

The Spirit Gave Them Power to Tell - Part 1

Acts 2:14-41 ¹⁴ 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. ¹⁵ For these people are not drunk, as you suppose, since it is only the third hour of the day. ¹⁶ But this is what was uttered through the prophet Joel: ¹⁷ “ ‘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; ¹⁸ even on my male servants and female servants in those days I will pour out my Spirit, and they shall prophesy. ¹⁹ And I will show wonders in the heavens above and signs on the earth below, blood, and fire, and vapor of smoke; ²⁰ the sun shall be turned to darkness and the moon to blood, before the day of the Lord comes, the great and magnificent day. ²¹ And it shall come to pass that everyone who calls upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.’ ²² “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— ²³ this Jesus, delivered up according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of lawless men. ²⁴ God raised him up, loosing the pangs of death, because it was not possible for him to be held by it. ²⁵ 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; ²⁶ therefore my heart was glad, and my tongue rejoiced; my flesh also will dwell in hope. ²⁷ For you will not abandon my soul to Hades, or let your Holy One see corruption. ²⁸ You have made known to me the paths of life; you will make me full of gladness with your presence.’ ²⁹ “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. ³⁰ 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, ³¹ he foresaw and spoke about the resurrection of the Christ, that he was not abandoned to Hades, nor did his flesh see corruption. ³² This Jesus God raised up, and of that we all are witnesses. ³³ 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. ³⁴ For David did not ascend into the heavens, but he himself says, “ ‘The Lord said to my Lord, “Sit at my right hand, ³⁵ until I make your enemies your footstool.” ’ ³⁶ Let all the house of Israel therefore know for certain that God has made him both Lord and Christ, this Jesus whom you crucified.” ³⁷ 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?” ³⁸ 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. ³⁹ 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.” ⁴⁰ And with many other words he bore witness and continued to exhort them, saying, “Save yourselves from this crooked generation.” ⁴¹ So those who received his word were baptized, and there were added that day about three thousand souls.

❖ Introduction

- Luke writes this book so today we would know what happened after Jesus Ascended
- The Book of Acts Causes us to evaluate our lives
- **You Cannot be neutral on the book of Acts**
 - It is a book you can not ignore
 - It is a book that calls us to action
 - It is not just stories for us to marvel over
 - Rather it is filled with real life experiences that should cause us to imitate
 - It is not just a history of the early church
 - It is an example of how to love for Followers of Jesus
- **The study of the book of Acts could help propel us into reaching the lost around us**
- **I am not naïve enough to think:**
 - Everyone is going to want to mimic these disciples

- But I am optimistic enough to say that God is stirring your hearts even today
 - IF you are truly born again... God is stirring up your heart
- To continue the mission of the church of reaching the broken and lost and needy
- **If God has stirred up your heart even in the slightest...**
 - Tell Him yes... Tell him yes you want to do it...
 - And then ask him for the help
 - The strength, the knowledge you need
 - The compassion for the lost
 - To be able to recognize them
 - And ask for boldness when you are led to reach someone...

❖ **Outline Today:**

- Going to Handle these verses in two parts...
 - But they need to be kept together as much as possible
- 1) Recap
- 2) Remember: The Main Point of Pentecost and Coming of the Spirit
- 3) Overview of Peter's Sermon
- 4) Peter's Boldness
- 5) Joel's Prophecy of that Day (The Main portion of the Sermon)

❖ **1) Recap**

- Jesus Ascends and the Disciples are Sent
- Jesus Promises to Give them the Power of the Holy Spirit
- The Disciples Wait
- The Holy Spirit Comes
- The Disciples are Filled With the Spirit

❖ **2) Remember: The Main Point of the Day of Pentecost and the Coming of the Holy Spirit**

- **Do not get confused... it is so easy to see...**
 - It is the reaching of the nations with the Gospel.
 - And God showed that He would use His children to tell the Story of His Son
 - And He would give them the power of the Holy Spirit to do this...
- **So, let us know with certainty and marvel today...**
 - That God's Spirit lives within every truly born again person in this room today...
 - **And from what I can see from the scripture, He shows up clearly in three main ways:**
 - ◆ And He does show up people... God is an amazingly powerful force...
 - ◆ If there is no change in you since you think you got saved...
 - ◆ Then there is no Holy Spirit within you... and you are not saved...
 - It is that simple...
 - ◆ So, As a church, we can not ask lost and dead people to take the gospel to the world...
 - Because they have never been made alive by God...
 - **3 Main ways:**
 - 1) Gives the person a desire to be a witness for Jesus in Word and Deed
 - 2) Begins producing the fruit of the Spirit that is seen in Holy Conduct
 - 3) Gifts individual believers with different spiritual gifts

