

## Acts 2 – Spirit-Led Togetherness

We're talking this morning about Spirit-led togetherness.

I love this chapter (one of the most pivotal chapters in all of God's Word), because what we see here is God's desire for every human being to know Him.

Verses 1-4.

God's desire is that the Gospel go to every human being, but here's the second thing I love – the context for the Gospel going into all the world – is UNITY.

We've truly experienced that over the last week – prayer, and unity.

21 Days of Prayer (with a week to go) – and the unity of the Holy Spirit.

Pictures – “all together in one place” – we experienced that – “all together, one place” – we saw that Wednesday – our ladies “all together” – our men

And just as a side note – to add to that – you received a card this morning as you came in – please fill that out and put in the basket in the back before you leave – because there's some opportunities that we have for you to use your gifts and talents to serve the family of God here at Gracepoint – and we need you!

So notice what's happening here in Acts 2

The disciples are together in one place – people are in Jerusalem for the Day of Pentecost – people from all over the ancient world. These are Jewish men and women who have come to worship. Many of them have heard about Jesus, but they don't really know Jesus.

BUT GOD was about to do something amazing in their midst.

First – a SOUND fills the room – like the blowing of a mighty wind. (In scripture, wind symbolizes the creative breath of God).

The wind is God's breath, his essence – his dynamic power to give life.

HERE'S THE THING ABOUT WIND – it can be felt and heard.

So there is wind – and the wind is accompanied by FIRE.

There are tongues of fire that rested on those who had prepared their hearts in prayer to receive a blessing from the Lord.

AND HERE'S WHAT EVERYONE KNOWS – WHEN YOU GET wind and fire together – there's no way to control what's going to happen.

And when the Holy Spirit comes upon God's people – there is no way to predict what he will do among them. (And I don't know about you – but I've had a number of people suggest that that's the feeling they have right now as we go into the new year, preparing our hearts through prayer).

BECAUSE THE HOLY SPIRIT – doesn't just come TO US, he comes to USE US to unleash the Gospel into our homes, our workplaces, our schools, our community, and our world.

And the one thing that fuels that – is prayer. (You see – you can't be an Acts 2 church where God moves mightily among us, until you're first an Acts 1 church. And these men and women are together, not just individually, joining together in prayer.

Verse 5-13

Notice – some said, “they are drunk.” And so here's the crossroads we come to – do we open our minds to recognize what God is doing, or do we shrug it off and reject the obvious?

How about you today: are you accepting and submitting to what God wants to do in you, or are you making excuses for why God can't use you?

So – in the story, I love how the Spirit comes to rest on each of them.

The disciples are speaking in other tongues (or languages). In fact, Luke identifies 15 different languages that they speak (which would have represented the entire known world at the time).

And they speak with one voice and one message – and the message is that the Kingdom of God has come down to man.

(And I hope you won't miss this by saying, “This was just a yesterday event.”

In chapter 3 we read that “times of refreshing” were coming from the Lord, and so God's plan was that Pentecost be experienced over and over again among his people.

Listen – we are seeing revival in many parts of the world. We are seeing revival in Africa, and in Iran (what do you think has brought everything to a point of decision in Iran – thousands and thousands of Christian men and women have been praying for the yoke of bondage to be broken and a new day for their future).

You may not know this, but for the last several years, Iran has had the world's fastest growing church in the world with NO buildings.

And so we pray, “Let it rain!” Amen? Let the Spirit of God rain down upon the nations – upon us.

I experienced that desire recently when a young mother and father said, “David, I want more of Christ in our family.”

Right now - Young people – older people – are being called to a revival of spirit – don't miss it.

When you get a taste of the Spirit of God, you don't wait for someone to serve you, you look for ways to serve.

Next part – when we move to verse 14, Peter (who is preaching) is going to quote three different passages from

OT Scripture. We're going to look at one of those today – these are predictive prophecy:

### **Verses 14-21**

The Acts 2 church was marked by an outpouring of the Holy Spirit.

We see that all through the New Testament – that this is God's will for your life:

- **Be filled with the Holy Spirit (Eph. 5:18)**
- **Produce the fruit of the Spirit - love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control (Gal. 5:22-23)**
- **Be led by the Spirit (Rom. 8:14)**

I need the reservoir of love, goodness, kindness - to be filled in my life, so it can flow out to others.

Sometimes my experience of love is like a water gun, and when you fill up a water gun, you only have what you have. You run around, you empty the water gun, and at that point you've got nothing. Sometimes it's like that with God – we're filled to a point.

There's a lot of people to love, to be patient with, to forgive, but we're empty and running dry. But when I was a kid, I quickly found a much better option – that was a water hose, because that thing never runs out.

And so this week I've been praying - "God, let your love flow from us. Give us a revelation, a vision. May we receive it, and let what you give to us pass to the world around us.

So I want to key in on verse 17 for a minute – testimony

(What vision has God given you this week? What has God revealed to you during these 21 Days of Prayer?)

