

# **The Church that Jesus Built 2**

This week we look at the transformative power of the Holy Spirit.

When we allow the Holy Spirit to drive our lives as Christians, we will see results we can't otherwise obtain.

## **Acts 2:1–4 37–42**

Last week we discussed how important it was to Christ and for the sake of the church that the Holy Spirit dwell within his followers.

This week, we see exactly what the Holy Spirit did in and among the first believers and early converts. From illiterate fishermen to effective, persuasive witnesses of the life and power of Christ, the disciples were empowered by the Holy Spirit to continue Jesus's work on earth.

## **Acts 2:1-4 ESV**

2 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[a] 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.

In Acts 2, we immediately see the fulfillment of Christ's promises. Among the gathered believers, the Holy Spirit moved, imbuing them with the power of effective witness.

There was an instant effect, as each of the disciples began to speak in languages known not to them, speaking to the proselyte Jews gathered in Judea from the regions across the earth (vv. 5–12).

Before the entry of the Holy Spirit, no established Christian ministry existed, but only a gathering of followers of Christ. *Immediately* upon the arrival of the Holy Spirit, first thing in the morning (v. 14), however, they began to witness to all around them, gathered as they were by the sound of those speaking their varied languages.

### **Acts 2:37-42**

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.

42 And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.

The Spirit will always be our main source and guidance for the Gospel. But these disciples were already seasoned in the word and were able to be great witnesses.

Some of us are new believers, and some of us are well seasoned. There will be a difference in the way we spread our Gospel based on your walk with Christ and what you learned.

Until higher education became a primary step toward establishing a career, people would seek an apprenticeship in their selected trade. Most often, it would be a family trade.

In fact, Jesus was by trade a carpenter, as his earthly father Joseph was a carpenter. As apprentices studied the trade from established experts, they would eventually come into their own as experts in the trade.

We see the disciples follow Christ for a handful of years, listening to him, watching him teach, and, in a few instances, being sent out themselves to minister. Yet even after Jesus had sent out his disciples while he was among them, giving

them authority to cast out demons and spread the message of repentance

### **Mark 6:7-13 ESV**

#### **Jesus Sends Out the Twelve Apostles**

7 And he called the twelve and began to send them out two by two, and gave them authority over the unclean spirits. 8 He charged them to take nothing for their journey except a staff—no bread, no bag, no money in their belts— 9 but to wear sandals and not put on two tunics.[a] 10 And he said to them, “Whenever you enter a house, stay there until you depart from there. 11 And if any place will not receive you and they will not listen to you, when you leave, shake off the dust that is on your feet as a testimony against them.” 12 So they went out and proclaimed that people should repent. 13 And they cast out many demons and anointed with oil many who were sick and healed them.

He told them that only *after* the Holy Spirit empowered them would they become his witnesses leading to the point of salvation. This tells us that the ministry of the church is not like any other trade.

We can be effective speakers, WE can be Great speakers( I have seen so many videos on IG, Tik Tok Etc. that can sound like they are right and make sense just because they

can speak very well) we can be sitting under the most learned teachers, but without the aid of the Holy Spirit, there is no true leading others down the path to salvation.

Peter's message in Acts 2:14–36 was incredibly powerful, designed to impart the reality of Christ's messiahship to practicing Jews, drawing on points of Jewish theology and prophecy. Verse 37 says his message cut the listeners to the heart, highlighting the work of the Holy Spirit and bringing conviction, as Jesus had foretold in John 16:8–11. This led the hearers to ask, "What shall we do?" (v. 37). Ministry empowered by the Holy Spirit compels a response from those who hear it.

If at the end of the Gospel that person said I want to learn more. That is an amazing win.

Jesus's followers had grown from 120 in the room where the Holy Spirit came down (1:15) to more than three thousand during a single gospel message. In a single morning, the Holy Spirit multiplied the number of gathered believers by twenty-five. And this was only the start. Verse 47 emphasizes the work of the Holy Spirit, saying that the Lord grew their number day by day.

## **Acts 2: 47 ESV**

raising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved.

Rock the Riverfront 1st year had about 150 people and every year it keeps increasing and increasing . We see the holy spirit moving in these events. These outreaches.

As we witness to others, we Christians can be tempted to believe our job is to lead them to salvation.

I've seen Pastors, leaders said "I" led them to christ

It may feel that we are doing the work—after all, it's our mouths doing the talking.

But this portion of Scripture makes it clear that words from our mouths without the empowerment of the Holy Spirit are ineffectual and spiritually dead.

Consider an illustration from the natural world: Did you know poison dart frogs in captivity are completely harmless? A species of frog defined by its toxicity is actually unable to produce toxins on its own. It's the insects they eat in their natural habitats that give them the ability to produce toxins that they then secrete.

Similarly, the church without the Holy Spirit would be the church in name only. It's the indwelling of the Holy Spirit that gives us the potency to carry out the work that defines us.

Do we all get the Holy Spirit?

### **1 Corinthians 6:19 ESV**

19 Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? You are not your own

This is a question that always sparks interest, I am not going to answer this question today because its an ongoing study on Thursday nights. So if you want to know the answer . Thursday Night Bible Studies.

### **Bring Up the Baptized People**

## **Communion**

Bread:

Jesus said - "I am the living bread that came down from heaven. Whoever eats this bread will live forever. This bread is my flesh, which I will give for the life of the world."

### **1 Corinthians 11:23-26 (NKJV)**

23: For I received from the Lord that which I also delivered to you: that the Lord Jesus on the same night in which He was betrayed took bread; 24: and when He had given thanks, He broke it and said, "Take, eat, this is My body which is broken for you; do this in remembrance of Me."

#### ***Eat the bread***

25: In the same manner He also took the cup after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in My blood. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

#### ***Drink the cup***

26: For as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death till He comes.