

Spc180 – **The Church Was Born to Run – Acts Ch 2**
Church Re-Opening – 2020

TODAY – **IS** the **Day of Pentecost** on the **Hebrew Calendar**

TODAY is the **DAY** the **N.T. Church** was **born**
1,988 Yrs Ago

& **I think** it is **incredibly COOL**

That we are **RE-GATHERING**
ON the **Day** the **NT Church** – **FIRST Gathered**

What a **PERFECT Day**
for **us** to **begin coming** back **together**

As **I've said** before – **You** guys have **been incredible**
at **BEING the Church** – **these** past **3 difficult months**

THIS Church has **NEVER stopped** - **BEING the Church**

We never Stopped **WORSHIPPING** the **Lord**
We never Stopped **PROCLAIMING** the Name of **Jesus**
We never Stopped **Making DISCIPLES** & **SERVING** one **another**

In these **past 3 MONTHS** –
WE have **PROVEN** – that **we understand**

The Church is **NOT** a **Building**

The Church is **NOT** a **Weekly Event**

The Church is a **PEOPLE** – **CALLED OUT** of the **World**

to Worship & Proclaim the Mighty Name of JESUS
as Lord of All - & as Savior of the World

& COVID-19 Could NOT stop us
from Being The Church

Amen?

Let's Pray

There are THREE Jewish Feasts – from the O.T.

Whose MEANINGS Are FULFILLED
in the Birth of the Church

#1) - Feast of Passover

which was Fulfilled in Jesus Christ on the CROSS

when Jesus was slain as the Lamb of God
for the sin of the world

#2) - Feast of First-Fruits

celebrated just after the Passover

Which was Fulfilled

in the RESURRECTION of Jesus Christ

Who is called in the First-Fruits
of the Resurrection in 1Cor 15

#3) - Feast of Pentecost

which was Fulfilled in the Birth of the Church

and in the Coming of the Holy Spirit in Acts Ch 2

So – Let's Open our Bibles to Acts
& Let's have a Bible Study Together

BUT – we have to start in Acts Ch 1

Because in Acts Ch 1 - is the Run Up
to the Birth of the Church

Before Jesus Ascended back into heaven

we read in Acts 1:4–5 (NLT)

*4 Once when he was eating with them, he commanded them,
“Do not leave Jerusalem until the Father sends you the gift
he promised, as I told you before.”*

*5 John baptized with water, but in just a few days you will be
baptized with the Holy Spirit.”*

& then – in Acts 1:8 (NLT) – Jesus says

*8 But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes
upon you (that's the baptism). And you will be my witnesses,
(that's the point of the baptism) telling people about me
everywhere—in Jerusalem, throughout Judea, in Samaria,
and to the ends of the earth.”*

At this point (in Acts 1) - The VICTORY
of Salvation & Conquering Death

has already been accomplished

& **Now** – **God** is **getting Ready**
to **EXPLODE** the **NT Church** into **Existence**

**BUT – BEFORE he DOES
BEFORE the Holy Spirit COMES**

**Jesus tells his Disciples – DO NOT MOVE
Don't DO a thing**

**Don't go anywhere – Don't try to TALK to anybody
Don't start running off with your own ideas**

Just **SIT STILL & WAIT *until the Father sends you
the gift he promised, as I told you before.***

& **Jesus HAD told the Disciples before**

In John 14:15–17 (NLT)

15 “If you love me, obey my commandments.

16 And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate (Helper), who will never leave you.

17 He is the Holy Spirit . . .

& **Jesus went on to tell the Disciples (in Jn 14)**

The **Holy Spirit would LEAD them into All Truth
& the Holy Spirit would COME - to LIVE Inside Them**

& then – in John 14:18 – Jesus says (NLT)

18 No, I will not abandon you as orphans—I will come to you.

Jesus Promises his Followers

I will come to you –

Meaning - in the Person of the Holy Spirit

**Jesus Christ ABIDES In Us – He LIVES In Us
In the Person of the Holy Spirit**

& When the Holy Spirit COMES into your life

He will LEAD YOU into All truth

& the Holy Spirit will BE your Supernatural POWER

TO – BE – The CHURCH

& THAT is what happens -

On the Day of Pentecost - in Acts Ch 2

So – Let's TURN there

Acts 2:1–2 (NLT)

1 On the day of Pentecost (on this day 1,988 years ago) ***all the believers were meeting together in one place.*** (Acts 1 says there were 120 believers there)

2 Suddenly, there was a sound from heaven like the roaring of a mighty windstorm, and it filled the house where they were sitting.