And so Peter concludes the message with these words:

Verse 36-37

<sup>36</sup> "Therefore let all Israel be assured of this: God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Messiah."

<sup>37</sup> When the people heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and the other apostles, "Brothers, what shall we do?"

(IN THIS CROWD ARE THE PEOPLE THAT 50 DAYS BEFORE ACTUALLY CRIED OUT FOR JESUS TO BE KILLED – imagine the emotion in this moment).

And Peter looks out at them and says, "You crucified Jesus, the Son of God."

But I just need to say – if you've ever sinned, you also had a role to play in the death of Jesus. SO if you're in this room and acknowledge you're a sinner, you had a hand in putting this perfect, innocent man – Jesus – on the cross.

We may have not been there physically, but we've all betrayed, all treated him like he didn't exist, all hurt him. We've disobeyed him, and run from him, and lived unholy at times.

SO are we quick to look at the sins of others, of the sin in our own heart? WE put Jesus on the Cross.

And so Peter makes a bold claim about all of us as sinners.

And here, the people come under deep conviction (that's what it means to be cut to the heart). And they cried out, "What can we do."

AND IF VERSE 37 is the most important question that's ever been asked, VERSE 38 is the most important answer:

<sup>38</sup> Peter replied, "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.

Have you done that today?

Repented: it means a change of direction. Abandoning a life of sin, giving up control, and coming under the lordship of Jesus.

Been baptized: as Jesus died, was buried, and rose again – have you followed Jesus to the death of your sins in baptizing, and rising to walk in a new way of life? Are your sins washed away in pure water so that you can experience this wonderful cleansing and peace?

AND NOTICE THAT HE SAYS, 'in the name of Jesus' – which means "to come under the management of." To "transfer ownership." It's no longer me, but you, Lord.

And then there's this incredible promise – the gift of the Holy Spirit.

1 Peter 2:11 Peter talks about worldly desires that "wage war against your very souls."

There is a real war for control – a real war. Is it self, or is it the Holy Spirit?

Listen – in life, there are bullies that try to control us. (If you were small like me, you dealt with the occasional bully.) And in the same way, there are bullies in our lives daily that try to gain control over us.

The BODY tries to be the bully in our life – my body wants to sleep in, my body wants a Krispy Kream, my body wants what it wants.

EMOTIONS try to be the bully in my life – emotions are a bully that try to control my feelings, my temper

And the Holy Spirit stands at the door and knocks – and he's not gonna be a bully

Self-control is turning over control to the Holy Spirit.

It's not just about stopping something ("I'm not gonna do that anymore") – it's about turning control over to Him.

You control the flesh by welcoming the Holy Spirit. So, Holy Spirit – what should I say? How should I react? What is the best choice? Where should I focus?

When we turn over management of our lives to the Spirit – there is joy and there is peace.

Jackie Crotts (and family – are here today).

I asked: What prompted you to come, bring your family?

**(Jackie gave the best description of work of HS in our lives I've heard recently):**

The Holy Spirit is the best thing God ever gave me.

God speaks to me through Scripture when I read – but the holy Spirit is always with me – in the small decisions – He lets me know if I'm deviating from the path.

I wish everybody, especially people in recovery, could receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

And our passage for today ends the effects of the working of the Holy Spirit:

Verses 39-41

<sup>39</sup> The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off—for all whom the Lord our God will call."

<sup>40</sup> With many other words he warned them; and he pleaded with them, "Save yourselves from this corrupt generation." <sup>41</sup> Those who accepted his message were

baptized, and about three thousand were added to their number that day.

In our morning prayers (a lot of you have been watching each day online) – there is a question that's been asked this week for us to think about each day:

I want to put it on the screen – and I want to ask you to think about that today:

**Holy Spirit, what are you saying to me?**

I trust in God (instrumental)

SING: I trust in God

Three things we need in 2026:

1. Awareness – Am I looking for God? If God is in the room and we don't sense him, is it His fault? No, it's ours!

So we need to look for God.

Psalm 46:10 - He says, "Be still, and know that I am God;

I will be exalted among the nations,  
I will be exalted in the earth."

He's here – we just need to recognize it. SO I decide, I'm going to come into this situation looking for God. God is here. His goodness is here.  
(And if you can't find him, worship and he'll find you.)

2. Alignment – Am I walking in obedience?

Is there anything in my life that's not aligned with God?

Here's the thing – if we'll just confess our sin, he will be faithful!

John 14:21 - Whoever has my commands and keeps them is the one who loves me. The one who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I too will love them and show myself to them.”

If you can't sense the presence of God, something is out of alignment.

First - Awareness – Am I looking for God?

Second - Alignment – Am I walking in obedience?

3. Access – Am I actively inviting him in?

Listen – he likes to be invited.

Revelation 3:20 - Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with that person, and they with me.

“opens” – you've got to let him in. He doesn't barge in – he's the perfect gentleman.

Let's invite him in this morning. “Lord I need you!” We're inviting you in”