

DEEPER ROOTS

April 15-20

Planting Seeds: Read Acts 2

As we study the story of the Holy Spirit in the book of Acts, chapter 2 is the story of the arrival of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit comes in a magnificent display. The Holy Spirit does not come quietly in the night as a baby, to a manger. The Holy Spirit comes in the light of morning, in a crowded city, with a mighty rushing wind, and a vibrant display of light. He can be seen, He can be heard, and there is already a large crowd. The work of the Holy Spirit is to draw people to Jesus. In this chapter we see the Holy Spirit move in a mighty way and thousands get saved. The early church has just exploded. We will spend the next several weeks watching how the Spirit moves and leads, learning about how He works, but here it is evident that the Spirit's primary mission is to draw people to Jesus. The Holy Spirit arrives and gains the attention of the crowd, and then Peter speaks and tells them clearly about the death and resurrection of Jesus. When the Holy Spirit shows up He points to the new life that we have in Jesus, and then He indwells those who are now eternally alive. Verse 21 comforts us that all who call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved. Have you received the Holy Spirit? What was it like when you first received the Holy Spirit?

Digging Deep: Read Acts 2, Ephesians 4:11-16

Acts 2:42-47 gives us such a clear picture of what the life of the early church looked like. It doesn't describe all the challenges that the people had in their lives. It doesn't detail their vocations. There's no information given on how the people amused themselves. It just talks about their devotion to each other and growth in their faith. They spent time together. They ate together. They studied the truths of the apostles. They prayed together. They gave of what they had to everyone who had needs. They grew in faith together. In Ephesians, Paul gives us a similar picture of the body growing in faith. God has given us all unique talents and gifts. God has given us unique leaders. And God expects all of us to grow in unity, until we no longer have childlike faith. We are called to mature faith, but that requires work, practice, and sacrifice. How has God uniquely gifted you? Who is God working through to bless you? How can you grow into mature faith? How are you growing into mature community?

Pioneer Drive Baptist Church wants you to grow in The Word during the week of 4.15-20.24. Planting Seeds is a quick devotional and Digging Deep is a more robust study for you, your family, or your group. If you have questions or feedback, please email Terence@pioneerdrive.org.