

## The Coming of the Holy Spirit

**Acts 2:1-12** When the day of Pentecost arrived, they were all together in one place. <sup>2</sup> And suddenly there came from heaven a sound like a mighty rushing wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. <sup>3</sup> And divided tongues as of fire appeared to them and rested on each one of them. <sup>4</sup> And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance. <sup>5</sup> Now there were dwelling in Jerusalem Jews, devout men from every nation under heaven. <sup>6</sup> And at this sound the multitude came together, and they were bewildered, because each one was hearing them speak in his own language. <sup>7</sup> And they were amazed and astonished, saying, "Are not all these who are speaking Galileans?" <sup>8</sup> And how is it that we hear, each of us in his own native language? <sup>9</sup> Parthians and Medes and Elamites and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, <sup>10</sup> Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, <sup>11</sup> both Jews and proselytes, Cretans and Arabians—we hear them telling in our own tongues the mighty works of God." <sup>12</sup> And all were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, "What does this mean?" <sup>13</sup> But others mocking said, "They are filled with new wine." <sup>14</sup> 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. <sup>15</sup> For these people are not drunk, as you suppose, since it is only the third hour of the day. <sup>16</sup> But this is what was uttered through the prophet Joel: <sup>17</sup> " '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; <sup>18</sup> even on my male servants and female servants in those days I will pour out my Spirit, and they shall prophesy. <sup>19</sup> And I will show wonders in the heavens above and signs on the earth below, blood, and fire, and vapor of smoke; <sup>20</sup> the sun shall be turned to darkness and the moon to blood, before the day of the Lord comes, the great and magnificent day. <sup>21</sup> And it shall come to pass that everyone who calls upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.'

### ❖ Introduction

- Going to really take our time through this chapter... I want to answer as many questions as possible
- **Why Acts is So Important...**
  - Because we see the church grow...
  - We see the church reach out... we see them teach...
  - And we want to mimic that...
- **Corrected Statistics...**
  - Of 350,000 in the St Tammany Area... (I think this is correct... may be northshore)
    - 3.3% attend worship at an Southern Baptist Church
    - Less than 6% attend our churches plus all the other Evangelical churches combined
      - ◆ Including Methodists and Presbyterians, etc.
      - ◆ Churches with good doctrine that reach out to the lost with a Gospel according to Faith
    - 2.1 % bible study
    - 69,000 children under age 15 without an influence of God in their lives
  - We have to catch a vision for this...
    - We need to take ownership of this...
    - We need to have a conviction to reach those around us...

### ❖ Points to Re-Summarize:

- **It is Vital to your Walk as a Christian and our life as a church.**
  - To understand the person and works of the Holy Spirit.
- **Let me make just a few summarized points:**