❖ **3) Overview of Peter's Sermon**

- **Peter is Responding to what is going on around Him**

- He is responding to those amazed at the gift of tongues that is causing disciples
 - To tell the mighty works of God
- He is responding also to the mockers who wonder if they are drunk...
- **Peter is About to Preach the gospel to the people around Him...**
 - And in doing so, He is responding to the people...
 - He knows His crowd, The Spirit has empowered Him...
 - And what He is about to say is Gospel Preaching Gold... and much to be learned from it
- **Peter Forms His Sermon around Three O.T. Texts...**
 - vv. 14–16 “These men are not drunk but are fulfilling the prophecy of Joel”
 - vv. 17–21 Joel 2:28–32
 - vv. 22–24 “Jesus, whom you crucified, did mighty works, and God raised him”
 - vv. 25–28 Psalm 16:8–11
 - vv. 29–33 “David wrote about the Messiah Jesus’ resurrection and exaltation”
 - vv. 34–35 Psalm 110:1
 - v. 36 Conclusion
 - vv. 37–41 Audience response
- **Peter is Out to Persuade**
 - He wants to persuade His hearers that Jesus is indeed the Messiah...
 - So He is using something very familiar to the hearers...
 - ◆ The O.T. texts that they were very familiar with
 - **Application:**
 - It is important that we see the need to persuade others about Jesus.
 - This means we need to
 - 1) Know what we are talking about
 - 2) Be Ready at all times to tell the gospel
 - 3) Be concerned with the fate of the people around us
 - 4) Not give up so easy... But Persuade men...
 - ◆ 2 Cor. 5:11 “Therefore knowing the terror of the Lord, we persuade men”

❖ 4) Peter’s Boldness

- ¹⁴ 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. ¹⁵ For these people are not drunk, as you suppose, since it is only the third hour of the day.
- **The Spirit has come**
 - And the disciples are all speaking the gospel to those around them...
 - Just as Jesus received the Spirit at His Baptism
 - And soon thereafter went and said... I have come to proclaim the good news to the poor, captives, blind and oppressed
 - We also see this parallel with the disciples receiving the Spirit
- **People are confused and amazed**
 - There were some that thought they were drunk
 - There were some that were filled with wonder at hearing the men of Galilee
 - Speaking in their own language
- **Peter Explains what is going on...**
 - He stands up and gets their attention...
 - Let this be known to you
 - Give ear to my words...

- In other Words: Listen Up....
 - I have something very important to say...
- These guys are not drunk as you suppose...
 - Because it is too early in the day...
 - That wouldn't happen until later if it were to happen...
- **Then, Peter begins to use the Scriptures to explain the events of that Day...**
 - He starts in the book of Joel

❖ 5) Joel's Prophecy of that Day

- ¹⁶ But this is what was uttered through the prophet Joel: ¹⁷ " '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; ¹⁸ even on my male servants and female servants in those days I will pour out my Spirit, and they shall prophesy. ¹⁹ And I will show wonders in the heavens above and signs on the earth below, blood, and fire, and vapor of smoke; ²⁰ the sun shall be turned to darkness and the moon to blood, before the day of the Lord comes, the great and magnificent day. ²¹ And it shall come to pass that everyone who calls upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.'
- **Joel's Prophecy**
 - Joel's prophecy was originally given after a locust plague had ravaged the land, creating a severe famine. Joel called the people to repentance, promising the restoration of their prosperity and going on to foresee the coming of the Day of the Lord, the dawn of the messianic age, when the Spirit would be poured out on all of Israel.
- **Peter sticks closely to the prophecy with only a few changes...**
 - One is significant and very helpful...
 - Please understand... He is not changing what Joel said...
 - But explaining what Joel meant by what He said...
 - The Holy Spirit is moving and filling Peter, and Peter has a better understanding of Joel's prophecy
 - And as He repeats it to the crowd He is explaining the prophecy to them
- **And in the Last Days**
 - Here is where we see the most significant difference in wording...
 - Peter uses "In the last days...."
 - Joel had said... "and afterward"
 - Peter understands that He was living in the Last Days...
 - **The Last Days had begun...**
 - Maybe they had begun at the death or Resurrection or ascension of Jesus
 - Or maybe they officially began here when the Spirit comes...
 - But the last days had started...
 - **Think about this:**
 - If the last days began 2000 years ago... What does that say about us today...
 - If the disciples had a sense of urgency back then, what is causing our lack of urgency
 - The Time is short... The Lost are many... The gospel is powerful
 - **This Should:**
 - Burn in our hearts...
 - It should stir us up to action...
 - I pray Holy Spirit that you fill my heart to see the urgency that surrounds us...
 - ◆ Fill our people with this same urgency...

