” And with many other words he bore witness and continued to exhort them, saying, “Save yourselves from this crooked generation.” So those who received his word were baptized, and there were added that day about three thousand souls.

And they devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. And awe came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. And all who believed were together and had all things in common. And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need. And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved.

Acts 2:14-47, ESV

And They Devoted Themselves

The indwelling of the Spirit is rooted in the Gospel of Jesus Christ crucified which transforms and changes those who repent to be more like Him!

Acts chapter 2 sees one of the most iconic and memorable parts of the birth of the church. Jesus had told the disciples to stay in Jerusalem until they experience the filling of the Holy Spirit. The moment, primarily in the first part of Acts 2, is what has become known as Pentecost. This term just means 50 days after Passover and it coincided with the Jewish Feast of Weeks. During this time, people would bring their first fruits, or first reaping of the harvest in dedication to God. The first and the best of what we have is given to God knowing that all that is good came from God anyway.

On the day of Pentecost, the Spirit of God fell upon the disciples and all who were staying together and they began to speak. During the Feast of Weeks, many Jews not just from Jerusalem but from Judea, Samaria, and the ends of the earth would have come to the temple to present their first fruits. But then, the Spirit of God fell and the men of God began to speak in tongues, or languages not their own. And each person in a crowded town with people from all over the world began to hear the Gospel and the glories of God in their own language. God met them where they were at and revealed Himself to them in order to draw them to Himself.

Yet, Pentecost is one of those days that everyone seems to have an opinion of some kind as to what they want it to be about. While the momentary gift of tongues during this point is absolutely important, it misses the overall purpose of the gift. The temptation we frequently experience is to attempt to make scripture about us and about giving us things. This is not only not true, but it would be a burden of the center of all creation revolved around us. We cannot save people, only God can save people. It is only by the Spirit within us that people can receive the witness of God to the world repent and believe in Him.

The indwelling of the Spirit is rooted in the Gospel of Jesus Christ crucified which transforms and changes those who repent to be more like Him!

Jesus Christ and Him Crucified

- *Acts 2:22-24 Men of Israel, hear these words: Jesus of Nazareth, a man attested to you by God with mighty works and wonders and signs that God did through him in your midst, as you yourselves know— this Jesus, delivered up according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of lawless men. God raised him up, loosing the pangs of death, because it was not possible for him to be held by it.*
- Jesus Christ crucified is the foundation for the Gospel and for our faith.
- The role of the Spirit within a person and the gifts of the Spirit are not to draw attention to oneself but rather to draw attention to Jesus Christ crucified.

- The best news I can give you is that the bible is not about you. You are not the focus. You do not uphold the universe. You do not bring people from death to life.
- Furthermore, we can focus on what we receive as far as gifts are concerned that we neglect the greatest gift we can could have ever possibly obtained.
- We like to read the passages in Ephesians, 1 Corinthians, and Romans and figure out what giftings we have been given. The purpose of these gifts though is that they would become a witness to the power of God to transform and renew a person to right relationship with God.
- The gifts of the Spirit are not party tricks but gifts given for a time to build up the church and confess the Lordship of Jesus Christ over all the world.
- The foundational truth of the Gospel is that Jesus Christ died on the cross a sinners death, for our sake.
- The Father is eternally unbegotten. The Son is eternally sent by the Father. The Spirit is eternally given by the Son.
 - The fullness of God works in and through the believer to proclaim His glory.
- *Romans 6:23 For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.*
- The issue is sin is far greater than anything any of us thing it is. It separates us from the source of life, God Himself. Furthermore, Jesus brutal death on the cross is caused by us. Because of our sin, blood must me spilled.
 - We cannot continually seek to distance ourselves from the effects of our immediate sin. One thing you see as people sin is they use this depersonalizing language. I messed up. It was just one time. I was just tempted.
 - We need to confront the reality and the depth of our depravity for what it is.
 - Unless we turn to Jesus, no amount of being “good enough” will pay the debt we owe from our sin.
 - Its not just bad decisions, it’s a heart that has rebelled against God.
- For some of us, that is where we are. We are aware of our sin and know that without Jesus Christ, we will forever experience the wrath of God in hell. We know that no matter how hard we try, we need a Savior. And the Spirit stirs within us to know our need as He reveals Himself to us.

