

ACTS 1:12-2:12 - Jesus Sends the Spirit

INTRODUCTION - Good morning and welcome to our Sunday gathering. My name is Josh and I am one of the pastors here. *When we gather, one of the things we do is we encourage one another, we build each other up in Christ. So in times of response or before/after, if the Holy Spirit puts something on your heart to encourage someone else in, go and share that.* We come together weekly because we need to encourage one another towards Christ.

Acts Recap - Last week we kicked off the book of Acts with Jesus resurrecting from the dead, walking among the disciples, teaching them about the kingdom of God, instructing them that they would be His witnesses, but first to go and wait in Jerusalem to receive the promised Holy Spirit. Jesus then ascends into heaven, taking his rightful place on the throne...with all power on heaven and earth given to him. We learned that Jesus is on the throne, so we can get off the throne.

This week we continue with the story of Pentecost in **Acts 1:12-2:13**. ***Today we will see that if we are going to live as a witness to the risen King Jesus, we desperately need the presence and power of the Holy Spirit.*** How many of you this morning are here and you feel weak, unable to love others, and little love for Jesus? We cannot know and follow Jesus apart from the empowering presence of the Holy Spirit. PRAYER

Acts 1:12-14 - Remember that last week we saw Jesus give the disciples instructions to go and wait for the Holy Spirit. ***They were given a enormous task of being his representatives, his witness to all nations.*** ———— *They had the gospel lived out before them (watched Jesus with their own eyes), they had seen proof of Jesus resurrection, and they had been taught by resurrected Jesus about the Kingdom for 40 days.* Yet they still needed to go and wait for the Holy Spirit. ***This should really give us pause. We can be equipped with knowledge about Jesus, we can learn what it looks like to live like Jesus, and we can even understand the mission Jesus has given us.....but without receiving the Holy Spirit's power we cannot live the Christian life.***

The disciples listen to Jesus and they obey him (a resurrected man will do that to you!). They go back to Jerusalem, they go to an upstairs room (about 120 of them). **What do they do? 1:14 - In one accord, they devote themselves to prayer.** Here we have this tiny group of Jesus followers, gathered around in a room and waiting in prayer. Why would they spend time praying? ***Because they knew the weight of what Jesus was calling them to, and prayer showed that they realized they could not accomplish the task on their own power.*** — Prayer becomes our posture when we come to grips with our own powerlessness. — King Jesus, help us. We cannot do this without your presence.

Summarize Acts 1:15-26 - During these days where they are prayerfully waiting, Peter stands up and speaks. He recognizes their need to replace Judas and appoint a 12th apostle.

Apostles were men who were eyewitnesses to Jesus earthly ministry, from his baptism to his ascension. This was important because the Apostles carried on the teaching about Jesus both of his life and his teaching. *We trust in the message of Jesus because it has been passed down from eyewitness testimony.* So they entrust the decision to the Holy Spirit, and God selects Matthias to be numbered among the apostles.

Acts 2:1-4 - The Day of Pentecost arrived - all together in one place // ***Day of pentecost was very significant - NT Wright says, "For a first-century Jew, Pentecost was the fiftieth day after***

Passover. It was an agricultural festival. It was the day when farmers brought the first sheaf of wheat from the crop, and offered it to God, partly as a sign of gratitude and partly as a prayer that all of the rest of the crop, too, would be safely gathered in."

Wright goes onto explain that this was not just an agricultural festival, but it echoed the great story which long dominated the memories of the Jewish people, the Exodus story. Passover was the time celebrated when the lambs were sacrificed and God passes over those under the blood of the lamb. The Israelites leave Egypt and 50 days later they came to Mt. Sinai where Moses received the law. Israel was rescued from slavery and at Sinai they received a new way of life in the form of the law.