- **It Shall Be, God Declares**
 - **A Declaration by God... God declares this will happen...**
- **I will Pour Out My Spirit on all Flesh**
 - To understand what He means here more fully... we look to the next verses 17-18
 - You will see it is His children that receive the Spirit
 - **Pour**
 - Cause to flow out... To give it in Abundance... this is something totally unprecedented
 - **Spirit**
 - My Pneuma
 - Not a Spirit, but His Spirit... The Spirit of God will be poured out abundantly
 - **All**
 - **I do not think He means every person...**
 - ◆ Because there will be people that reject the Spirit and never receive Him...
 - ◆ But they will be affected and offered grace
 - I think that many thought the Spirit of God would be confined merely to the people of Israel
 - We will see later in the book of Acts that two other types of people would receive the Spirit
 - ◆ The Samaritans
 - ◆ The Gentiles
 - All likely means there will be no distinction on the type of flesh
 - ◆ Regardless of gender or nationality or social status
 - **Flesh**
 - **Here flesh means a people...**
 - **Not just our skin...**
- **Peter Explains exactly: Those to whom the Spirit will come to:**
 - **and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams; ¹⁸ even on my male servants and female servants in those days I will pour out my Spirit, and they shall prophesy.**
 - **He says it will cause His sons and daughters to prophecy**
 - And He says, even on my male servants and female servants...
 - Which is just a reference back to His sons and daughters...
 - Yet He calls them His servants here...
 - And you see that His Sons and Daughter will be His Servants...
 - **There is a lesson here right?**
 - If we call ourselves the children of God...
 - We are therefore His servants...
 - Paul referred to himself as a bond slave...
 - **WE ARE: Servants of the Living God...**
 - ◆ But what do we act like... Whom do we serve...???
 - **They Prophecy:**
 - **There is more to be said about this word than we have time for...**
 - ◆ Because we see Paul speak later of the gift of prophecy
 - ◆ And I hope to get more into that at some point...
 - Because there are some more edifying things to say in regards to prophecy
 - **But from this text I think we see clearly that in this case**
 - ◆ The idea of prophecy is in regards to the telling of the gospel...
 - ◆ It is Spirit Led utterances...

◆ Acts 2:4 ⁴ And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance.

• **We can read what Peter Preached**

- ◆ The Holy Spirit gave him a sermon to preach...
- ◆ And He recalled past things... and shed new light on old prophecies
- ◆ He made a point that Jesus is the Messiah
- ◆ And proved it from the scripture
- ◆ We see clearly that Peter preached the Gospel...
 - And He told them to repent
 - And He gave them an invitation...
 - All who call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved

• **All in All He proclaimed the gospel through the Power of the Holy Spirit...**

- ◆ And I believe all 120 of the disciples were doing the same thing
- ◆ Men and women alike... Young and Old disciples

▪ **He also says that young men shall see visions and old men will dream dreams...**

• **Now, what is He talking about here?**

- ◆ I assume He means they will see visions and dream dreams...
- ◆ I do not think there is a big difference between a dream and a vision
- ◆ Both serve the same purpose
- ◆ For the person to be given insight from God... usually in regards to the Gospel

