

## **Pouring - Non Stop Abundance**

### **Acts 2:14-21**

Fellow Jews (residents of Jerusalem) -> Peter is addressing the Jewish people.  
Don't miss out on what God is doing at the start of the new era.

Let this be known to you...Therefore let all the house of Israel know with certainty (vs. 36).

This is the first of many speeches that will be highlighted in Acts.

- The age of fulfillment has come.
- It has come through the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus.
- Jesus is exalted (ascended).
- The Holy Spirit is the sign of the church's power.
- The "last days" will conclude at the return of Jesus.
- God has provided a means for relationship in the giving of his son. Forgiveness is available for the repentant. The Holy Spirit is a powerful gift. And the promises of God are guaranteed.

**vs. 16**, Peter is connecting the events of Pentecost with the words of Joel and calling them "last day" events.

Starting Line -> Pentecost (coming of the HS)

Finish Line -> Day of the Lord (era of righteousness)

**Numbers 11:29** But Moses asked him, "Are you jealous on my account? If only all the Lord's people were prophets and the Lord would place his Spirit on them!"

- Moses' wish has taken place at Pentecost.

**vs. 17**, I will pour out my Spirit

The Spirit is filling God's people.

Power is being distributed.

Currently Peter understands this to be contained within the Jews.

However he will later learn this distribution absolutely includes the Gentiles.

This pouring out, this distribution of the Spirit's power will be all inclusive concerning those who call on the name of the Lord.

- Men and women
- Old and young
- Every social and economic status

Prophecy -> declaring the acts of God. Spirit enabled insight, wisdom, & discernment concerning God's direction and plan.

He will use ALL!

In Acts

**19:6** And when Paul had laid his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came on them, and they began to speak in tongues and to prophesy.

**21:9** This man had four virgin daughters who prophesied.

**1 Corinthians 14:1-5** Pursue love and desire spiritual gifts, and especially that you may prophesy. **2** For the person who speaks in a tongue is not speaking to people but to God, since no one understands him; he speaks mysteries in the Spirit. **3** On the other hand, the person who prophesies speaks to people for their strengthening, encouragement, and consolation. **4** The person who speaks in a tongue builds himself up, but the one who prophesies builds up the church. **5** I wish all of you spoke in tongues, but even more that you prophesied. The person who prophesies is greater than the person who speaks in tongues, unless he interprets so that the church may be built up.

**Ephesians 4:11-13** And he himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, **12** to equip the saints for the work of ministry, to build up the body of Christ, **13** until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of God's Son, growing into maturity with a stature measured by Christ's fullness. Jesus embodied the fullness of the gifts mentioned in Ephesians 4. He was an actual apostle, prophet, evangelist, shepherd, and teacher. It is Jesus that gives these gifts to his followers (men and women).

There is nothing in the text that prohibits the leadership-office based on gender. Especially sense women held the office of prophet in the Old Testament.

- We must open our eyes to the beautiful legacy of women regarded as prophets in the OT (Sarah, Miriam, Deborah, Hannah, Abigail, Huldah, and Esther).
- This is important to understand when we hear the logic that the "prophetic gift is of less importance than others". There is a fullness present in the ministry gifts. This fullness was certainly present in the life of Jesus and it is actively present as the Holy Spirit empowers the church with the same gifts.
- It is faulty logic to say, "women can be prophets because prophets are a lesser role than apostles or teachers," or "women can prophesy because prophecy is a lesser gift and role than pastoring or being an elder."

Scripture does not speak of the gifts in this way.

**1 Corinthians 12:27-29** Now you are the body of Christ, and individual members of it. **28** And God has appointed these in the church: first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, next miracles, then gifts of healing, helping, leading, various kinds of tongues. **29** Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all do miracles?

The point is not hierarchy rather it is necessity. It is essential for prophecy to be utilized in the life of the church. No less important than apostles, or teachers, leading, etc.

What is my point?

"Women gifted as actual prophets, speaking forth the living word of God to the people of God, being part of a larger group of foundational leaders - that is a solid function to recognize." ~ Scot McKnight

Gift of prophecy -> speaks to people edification (builds up), encouragement, and comfort (growth as a church and as individuals).

Ability to recognize sinful behavior and a driving compulsion to confront individuals, groups, and/or cultures by proclaiming God's Word without compromise.

Those with the gift of prophecy will easily spot compromise, sin, and error, and desire immediate change and action for Christ. They tend to be bold, sensitive to sin, and place a very high value on biblical behavior.

A role of those who *lay foundations* for the church.

- Prophecy and teaching are both authoritative to the degree that the message they bring is true and from God.

Lay foundations

- Michael Bird sees a New Testament transition from the foundation of apostolic office and prophetic voice (Ephesians 2:20) into Christian preaching, witness, and teaching.
- Gordon Fee explains Paul's understanding in Ephesians 4 as functioning not in terms of office, but of ministering within the church which empowers others for the ministry of the church.

In the birth of the church there is no discrimination in the filling of God's people with the gifts of the Spirit.

- Women and Men, young and old, rich or poor

**vs. 18**, One more thing (Joel 2:28-32)

- **vs. 29**, I will even pour out my Spirit on the male and female slaves in those days.

**My** servants -> A slight change given to Joel's prophecy.

Luke wants people to understand the special relationship God has with those who tend to be forgotten.

**Matthew 20:25-28** Jesus called them over and said, “You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and those in high positions act as tyrants over them. **26** It must not be like that among you. On the contrary, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, **27** and whoever wants to be first among you must be your slave; **28** just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”

In God’s kingdom the values of power and privilege are turned upside down.  
There are different values in the kingdom of God.

This is not a kingdom of power and privilege!

**vs. 19-21**, Salvation is needed. Judgement is coming.  
The day of the Lord - the eschatological clock is ticking.

**1 Corinthians 1:8** He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you will be blameless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.

**2 Corinthians 1:14** just as you have partially understood us—that we are your reason for pride, just as you also are ours in the day of our Lord Jesus.

**Philippians 1:6, 10** I am sure of this, that he who started a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus. **10** so that you may approve the things that are superior and may be pure and blameless in the day of Christ,

**Philippians 2:16** by holding firm to the word of life. Then I can boast in the day of Christ that I didn’t run or labor for nothing.

**1 Thessalonians 5:2** For you yourselves know very well that the day of the Lord will come just like a thief in the night.

**2 Thessalonians 2:2** not to be easily upset or troubled, either by a prophecy or by a message or by a letter supposedly from us, alleging that the day of the Lord has come.

**2 Peter 3:10** But the day of the Lord will come like a thief; on that day the heavens will pass away with a loud noise, the elements will burn and be dissolved, and the earth and the works on it will be disclosed.

NO other name than the name of Jesus (Philippians 2:9-11). He alone is our salvation!

**Question:** Are you ready to be used by God? Is humility and tenderness toward others your mode of operation? Does the kingdom have your heart more than your personal accomplishments, self absorption, and the desire for others to take notice?