- Baptism of the Spirit is when the believer is placed into the body of Christ and given the Holy Spirit.
  - The coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost was totally unique in the history of the church.
    - But it was representative in many ways as to how God would move.
  - From that day forward being saved or born again meant the person had received the Holy Spirit.
  - **There are different manifestations of the Holy Spirit filling the believer.**
    - The Disciples were consistently and continually filled
      - ◆ We are told to seek the filling of the Holy Spirit
        - Eph 5:18 Do not be drunk with wine which is debauchery but be filled with the Spirit.
    - We can not say exactly how this works at all times because God is sovereign
      - ◆ **The Holy Spirit does what He wants... Jesus said:**
        - John 3:7-8 <sup>7</sup> Do not marvel that I said to you, 'You must be born again.' <sup>8</sup> The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear its sound, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit."
        - **So... there are many things about the Spirit of God** that are and will remain a mystery to us...
    - WATER AND JUGS EXAMPLE ( a crude example likely) but maybe helpful
      - ◆ Swimming pool is the world
      - ◆ Different sized bowls
      - ◆ Pour differing amounts in different bowls at different times...
      - ◆ The day of Pentecost was a mighty outpouring of the Holy Spirit
      - ◆ The Great Awakening and other times in history...
      - ◆ Sometimes a little here, and a little here...
      - ◆ Sometimes He comes a lot at one time
      - ◆ Sometimes there is a slow trickle of His filling
- **Yet, There is a pattern throughout scripture:**
- That shows the Holy Spirit moving in mighty ways in men in accordance to their Holy Lifestyles
    - Believers living in sin normally do not get to experience the awesome and powerful moving of the Holy Spirit
  - **The Holy Spirit shows Himself through us in a number of ways. Three of the main ones are:**
    - 1) Being a Powerful Witness of the Gospel for the salvation of Souls
    - 2) Bearing the fruit of the Spirit (A Holy Lifestyle)
    - 3) Being gifted with gifts of the Spirit.
  - **The believer will lack power in ministry for the Lord when they do not live filled with the Spirit**
    - Especially when they are not yielding to the convictions and movings of the Spirit in their lives.
      - ◆ **Ephesians 4:29-32** <sup>29</sup> Let no corrupting talk come out of your mouths, but only such as is good for building up, as fits the occasion, that it may give grace to those who hear. <sup>30</sup> And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. <sup>31</sup> Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice. <sup>32</sup> Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you.
      - **Expound just a bit**
      - ◆ 1 Thess 5:12 <sup>12</sup> We ask you, brothers, to respect those who labor among you and are over you in the Lord and admonish you, <sup>13</sup> and to esteem them very highly in love because of their work. Be at peace among yourselves. <sup>14</sup> And we urge you, brothers, admonish the idle, encourage the fainthearted, help the weak, be patient with them all. <sup>15</sup> See that no one repays anyone evil for evil, but always seek to do good to one another and to everyone. <sup>16</sup> Rejoice always, <sup>17</sup> pray without ceasing, <sup>18</sup> give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the

will of God in Christ Jesus for you. <sup>19</sup> **Do not quench the Spirit.** <sup>20</sup> Do not despise prophecies, <sup>21</sup> but test everything; hold fast what is good. <sup>22</sup> Abstain from every form of evil.

➤ **Explain a little bit more**

❖ **In Conclusion: (And this is so important to realize)...**

- The moving of the Holy Spirit is not a feeling or emotion...
  - although feelings and emotions are involved...
- The moving of the Spirit is also not an intellectual thing...
  - although intellect is involved...
- I believe the best way to understand the moving of the Spirit is to look at the results...
  - Now... let us be careful here... I am not saying pragmatism...
  - I am not saying numbers or droves of people responding...
- **Look at the lives of the people and you can tell if the Spirit is moving in them...**
  - 1) Are they an active witness of the Gospel
  - 2) Are they exhibiting the fruit of the Holy Spirit in their lives (A Holy Lifestyle)
  - 3) Are they using the gifts of the Holy Spirit in their lives?
- **Pretty Simple and practical I believe...**
  - Now... We will be up and down on this throughout our lives...
  - And Paul says to us clearly...
    - **Galatians 5:16-17** <sup>16</sup> But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. <sup>17</sup> For the desires of the flesh are against the Spirit, and the desires of the Spirit are against the flesh, for these are opposed to each other, to keep you from doing the things you want to do.
  - **The Holy Spirit moving in your lives will make you want to live more Holy like Him...**
    - **Not less Holy...**

❖ **Today's Outline:**

- **Just going to be an abbreviated version of these verses...**
  - Just going to generally go through these verses and give some background
  - Lay some foundation so we can get where we are going
    - Will spend a little extra time on just a few things..
  - And do our best to come to a fuller understanding of some very important doctrine
  - Surrounding one of the greatest days in the early Church...
- **Outline:**
  - What is the Day of Pentecost?
  - Why Send the Spirit Then?
  - The Coming of the Holy Spirit
  - Maybe we will get to.... An Overview of first 21 verses of ch. 2
- **In the coming weeks and sermons we will be trying to answer a ton of your possible questions...**
  - Please turn in the questions...
- **Questions to Answer and Points to Make:**
  - What is the meaning of Pentecost?
    - And Why did God choose this day of all days to send the Spirit in such power
  - What is speaking in tongues? And what are their purpose? (In light of Harvest)
  - Harvest comes when H.S. moves
  - Why does the Holy Spirit move when He does and How He does?
  - Why is there seemingly no set patten in how the Holy Spirit moves?
    - But, what are the results?
  - What did Jesus say the Holy Spirit would come and do to the world?
  - How can we view the world and missions with the coming of the Holy Spirit?