• **I do not know a lot more than this about it...**

- ◆ Not a lot recorded in the N.T. about dreams and visions...
- ◆ In Acts 10... We see Cornelius have a vision where an angel tells him to send for Peter
- ◆ Peter has a vision about the Gospel for all men and not just Jews...
 - Then Cornelius men come to him and He goes to tell the gospel to his whole house
- ◆ In Acts 9 Ananias is told to go to Paul and Paul had seen a vision of Ananias coming to Him
 - And Paul is filled with the Holy Spirit
- ◆ In Acts 16 Paul sees a man from Macedonia asking him to come and help them
 - and He goes and preaches the gospel there
- ◆ In Acts 18 Paul is told in a vision not to be afraid, but to keep preaching
- ◆ And John describes the giving of the prophecies of the Book of Revelation
 - As a vision given to Him...
- ◆ **The only examples in modern times I know of this**
 - Is in regards to men dreaming or having visions to go somewhere and meet someone
 - And there is either a missionary to explain the gospel
 - Or the gospel being preached
 - This is happening in other places... namely Africa

• **So I assume:**

- ◆ The purpose of dreams and visions is in regards to the spreading of the Gospel
- ◆ By the Holy Spirit empowering men to proclaim the Story of Jesus...

➤ **The Result of the Pouring out of His Spirit?**

- Well... they are many... but let's focus on what we are seeing here in the book of Acts...
 - Sons and Daughters shall Prophecy
 - Young men see visions and Old men dream dreams
 - Even on my servants I will pour out my Spirit and they shall prophecy

- **Namely We See:**
 - The Proclamation of the Gospel of Jesus
 - The Good news of His coming... His Life... His death... His resurrection and His Ascension
- **The Gospel is Preached.... And People are Saved...**
 - This Spirit has come to Proclaim the Gospel of Jesus through His Servants...

➤ **The Coming Day of the Lord...**

- Peter is putting together this sermon rather nicely... (because the Holy Spirit is leading him)
- He says we are Living in the last days...
- **God has poured out His Spirit**
 - And when He does, His servants will prophecy...
 - They will proclaim the Gospel
- **And He says... Judgment is coming... There is a day when God will judge the world...**
 - So we see that Joel's prophecy covers many hundreds of years...
 - And this is not unusual for prophecy...
 - There are many places in the Bible where God uses someone to tell the future...
 - And when they tell it, they tell part that will happen at one point in time
 - Then they skip forward hundreds and sometimes thousands of years to something else
 - And what we get is this nice big overview of the future...
- **And Here Peter is quoting Joel who is doing this very thing...**
 - We see the coming of the Spirit right there on that day
 - We see the results of the coming of the Spirit already...
 - **And there are many aspects of the Holy Spirit's coming...**
 - ◆ That will also occur in the future...
 - ◆ Like the Gentiles receiving the Spirit and the Samaritans
 - ◆ And future Christian believers...
 - ◆ Even until this day the Spirit is moving and working in people...
 - ◆ And His servants continue to prophecy
 - **And We see things quoted that are yet to happen... that are future events...**

➤ **Peter Quotes Joel as Saying:**

- ¹⁹ And I will show wonders in the heavens above and signs on the earth below, blood, and fire, and vapor of smoke; ²⁰ the sun shall be turned to darkness and the moon to blood, before the day of the Lord comes, the great and magnificent day.

➤ **First: I want you to see He calls the return of Jesus: The Great and Magnificent Day...**

- He says all these things will happen before the day of the Lord comes...
- **The Day of the Lord I believe is in reference to Jesus return**
 - Now there is much to say and debate as to how that will all go down...
 - But we do know a few things...
 - Jesus is returning...
 - As Sure as the Spirit came that day... the rest of the prophecy will be fulfilled...
 - Jesus will return
- **And it will be a Great and Magnificent Day...**
 - A day when our Faith shall be sight...
 - When we see the Lord Jesus whom we worship in Spirit and in Truth
 - The One we are telling our friends about
 - The One the people mock at and turn away from...
 - **Jesus will return:**

- ◆ And Every knee will bow and tongue confess... in heaven and earth and under the earth
- ◆ That Jesus Christ is Lord, to the Glory of God the Father...

- **It will be a Great and Magnificent Day...**

- Are you ready for that Day???
- Are you ready for the return of Jesus?

- **God gave Joel a picture of the future**

- **And I will show wonders in the heavens above and signs on the earth below, blood, and fire, and vapor of smoke; ²⁰ the sun shall be turned to darkness and the moon to blood**

- **Wonders in the heavens above and Signs on the earth below**

- So there will be wonders and signs...
- And then He gets a little more specific and gives some detail about the signs and wonders
- That will occur before the Lord returns...