Remember last week Jesus has just gone up to heaven in the presence of God. *Jesus is coming down again not with the law written on stone tablets, but by His very life giving Spirit poured into the hearts of men. The love intended in the law now awakened, energized, and written on the human heart.*

EXPERIENCE OF PENTECOST — > WIND (2:2) - From heaven like a mighty rushing wind — The sounds of heaven like a might rushing wind - the idea was often associated with God's Spirit // Heaven is breathing on this group of people, God's presence with them, starting a new resurrection people! // **TONGUES LIKE FIRE** - Fire is symbolic for purifying. Burning away the impure, creating purity of heart. *Purifying them and pouring out the heart warming love of God into their hearts.*

The aim of the law was love of God and love of neighbor. *Yet external rules and regulations could not bring dead hearts back to life. This is important for us to understand about what it means to be a Christian. If your not a Christian or maybe new to this whole thing then you probably think being a Christian means you follow a certain set of rules. Jesus tells us what to do and we do it! Maybe you tried this and you realize, I can't do it...I just can't get it right. Maybe this whole Jesus thing isn't for me.*

Sadly, some people espouse a Christianity that says believe in Jesus, now live like Jesus. "You heard what I said now do it!" — That is part of it, but calling people to follow Jesus without pointing them to the power to live the new life Jesus calls us to is cruel. Its a incomplete Gospel.....

This scene of the Spirit pouring out certainly has some one time, non-repeatable signs going on here. Just as Wright reminds us it both points to the first fruits of the harvest, and it echoes of Mt. Sinai where the recently rescued Israelites receive a new way of life through the law. But there is a real sense in which pentecost continues and is necessary for anyone who wants to follow Jesus, to know Jesus, to live in the Kingdom of God must do so by the Spirit of God leading them, enabling them, pouring out love into their previously dead heart. And while once we receive the Holy Spirit He stays with us, we will need to be filled up again and again. We need continued dependence on God's love poured into us, empowering us to love others....to lead us into the will of Jesus.

How are you trying to live? There might not be a more miserable state than knowing what Jesus is calling you to without waiting on or understanding the power by which he wants to do it.

STORY - I am a very headstrong, can do guy. For a couple of months in 2014 family life and ministry became a “just do it” season for me. Preaching mostly study. Parenting mostly knowing the right answers and things to do. Leading out of my ability to think alone, to strategize and fix, it was starting to wear on me. In some ways it came to a head in January 2015. I shared this last year, but I preached a sermon that I just whiffed on and went home full of frustration. Frustration with my wife, my kids, tired of seeing my own weakness, an underlying anger just under the surface that was ultimately against God. Wishing I could just do it. As God began to work in my heart the Holy Spirit gave me two picture to understand what was going on - One was a God like a Father sitting on the porch, arms crossed, looking out into a field with a man trying to build a house without the right tools, knowledge or ability to build it. This was how I had begun to view God, and my heart grew frustrated. But then I saw a different picture, a Father building a house with his son beside him. The Father knew what went where, had all the necessary tools and he was delighted to have his son go to work with him. The Spirit reminds us that God is not far off in heaven with his arms crossed waiting for us to get our act together, He is here with us, dwelling in us, and inviting us to go to work with him.

By God’s grace the Holy Spirit met me the following week and poured out a fresh wind into my heart, a fresh fire of God’s love. Go.....Get bitter, angry, frustrated....Paul lists the works of the flesh - these help us see when we are trying to go at it alone. **Galatians 5:16-23** —

Trying to love people in your power, trying to witness to others about Jesus, trying to endure sufferings and hardship of life, trying to be married, to raise kids, to remain faithful to Jesus while single, to live in a broken world and witness to a risen King is absolutely impossible apart from the winds of the Spirit propelling us and the warm fire of the Spirit purifying our hearts with his love. **OT Passage describing this.....Jeremiah 31:33-34**

Your spirit was made to be united with God’s Spirit. Your inner person to be satisfied with His presence, propelled and animated by His life. ***We were made for intimate relationship with Him. Because of Jesus, this moment by moment knowing and relating with God is possible.***