- How was the day of Pentecost unique, yet similar to His workings throughout History?
- What is the Holy Spirit's Role within the Godhead?
- What are the gifts of the Spirit?
- How does the Holy Spirit proclaim the greatness of God and how the applies to believers today?
- Going to draw a connection between you being filled with the Spirit meaning you being filled with the Spirit's experience of God.
- What are the last days? Are we living in them?
- Going to make the point that God will remove every obstacle that hinders the reaching of people with the gospel.
- Was the prophecy in Joel fulfilled completely or partially?
- Prophecy was connected intimately with the coming of the Spirit.
  - What is prophecy today?
  - Is there a difference between the O.T. and N.T. in regards to prophecy?
- **I want us to look at Jesus' love for the Church.**
  - And how we are to serve her, encourage her, and build her up.
  - Not tear her down, degrade her, and stay away from her.
  - Easy to talk about the problems of the churches... much harder to be a part of the solution.
- Your questions...

#### ❖ What is the Day of Pentecost?

- <sup>1</sup>When the day of Pentecost arrived, they were all together in one place.
- All together in one place.
  - We assume the 120 were all together.
  - They were likely at the same place they went to after Jesus ascended...
- **And it was the Day of Pentecost...**
  - Pentecost literally means: Fiftieth
  - And it occurs 50 days after Passover...
  - So, Passover is the day that Jesus was crucified
  - And Pentecost is 50 days after
  - **Both Days were days of celebration**
    - Where Jewish men were supposed to travel to Jerusalem
  - **Passover was a celebration of the Jewish people**
    - Of God delivering them out of Egypt after an especially mighty Plague
    - Where the firstborn of Egypt died
    - While the Israelite children were protected
    - Because they were protected after making a sacrifice of a lamb and placing its blood on the door posts of their homes...
  - **So, the connection from Passover and the Day Jesus is crucified is very easy to see**
  - **Pentecost is similarly easy to see the connection**
    - Pentecost was another feast the Jewish people celebrated...
    - It meant: Feast of Harvest, or Feast of Weeks, or Feast of First Fruits...
    - And you can read about it in Exodus 23 and Deut 16
    - And it was a time when the people would celebrate God's provision of the wheat harvest...

#### ❖ Why Send the Spirit Then?

- **1) There would be an abnormally high amount of people from around the world there...**
  - So, many nations would be represented
- **2) The Day of Pentecost was a day of celebration of Harvest...**

- And we are about to see a great harvest of many souls on that very day
- **It is no accident that God waited until when He did when sending the Spirit**
  - He is being very intentional in everything He does...
- 3,000 people were Saved that day...
- **The whole thing is so fitting**
  - Since the children of God are referred to as wheat in comparison to tares by Jesus
  - Also, Jesus referred to Himself as a grain of wheat
    - John 12:24 <sup>24</sup> Truly, truly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit.
  - And we see this fulfillment in a mighty way on the day of Pentecost.

#### ❖ **The Holy Spirit Comes**

- <sup>2</sup> And suddenly there came from heaven a sound like a mighty rushing wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. <sup>3</sup> And divided tongues as of fire appeared to them and rested on each one of them.
- **A mighty Rushing Wind**
  - Here the Spirit manifests His coming as a mighty rushing wind.
    - And as tongues of fire
    - That rested on each one of them
  - This is similar and completely different as to how the Spirit came upon Jesus at His baptism
    - When it descended upon Him like a dove.
- **The Holy Spirit Comes as He Wants**
  - So I want us to understand from scripture that the Holy Spirit is Free
    - He is free to come and go as He pleases...
    - Except where He promises to stay... as in the believer who in indwelt with the Spirit
  - He also manifests himself in different ways
  - He also does this to various degrees... sometimes more and sometimes less.