- **Blood, fire and vapor of smoke....Sun shall be turned to darkness...Moon to blood**

- **The Book of Revelation foretells these very same things...**

- **Blood:**

- ◆ Revelation 6:8 a fourth of the earth sees death by sword, hunger, death and beasts
- ◆ Revelations 8:7 hail falls to the earth mixed with blood
- ◆ 8:8 a third of the sea becomes blood
- ◆ 9:15 angels are set loose to slay 1/3 of mankind
- ◆ Ch. 14 we see that there will be a remarkable amount of bloodshed

- **Fire:**

- ◆ 8:5 a censor filled with fire poured onto the earth
- ◆ 8:7 hail and fire
- ◆ 8:8 something like a great mountain on fire thrown into the sea
- ◆ 8:10 great burning star cast onto a third of the fresh water

- **Vapors of smoke**

- ◆ In Ch 9 we see smoke coming up out of the earth from the pit
- ◆ And these creatures coming out to torment men

- **Sun Darkened and moon to blood**

- When the sixth seal is opened in Rev 6:11
 - ◆ It says the Sun was darkened like sack cloth
 - ◆ And the moon turned to blood...
- The fourth Trumpet is sounded in ch. 8
 - ◆ A third of the sun and moon are struck with darkness

- **The Hearers that Day had already had a preview of all these things...**

- They experienced that the Spirit had come upon these people
- These people were around during the crucifixion of Jesus
- **Luke 23:44 ⁴⁴ It was now about the sixth hour, and there was darkness over the whole land until the ninth hour, ⁴⁵ while the sun's light failed.**
 - ◆ For three hours there was darkness
 - ◆ This was supernatural... not just an eclipse of the Sun...
 - That can only last up to 7.5 min... this was three hours...
 - Also, during Passover when Jesus died, there was no way for this to occur
 - Crazy how specific God is at recording the time of the death of Jesus...
- In Matt 27 He writes that the earth shook and the rocks split when Jesus died...
 - ◆ These people had experienced this first hand

- **There is even evidence from outside the Bible from Historians that write about these things**

- At least 7 historians that you have probably never heard of or can pronounce their names
 - ◆ Some: Tertullian, Origen and Julius Africanus plus others
- Make mention of this darkness during the reign of Tiberius Caesar around 33 A.D.
- Some pointing out the specific time of day
- Others trying to discredit it by saying it was an eclipse...
- **So... This hit the heart of the hearers... as it should us today...**

➤ **Peter Would Later write:**

- And I want you to listen intently to these verses... All of them are so very important...
 - And applicable to this text and your lives today
 - **2 Peter 3:8-12** ⁸ But do not overlook this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. ⁹ The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance. ¹⁰ But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a roar, and the heavenly bodies will be burned up and dissolved, and the earth and the works that are done on it will be exposed. ¹¹ Since all these things are thus to be dissolved, what sort of people ought you to be in lives of holiness and godliness, ¹² waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set on fire and dissolved, and the heavenly bodies will melt as they burn!

➤ **Joel's Prophecy ends with: "Every One who calls upon the name of the Lord shall be saved"**

- **Romans 10:13** ¹³ For "everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved."
 - Paul quotes Joel as well
 - What an awesome offer of a free gift of Mercy to all
- **Every One**
- **Who Calls Upon**
- **The Name of the Lord**
 - The name of the Lord is so important...
 - This means that they call upon the Jesus written of in the Bible...
 - Not the one we make up or pick and choose what to like about Him...
 - This is the one who calls us to Follow Him
 - This is the Jesus who came as a man
 - This is the Jesus who is not only the Son of God, but God Himself
 - This is the Jesus who died and rose from the grave by His own power
 - This is the Jesus whose crucified body walked this earth three days after his burial
 - This is the Jesus who is in heaven right now
 - And this is the Jesus that is readying His return...
 - ◆ All who call upon the name of this Lord
- **Shall be Saved**
 - They Will Receive forgiveness of their sins and be given eternal life
 - They will become a child of God
 - John 1:12 says "but to all who did receive Him, who believed in His name, He gave the right to become children of God"

❖ Invitation: