

Text: Acts 2:1-41

Meaning: God poured out His Spirit on Pentecost

Big Idea: God fills us with His Spirit when we ask

Objective: I want the hearers to receive the filling of the Holy Spirit

Theme: Characteristics of the ministry of the Spirit

THERE'S SO MUCH MORE

PRICE IS RIGHT ILLUSTRATION

I used to love watching the Price is Right as a kid. Bob Barker was awesome. BOB BARKER WILL TURN 100 years old this year if he makes it to December 13. At the end of the show they would always do the showcase. They call out the prizes and the contestants have to try and guess the combined cost of all the prizes. They would always start with the smaller items. "Your showcase begins with a new dining room set from Bassett" the announcer would say and he would describe the set, then he would say, "and with that dining room set we have this nice set of Chinaware." Then they would always finish with the best prize. "Speaking of dining, how about eating the food in GERMANY!" Every prize was bested by the next prize leaving the contestant just itching to win it.

Beloved, in Christ there is always more! In salvation we receive the free gift of eternal life and are born again by the Holy Spirit. But there is so much more that God wants to do in us. Salvation in Christ is just the beginning and our salvation in Him opens to door for the Holy Spirit of God to continue to empower us in supernatural ways.

It's like the famous Infomercial master **Ron Popeil** who coined the phrase, "**BUT WAIT, THERE'S MORE!**" In Christ there's more!

That's what Pentecost is all about!

READ ACTS 2:1-4, 14-21, 37-41

WHAT IS SO SIGNIFICANT ABOUT PENTECOST? (below introductory points all on one slide)

COMPLETION – Pentecost is the completion of the Passover.

Pentecost is the Greek name for a Hebrew festival referred to as SHAVUOT. Shavuot is referred to in the Old Testament as the Feast of weeks or Firstfruits. At this festival they would celebrate the ingathering of the harvest, but most importantly Jewish history says this was the time when Moses and the people received the law of God at Mt. Sinai. So, why pour out the Spirit on Shavuot? IT'S A PICTURE OF THE LAW BEING COMPLETED IN CHRIST AND THE SPIRIT BEING GIVEN AS THE COMPLETION OF OUR SALVATION.

COVENANT – Pentecost is the beginning of the New Covenant.

When God gave Israel His law at Mt. Sinai He made a covenant with them there and the people said, "All that the Lord has said we will do." At the last supper Jesus served the bread and the cup as representation of his body which would be broken for them and His blood which would be shed for them. And with the cup Christ said, "This cup represents the new covenant in my blood." On Pentecost God pours out His Spirit as the consummation of this new covenant as the proof that He is with us and has saved us.

COMMUNITY – Pentecost is the reversal of Babel

Another common interpretation sees Acts 2:1–13 as depicting the "reversal of Babel." This view sees the disunity of humanity that resulted from the many languages of Babel being overcome by a new language of the Spirit, which brings a new unity.¹ Scripture tells us that the dividing wall of hostility

¹ John B. Polhill, [Acts](#), vol. 26, The New American Commentary (Nashville: Broadman & Holman Publishers, 1992), 105.

between people and nations has been broken down in the gospel, and God brings together one radical new multi-colored family in Christ! There is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female, but all are ONE IN CHRIST JESUS!

Sin and pride led to the division of humanity at Babel, but the Spirit of God led to a radical new unity of humanity at Pentecost.

NON-CONFORMING – Pentecost is representative of the spontaneous work of the Spirit

What the Jewish religious leaders hated so much about what takes place throughout the book of Acts is the fact that the church did not conform to their doctrines, laws, or traditions. They didn't do things the way the Pharisees did them. They didn't believe the same way the Sanhedrin believed. The religious leaders saw this new movement as a threat to their way of life and their religious and political power instead of a refreshing and powerful move of the Spirit of God that it was.

Church, all things are to be done decently and in order. Tradition and doctrine are good things, but when our traditions and our doctrine crowds out the Holy Spirit and tries to control what the Lord wants to do we are in opposing God not serving Him.

THE ONLY GUIDES WE HAVE IN THE CHURCH ARE THE WORD OF GOD AND THE SPIRIT OF GOD, AND THE TWO WILL NEVER CONTRADICT THEMSELVES. ANY FORM OF TEACHING OR ANY TRADITIONS THAT ARE NOT SPIRIT LED AND SCRIPTURE FED ARE NOT OF GOD.

We need MUCH MORE SPONTANEITY, MUCH MORE SPIRIT LED MINISTRY, MUCH LESS DOGMA AND OPINIONS OF MAN AND A WHOLE LOT MORE HOLY SPIRIT!

THE CHRISTIAN LIFE IS SCRIPTURE FED – SPIRIT LED – MARKED BY RADICAL LOVE!

THERE'S MORE! THERE'S MORE!

Friend – God has so much more for you! For so many Christians there walk with God is incomplete. They have been born again in Christ, but do not walk in the power of the Spirit of God.

Ephesians 19 – the believers at Ephesus said, “we haven't even heard that there was a Holy Spirit.”