& I wonder – how many of these believers

had been paying close-enough attention to think

This is IT – This MUST BE

the coming of the Holy Spirit

In the O.T. - Wind was always used as a SIGN
of **God's Mighty POWER** Coming

& the SOUND of the Coming of the Holy Spirit

was LIKE the Roaring of a Mighty Windstorm

& it FILLED the house where they were sitting

But listen – MORE important than
WIND being a sign of God's Power –

In HEBREW the Word for WIND

is the Same word for BREATH

AS IN the Breath of New Life

that God Breathes into us - when we're Born Again

AND – In GREEK – The Word for WIND

is the same word for SPIRIT

AS IN – God's SPIRIT

BREATHED into Man for New Life

With the Power of a Roaring Mighty Windstorm

& then - Acts 2:3 we read (NLT)

3 Then, what looked like flames or tongues of fire appeared and settled on each of them.

Again - Thru-Out the OT - Fire is VERY Often

The SIGN – of the Presence of God

Including at the Burning Bush When God

first - “introduced Himself” to Moses

& in the PILLAR of Fire

That LED the children of Israel in the Wilderness

AND – Fire is also Identified with

the PURIFICATION of a Believer - By God

AS IN – The Refiner's Fire

AND - when the **Ascended & Glorified Jesus**
is **Described** in **Revelation**

TWICE it **says** -
His eyes were like **Flames of Fire**

So – **with** the **POWER**
of the **Breath of God** - like a **Mighty Wind**

& **with** the **FIRE of God** - **resting** on **each of them**

The **Holy Spirit** is **POURED OUT**
on this **Full Room** of **Believers**

& then Acts 2:4 (NLT)

4 And everyone present was filled with the Holy Spirit and began speaking in other languages, as the Holy Spirit gave them this ability.

Every person there was **FILLED**
with the **LIFE** and the **POWER** of **The Holy Spirit**

And - **AS** they were **FILLED** to **over-flowing**

They **began speaking** – in **OTHER Languages**
AS the **Holy Spirit** Gave **them** the **ability**

& **THESE Languages**
that the **Believers** were **speaking** on **THIS day**

These were (at **least SOME** of **them**)
were **KNOWN Languages**

Look at Acts 2:5–12 (NLT)

5 At that time there were devout Jews from every nation living in Jerusalem.

6 When they heard the loud noise, everyone came running, and they were bewildered to hear their own languages being spoken by the believers.

7 They were completely amazed. “How can this be?” they exclaimed. “These people are all from Galilee,

8 and yet we hear them speaking in our own native languages!

9 Here we are—Parthians, Medes, Elamites, people from Mesopotamia, Judea, Cappadocia, Pontus, the province of Asia,

10 Phrygia, Pamphylia, Egypt, and the areas of Libya around Cyrene, visitors from Rome

11 (both Jews and converts to Judaism), Cretans, and Arabs. And we all hear these people speaking in our own languages (about what?) about the wonderful things God has done!”

12 They stood there amazed and perplexed. “What can this mean?” they asked each other.

What CAN this MEAN?