Cut To The Heart

- *Acts 2:37-38 Now when they heard this they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, “Brothers, what shall we do?” And Peter said to them, “Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.*
- When the people heard the people of God proclaiming the Gospel in their language and hearing the sermon of Peter, the people who heard them were confronted with both a problem and a solution.
 - The miraculous telling of their Gospel in their own language could only have been accomplished by the hand of God

- The disciples at this point, were not the most book learned people. They had been a simple people who would have obviously been from Galilee, a place not known for its sophistication.
- Yet, here was this group of people speaking in all kinds of languages with tongues of fire above their heads.
- Everyone, having come from all over the world, heard the Gospel in their own language.
- They were cut to the heart. It went further than just a theological knowledge and understanding and their heart had been convicted through the Spirit at work in them.
- The Gospel became personal to them through the context of meeting the people where they were at and where they were from. This is the incarnational ministry of Jesus Christ.
 - Rather than expecting people to realize their need and ask Jesus to forgive their sins, Jesus came first, He loved first, and He called to His people first, who were dead in their sins.
- There is no such thing as “too far gone” for Jesus Christ. Christ died knowing full well the depth of your sin and depravity. He died while you were in rebellion against Him, knowing that without Jesus you would die. So Jesus made a way where there was no way.
- Like the people who came before, we have to wrestle with what we do with a God who took on flesh and came to be with us.
- Our response is to repent and believe that Jesus Christ is Lord and Savior. To dedicate your life to following Him and turning away from the sin that so easily ensnares.
 - *Romans 10:9-10 If you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved.*
 - There is no cleaning yourself up in order to be saved. God and God alone saves.
- Some of us are here in this stage. We feel the tug of the Spirit on our hearts and the message is clear, repent and turn to Jesus. Turn from death and take the gift of life that comes from Jesus Christ.

And They Devoted Themselves

- *Acts 2:42-44 And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. And awe came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. And all who believed were together and had all things in common.*
- Through the baptism of the Holy Spirit, we are marked for an inheritance for all eternity.
- We cannot experience this type of baptism and not be radically changed from the inside out.

- There is a new life that comes from the Baptism of the Holy Spirit. We become aware of the sin that kept us in Spiritual bondage and returning to it becomes much harder. We understanding the inconsistency of the following the flesh after become alive by the Spirit within us.
- Christianity, though, is not just a lack of a negative but the greatest joy of affirming a positive. We have a new life that, while it may look different than the world around us, we know is far better than anything we could ask for.
- *Galatians 2:20 I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.*
- Teachings of the Apostles
 - In short, the people of God studied His word and the teaching of the apostles who walked and talked with Jesus. They delved into the revealed mysteries of God.
 - Devotion to the teaching of the apostles in our modern day looks like intentionally engaging in studying the scriptures, seeking qualified teaching, and learning theology.
 - Theology should not be a scary word or just something done by the academics. We all have the opportunity and ability to learn and study who God is and what He is doing in this world by engaging with God's self-revelation of Himself to us for His glory and to our benefit.
- The Fellowship
 - Koinonia is the notion of a shared life. Those who trusted in Him put themselves out there is mutual accountability with one another for the sake of lifting one another up.
 - The people had access to one another's life. There was a shared intimacy of living with one another, sharing in each other's needs, sharing in each other's victories. Mourning with one another and rejoicing with one another.
- Breaking of Bread
 - The breaking of bread is not just a shared meal. It is the participating in communion with one another. It's a remembrance of the sacrifice of Jesus Christ so that we might be free
 - We live dedicated to a New Covenant standard knowing that we have been freed from sin by the blood of Jesus Christ shed on the cross.
- Prayer
 - Finally, to prayer. We devote ourselves to spending time with God, pouring our heart out to Him and allow Him to speak.
 - Our life devoted to prayer looks like prioritizing our time with God rather than attempting to give God the scraps of our day when we get to it.

The Holy Spirit's work is founded on the Gospel of Jesus Christ and His works point people to witness to Jesus Christ in our life. We repent from our previous way of life and by the Spirit are empowered to live a life dedicated to following after Jesus Christ. By His grace we are saved. By His Spirit we are strengthened so that the world would know Him as they see us fully consumed by the love and grace of God.

Connect Group Guide for Sermon Talk Back

Open in Prayer

Open up your gathering in prayer. Ask that God would reveal His word to you and move in and through your conversation to transform and renew you to glorify Him.

Read Acts 2

Have a couple people in the group read Acts 2 together. After reading it, ask to see if anyone has any immediate questions or observations from the text.

Discussion Questions

1. How did the people first respond to the speaking of tongues in Acts chapter 2? What was really going on here?
2. Where do you see the character of God present? What qualities do you see in God's provision of the Holy Spirit?
3. What does it mean that Jesus had an incarnational approach? How should this guide our approach to sharing the Gospel in our modern day?
4. What does it mean to repent? Why is this important to our spiritual walk?
5. When the people heard, they shaped and formed their lives according to the word of God. Where are you succeeding in the things that followers dedicated themselves to and where do you need more improvement?

Prayer Requests

Challenge for the Week

The Holy Spirit within us works to testify to the goodness of God through the work of Jesus Christ on the cross. We bear witness to the Gospel by allowing the Spirit to move within us. Pray that God would reveal someone who needs to know His word this week.