PENTECOST CONFUSION (2:4) - Tongues - Sometimes the beauty of what has happened here gets overshadowed with charismania. ***People make this all about speaking in tongues. Maybe you have known people who said, “If you don’t speak in tongues you don’t have the Spirit or are a second rate Christian.”*** This is just false. We do believe in all of the gifts of the Spirit here, but in this passage it is clearly referring to understood languages and showing us God’s promise is for every tongue, tribe, and nation. That He is not just the King of Israel, but worthy of the worship of the whole world. The message will go to every type of person! God’s promise of all nations being blessed through the son, is happening! Not just Israel but all flesh: ***READ Acts 2:5-11 - The Pouring out of the Spirit, God’s dynamic power put within His people, lets not forget is not to end in an experience but in propelling us into the world to witness to King Jesus. To empower us to love and share the good news of Jesus with all nations!***

WARNING FOR US - Some times we are confident in our own ability to live the Christian life apart from the Spirit. I have been there. ***No time for waiting on the Lord in prayer, too proud and dignified to open up your whole heart to the Lord.*** There is a real danger that you get the message and the teaching but it’s devoid of life and power. *Those who should be worried are those who don’t feel needy, helpless, desperate for God’s Spirit to lead them.*

THE PROMISE IS FOR ALL WHO WOULD BELIEVE, ALL WHO GOD CALLS TO HIMSELF - Men and Women, young and old, Jew and gentile, rich and poor.....Here is the good news....the Spirit is a gift to all of God's children. So for some of you, maybe you sense your heart softening to Jesus. ***Trust in his death to forgive ALL your sin, in His resurrection that you too can have resurrection life with him that begins today with receiving his Spirit.*** We don't know what that might look like, but we know that it produces a person that loves God and loves people. Might be described like a fresh wind blowing through your spirit, and a warm fire burning in your heart.....enabling you to love God and love others.

Some of you are nervous and a bit worried about what others will think if God's Spirit gets ahold of you. ***You are kinda holding on to doing this life on your own, one foot following Jesus while trying to have this world's way as well. I am with you in this struggle....***but what if we threw that off today, and cried out to Jesus. In a few minutes we are going to have our prayer team down in the front, we would love to pray for you. Very simply ask the Spirit to fill you with the love of God, to empower you to live the life God has called you to live. ***God doesn't call you to anything that he does not richly supply the grace and power to do by His Spirit.***

COMMUNION - One of the ways we respond each week is by taking the Lord's supper together. We have four stations setup, bread - Christ body broken, Juice - His blood shed for the forgiveness of sins.....For those who are followers of Jesus we invite you to go and take, ask the Spirit to bring the reality of Jesus presence upon your heart.

Acts 1:13–14 (ESV)

13 And when they had entered, they went up to the upper room, where they were staying, Peter and John and James and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James the son of Alphaeus and Simon the Zealot and Judas the son of James. **14** All these with one accord were devoting themselves to prayer, together with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and his brothers.

Acts 2:1–12 (ESV)

1 When the day of Pentecost arrived, they were all together in one place. **2** And suddenly there came from heaven a sound like a mighty rushing wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. **3** And divided tongues as of fire appeared to them and rested on each one of them. **4** And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance.

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

Galatians 5:16–23 (ESV)

16 But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. **17** 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. **18** But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law. **19** Now the works of the flesh are evident: sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality, **20** idolatry, sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, rivalries, dissensions, divisions, **21** envy, drunkenness, orgies, and things like these. I warn you, as I warned you before, that those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God. **22** But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, **23** gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.

Jeremiah 31:33–34 (ESV)

33 For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, declares the Lord: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts. And I will be their God, and they shall be my people. **34** And no longer shall each one teach his neighbor and each his brother, saying, ‘Know the Lord,’ for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, declares the Lord. For I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more.”