

“I was made for this!” Have you ever said that? Maybe you were experiencing some exhilarating thrill and just wanted to express how much fun you were having. But the real meaning of the phrase—and its truest usage—is for those who have finally found their purpose in life. They’ve stumbled upon the thing that animates them: the calling that taps their strongest gifts, and fills their inmost needs, and satisfies their deepest passions. Well, it’s not hard to imagine the Acts 2 community saying this. They had finally found their heart’s true home in the Lord and with each other. And the good news is, that experience wasn’t only for them. The Bible says, “The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off—for all whom the Lord our God will call” (Acts 2:39). We can get in on this! We can all find our way to the place where the Spirit dwells in life-giving fullness, joy, and power.

1. When was the last time you said, “I was made for this!”? What were you doing?
2. Read Acts 2:42-47.
 - What does this passage evoke in you?
 - What longings of your heart do you see being satisfied in the hearts of the people in this passage?
3. The reason for this outpouring of the Holy Spirit was to create a witnessing community (see Acts 1:8), a people who would both proclaim and demonstrate, *say and show*, who Jesus is and what he can do. And Acts 2:42-47 is a pretty good summary of that purpose. These people are exhibiting the life of Jesus in their collective life.
 - How are we doing at this?
 - Where do you think we are strongest and weakest?
 - What’s one practical way we might do better?
4. One of the great comforts of this story is that we don’t have to manufacture this experience or achieve some standard of holiness to qualify for it. God does this work; our job is simply to get ourselves in position to receive it. To enflame our desires for a fresh outpouring of God. And desires can be enflamed.

Like when Eugene Peterson confessed to feeling “dull, flat, routine,” not excited, about the coming birth of his first grandchild. He wondered, “What’s wrong with me, why don’t I feel anything?” and his wife said, “It’s because you’ve never been pregnant—go build a cradle.”

So Peterson did. He began building meticulously; he began building the best cradle he could. And sure enough, he says, “Jan’s prescription worked: I got pregnant.” As he built and prayed, his heart grew warm with love, anticipation and desire.

- What would building a cradle look like for you?
- Pray for God to revive your own hearts and the heart of our whole church—for his glory and the good of his mission in the world.