GOD – has just done something

Supernatural – Miraculous – & Incredible

& the FIRST PURPOSE

for the Pouring out of the Holy Spirit

Was to ALWAYS BE - the PRIORITY PURPOSE

for the Pouring out of the Holy Spirit

It was So ALL these people

could HEAR the Wonderful things God had DONE
IN A WAY that they could RECEIVE IT

& in this 1st Miracle - it meant – by Hearing Believers
Speaking Miraculously in their OWN Languages

The FIRST Miracle

Brought to the NT Church – BY the Holy Spirit

Was the Ability for Believers
to SHARE the Good News of Jesus Christ

IN A WAY that could be Miraculously UNDERSTOOD
& Miraculously RECEIVED

& That is STILL – The FIRST & the GREATEST MIRACLE
of the Pouring Out of the Holy Spirit

& then - Acts 2:13 says (NLT)

13 But others in the crowd ridiculed them, saying, “They’re just drunk, that’s all!”

BUT NOW – the New & Improved – Holy Spirit FILLED
APOSTLE PETER

Is going to Step Forward - & PREACH

the FIRST Spirit-Filled Sermon
of the Newly Born CHURCH

& it starts in Acts 2:14–21 (NLT)

14 Then Peter stepped forward with the eleven other apostles (the southern steps of the temple most logical place) **and shouted to the crowd, “Listen carefully, all of you, fellow Jews and residents of Jerusalem! Make no mistake about this.** (do not miss this)

15 These people are not drunk, as some of you are assuming. Nine o’clock in the morning is much too early for that.

16 No, what you see was predicted long ago by the prophet Joel:

17 ‘In the last days,’ (guys – the ‘last days’ began – with the birth of the NT church – we are living in the last days) **God says, ‘I will pour out my Spirit upon all people.** (that’s what started on that day) – (& then – here’s what will happen) **Your sons and daughters will prophesy. Your young men will see visions, and your old men will dream dreams.**

18 In those days I will pour out my Spirit even on my servants—men and women alike— and they will prophesy.

(& then Joel skips ahead – to the End Times of the Last Days)

19 And I will cause wonders in the heavens above and signs on the earth below— blood and fire and clouds of smoke.

20 The sun will become dark, and the moon will turn blood red before that great and glorious day of the LORD arrives.

21 But everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.’

THAT is WHAT

the Outpouring of the Holy Spirit – is ABOUT

It’s about the Beginning of the Last days

which began – with the Birth Of The Church

The Holy Spirit is the Power of God on the Earth
Living IN believers

That will continue - From the Day
the Spirit Came on Pentecost

Until the Great & Glorious Day
that the Lord Jesus Returns for the church

From the Birth of the Church
Until the Return of Jesus Christ

These ARE the Last Days

& these are the days - that the Lord

is pouring out the Holy Spirit
upon the church

In order to - EMPOWER the Church
to BE the Church

So that we can WALK
in the POWER of the Holy Spirit

In order To Bring the Good News of Salvation
to ALL people

in a Way that they can Miraculously
UNDERSTAND it - & RECEIVE it

God is AT WORK – Church

God is AT WORK in these Last Days

**& God is AT WORK thru the Power
of the Indwelling Holy Spirit within every Believer**

**& when the POWER
of the Holy Spirit - is Poured out TODAY**

The **SAME MIRACLE Occurs Today**

**AS Occurred The FIRST time
the Spirit was poured out - on THAT Day of Pentecost**

**Which we SEE – AS the Holy Spirit
Is GIVING Peter – the Words to Speak**

Peter says to the crowd in Acts 2:36–37 (NLT)

36 “So let everyone in Israel know for certain that God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, to be both Lord and Messiah!”

37 Peter’s words pierced their hearts, and they said to him and to the other apostles, “Brothers, what should we do?”

**THAT Right There - is the Greatest Sign
of the Outpouring of the Holy Spirit**

**When Our Hearts are PIERCED - & we say to the Lord,
“Lord, What should I do?”**

& the Lord answers us in

Acts 2:38–39 (NLT) → →

Acts 2:38–39 (NLT)

38 Peter replied, “Each of you must repent of your sins and turn to God, and be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. Then you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

39 This promise is to you, to your children, and to those far away (that’s us) - all who have been called by the Lord our God.”