#### ❖ **The Holy Spirit Causes them to Speak in Tongues**

- <sup>4</sup> And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance.
- **Definition of Tongues:**
  - Greek word glossais coming from the root word glossa which means tongue
  - Here we see Luke say they began to speak in other tongues...
  - The meaning of the word tongue can obviously mean this organ of your body that is in your mouth
    - The pink thing in your mouth
    - But that is not what Luke is speaking about here...
    - Cause it would be really weird if they were speaking with someone else's tongue...
  - It is referring to other languages...
  - Speaking in another language
  - This is Apparent from verse 6 where we learn that people from all over the world
    - Begin hearing the disciples in their own language.
- **They Were Filled with the Holy Spirit**
  - Again we are seeing this terminology of being FILLED with the Holy Spirit.
  - The promise had been fulfilled...
  - **Jesus had told them in Acts 1.4,5 8**

- <sup>4</sup> And while staying with them he ordered them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the promise of the Father, which, he said, “you heard from me; <sup>5</sup> for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.”
- <sup>8</sup> But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”
- **Began to Speak in other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance...**
  - Wayne Grudem... Who we love and respect for his sound theology
    - Defines speaking in tongues as:
      - ◆ Prayer or praise spoken in syllables not understood by the speaker
      - ◆ Great definition... just a little unsure
  - **Now, I am unsure about this...**
    - Although the evidence points largely toward the fact that the speaker does not understand what He is saying...
    - If I were to have to say one way or another, I would certainly say they do not understand...
    - If they did, then there would be no reason for an interpreter...
    - But my hesitation with saying this wholeheartedly is that the person with the gift of tongues is encouraged to pray for the gift of interpreting
    - Also, I wonder if the disciples understood what they were saying on this day...
      - ◆ Simply because of Peter’s sermon and what was said in it..
      - ◆ But that is all for another day...
      - ◆ Let us move on...
- **Other Tongues**
  - Other languages...
    - The list of people there that day all heard the mighty acts of God
    - **In their own language**
      - ◆ <sup>9</sup> Parthians and Medes and Elamites and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, <sup>10</sup> Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, <sup>11</sup> both Jews and proselytes, Cretans and Arabians—
      - ◆ Not sure how many languages this meant... but there were 17 different areas listed
        - And we will look into that a little more later
    - And this is so important to understand...
      - ◆ God will not allow a foreign language to get in the way of the telling of the gospel
- **Spirit Gave them utterance...**
  - This simply means that the Holy Spirit was leading them...
  - Giving them what to say...
  - They were simply a vessel to be used of by God to speak the mighty acts of God...
- **These men were telling the mighty works of God...**
  - And as we see what Peter had to say...
  - Which the other disciples were likely saying similar things...
  - We see them preaching the gospel that day...
- **For a great Harvest**
  - What is hindering us from telling others of the mighty works of God
  - What is hindering us today from sharing the gospel with others

## ❖ Invitation

### ❖ The Setting

- <sup>5</sup> Now there were dwelling in Jerusalem Jews, devout men from every nation under heaven.
- <sup>6</sup> And at this sound the multitude came together, and they were bewildered, because each one was hearing them speak in his own language.
- <sup>7</sup> And they were amazed and astonished, saying, “Are not all these who are speaking Galileans?”
- <sup>8</sup> And how is it that we hear, each of us in his own native language?
- <sup>9</sup> Parthians and Medes and Elamites and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, <sup>10</sup> Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, <sup>11</sup> both Jews and proselytes, Cretans and Arabians—
- we hear them telling in our own tongues the mighty works of God.”
- <sup>12</sup> And all were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, “What does this mean?”
- <sup>13</sup> But others mocking said, “They are filled with new wine.”

### ❖ Peter Addresses the Crowd

- <sup>14</sup> 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.
- <sup>15</sup> For these people are not drunk, as you suppose, since it is only the third hour of the day.
- <sup>16</sup> But this is what was uttered through the prophet Joel:

### ❖ Peter quotes Joel

- <sup>17</sup> “ ‘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;
- <sup>18</sup> even on my male servants and female servants in those days I will pour out my Spirit, and they shall prophesy.
- <sup>19</sup> And I will show wonders in the heavens above and signs on the earth below, blood, and fire, and vapor of smoke;
- <sup>20</sup> the sun shall be turned to darkness and the moon to blood, before the day of the Lord comes, the great and magnificent day.
- <sup>21</sup> And it shall come to pass that everyone who calls upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.’