It's as if some Christians have never even really heard that there is a Holy Spirit. As a result joy, peace, and power is missing from their lives in a significant way. Some people just seem to have a disconnect in their faith. They say they are followers of Jesus yet there is something missing.

NOTICE HERE 3 characteristics of the ministry of the Holy Spirit:

1. THE POWERFUL MANIFESTATION OF THE SPIRIT

When God pours out His Spirit supernatural stuff starts happening. There is a wind and a sound and an utterance that takes place. The Church suddenly is moved to pray and repent, worship gets sweet and the people begin to express their worship in new ways.

The power of the Spirit of God first fills the HOUSE then it spills out into the STREETS. It starts in this place! When the Holy Spirit is at work there are outward displays of God's power that are obvious for all to see.

SOUND

Luke says there came a sound like a mighty rushing wind from heaven. The idea is like the roar of a tornado blowing in. Wind is symbolic of the movement of the Holy Spirit throughout Scripture.

Jesus said the wind blows where it wishes and you don't see it but you hear it and see it's effect, so is everyone who is born of the Spirit. In Ezekiel 37 it is the breath of God that gives life to the dry bones in the valley.

Beloved, when the Spirit of God starts to blow in a place the entire landscape of people's lives and the church begins to change. Stuff starts to sound different. Our **WORSHIP** sounds different and our **WORDS** to others are much more gracious.

SIGHT

Luke says divided tongues as of fire appeared to them and rested on each one of them. The idea here is a distribution of fire from one large blaze. Our God is a consuming fire, and the movement of the Holy Spirit is symbolized also by fire in the Bible. When the Holy Spirit of God comes in it stokes a fire in the church and in the lives of Christians and God begins to consume some things out of our lives that need to go. Things begin to LOOK different in our lives. Our countenance is changed, the compassion of the church begins to change, and a welcoming atmosphere is born in our hearts and in the life of the church.

SPEECH

Luke says they began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance. Here these tongues were known languages that the Lord supernaturally inspired the believers to speak although they had no previous understanding of them. The onlooking crowd heard them praising God and declaring the greatness of Him in their own native languages. Scripture also speaks of ecstatic languages being spoken by the movement of the Holy Spirit as well. Speaking in tongues is a sign gift of the Spirit, alongside gifts of healing and miracles listed in 1 Corinthians chapter 12. God supernaturally moves on certain people at certain times to speak in other tongues and in 1 Corinthians 14 Scripture tells us that when the body is gathered and

tongues are spoken there should be an interpretation of that tongue for the edification of the body.

1 Corinthians 14:2-5

For he who speaks in a tongue does not speak to men but to God, for no one understands him; however, in the spirit he speaks mysteries. ³ But he who prophesies speaks edification and exhortation and comfort to men. ⁴ He who speaks in a tongue edifies himself, but he who prophesies edifies the church. ⁵ I wish you all spoke with tongues, but even more that you prophesied; for he who prophesies is greater than he who speaks with tongues, unless indeed he interprets, that the church may receive edification.

Paul goes on to refer to praying in other tongues and even says that he speaks in tongues more than all of them, but that when the church gathered he desired much more to prophesy in clear language so that the lost would be saved and the saints would be edified and strengthened in their faith.

The point here is that when the Spirit of God begins to bring revival in a place worship changes, speaking changes, our actions change – there is an obvious sensory expression of the move of the Spirit in that place. It's not something that you work up or produce, it is the organic movement of the Spirit!

2. THE PROPHETIC MESSAGE OF THE SPIRIT

Whenever the Spirit of God begins to move in a place the prophetic proclamation of the gospel takes center stage. We see here that Peter, being moved by the Holy Spirit, stands and preaches a powerful message about the crucified and resurrected Christ and He calls the crowd to repent of their sins and be baptized in Jesus name and through this repentance and public profession of Christ they would receive the free gift of the Holy Spirit.

1 Thessalonians 5 – Paul says do not quench the Spirit and he adds that we should not despise prophecies, rather we should test them.

THE TWO-FOLD PROPHETIC MINISTRY:

CHURCH

Peter here stands and gives a message to the entire gathered body. So too, there are times where the Spirit of God moves on people to give a specific word of exhortation or encouragement to the entire church body.

CHRISTIAN

There are also instances in Scripture of God giving a prophetic word for one Christian to speak to another fellow Christian. This prophetic word is often given in times of prayer and praise before the Lord.

TRUE PROPHETIC MINISTRY ALWAYS UPLIFTS CHRIST

1 John 4:1-3

Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits, whether they are of God; because many false prophets have gone out into the world. ² By this you know the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is of God, ³ and every spirit that does not confess that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is not of God.

3. THE PERSUASIVE MOVEMENT OF THE SPIRIT

When the Holy Spirit begins to move, people are convicted of their sins and begin to publicly profess Christ as Lord.

God specifically gave the Apostles the Holy Spirit to fulfill the Great Commission.

Acts 1:8 Jesus says we will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon us and we will be His witnesses in all the world starting right at home.

Luke 11:13

If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him!"