Guys - **when we sense** – the **POWER** of the **Holy Spirit**
& **we say**, “***Lord, What should we do?***”

The Lord says,

- 1) Repent of your Sin - & Turn to God**
 - 2) Be Baptized (Immersed) in the Name of Jesus
for the forgiveness of your sins**
 - 3) THEN – You will Receive The Gift of the Holy Spirit**
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The GIFT - of the Very LIFE OF GOD

The GIFT – of the Very POWER OF GOD

The GIFT – of the SPIRIT OF GOD – Coming Upon your Life

THIS is what we NEED

This is what we need – PERSONALLY - &

This is what we need – AS A CHURCH

& we get it – Thru

Repentance

Being **Immersed** in **WHO Jesus Christ** is

& **Receiving** the **Holy Spirit** into our **lives**

Can you hear me please – before I go on

When the Holy Spirit - Pierces our Hearts
& we say, “*Lord, what should I do*”

The Lord Says

REPENT

Be IMMERSED in Jesus

RECEIVE the Holy Spirit

Are you with me?

& then there's a vs that I especially appreciate

Acts 2:40 (NLT)

40 Then Peter continued preaching for a long time, strongly urging all his listeners, “Save yourselves from this crooked generation!”

Guys – if the Generation that Peter was Preaching to
was CROOKED

How much MORE – do we Need to Be Saved
from OUR Crooked Generation - TODAY

& FINALLY – we see the RESULT
of the Coming of the Holy Spirit

Acts 2:41 (NLT) → →

Acts 2:41 (NLT)

41 Those who believed what Peter said were baptized and added to the church that day—about 3,000 in all.

& **MANY** of us **have seen**

ALL of the **Mikva's** (ritual baths)
just below the **Southern steps** of the **Temple Mount**

Where these **3,000 Baptisms**
could've easily **been done**

Guys - **The NT Church**
was BORN on that **Day** of **Pentecost**

when the **Holy Spirit**
was **poured out** with **Incredible POWER**

But (*Can I Say, please*)
the **NT church** was **born that day** – ***TO RUN***

Baby we were Born to RUN

AS the **church** - ***We were Born to DO SOMETHING***

We were **BORN** to **BE TRANSFORMED**

We were **BORN** to **Live BY Faith** & **Walk in the Spirit**

The **Church** was **BORN** – to **bring GLORY**
to the **Mighty Name** of **Jesus Christ**

Guys - **The church** was ***“Born to Run”***
& the church was Born to RUN WELL”

& in our Final Vs's – we SEE what it Looks like
When the Church - IS Running WELL

THIS is HOW - the church was Born to RUN

Acts 2:42 (NLT)

42 All the believers devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching, and to fellowship, and to sharing in meals (including the Lord's Supper), and to prayer.

Here's HOW the church – was Born to RUN

Solid Bible Teaching

Good Fellowship (Koinonia)

Sharing Life Together

& Prayer

THAT is HOW the church was Born to Run

& HERE – is the RESULT - of the Church
RUNNING WELL - on the Power of the Holy Spirit

Acts 2:43–45 (NLT)

43 A deep sense of awe came over them all, and the apostles performed many miraculous signs and wonders.

44 And all the believers met together in one place and shared everything they had.

45 They sold their property and possessions and shared the money with those in need.

46 They worshiped together at the Temple each day, met in homes for the Lord's Supper, and shared their meals with great joy and generosity—

47 all the while praising God and enjoying the goodwill of all the people. And each day the Lord added to their fellowship those who were being saved.

**THAT is HOW – *the Church was BORN*
& **THAT** is How – *the Church was BORN to RUN***

**& may we - CRY out to GOD Today
& may we - PRAY TODAY**

**That WE – As Individuals - & As a Church
Would be BORN AGAIN TO RUN – in this SAME WAY**

That we would be BORN AGAIN

Thru **REPENTANCE**

Thru **Being IMMERSED** in the **Name of Jesus**

Thru **RECEIVING** the **Power** of the **Holy Spirit**

& AS we are

Both As **Individuals AND** as a **Church** . . .

**AS we are - May we be
More & More – BORN TO RUN**

**May we be Born Again
By the Power of God**

**May we be FILLED
with the **Power of the Holy Spirit****

& May we be BORN AGAIN - TO RUN WELL

Let's Pray