Acts 2:1-4 **"Baptized with the Holy Spirit"** **Pentecost**

Attention:
At the beginning of the 1900s, more revival was breaking out in what was called Great Awakenings. There was still a lot of segregation in the south. The Holy Spirit was at work, and He was resting on anyone at will, regardless of their color or sex. As time passed, Pentecostalism saw no color. The movement was bringing people together for one mind, to save souls, transform lives, and to evangelize Christ. The Ku Klux Clan had a problem with what the Spirit of God was doing and tried to terrorize and intimidate people, even using the burning of crosses.

People that were filled with the Holy Spirit have affected our continent, among the many 'Great Awakenings' that took place in America, from Jonathan Edwards to Charles Finney to D.L. Moody, William Seymour, and Billy Sunday, including North Carolina's Billy Graham, each had one thing in common: they all began with prayer. **There is a call for the body of Christ to get back to the basics of the gospel message, that is, Christ was crucified on a cross**, was buried in a tomb, and has risen from the grave that you and I might be saved. There was a time when everyone could not learn about the gospel message of Jesus Christ.

Need:
How can a follower of Christ be filled with the Holy Spirit? Christians who are filled with the Holy Spirit share their faith in a bold way. The Day of Pentecost changed the followers of Christ from timid victims to world-changers. This was prophesied by the prophet Joel and John the Baptist and is available to any believer.

Background:
The theme of Acts is the Holy Spirit working through His Church up until the time of Paul. The writer of Acts is Luke. Acts was a letter to Luke's friend Theophilus, written around A.D. 62–64. The book is a historical book as to what took place in the early church. It is a bridge between the four gospels and the apostle Paul and his missionary journeys. Peter is the leader of Acts in the first 12 chapters; Paul picks up the rest. Much of Acts shows the struggles that the early church had and how they overcome many barriers as the church progressed despite the odds. The book of Acts is filled with human fear, disarray, and formations of the apostles as they spread throughout the world, taking the gospel far beyond Jerusalem. The gospel is preached to the poor and the wealthy, the Africans and the Asians, the Europeans, the Mediterranean world. The Holy Spirit is extended to not only Jews, but to non-Jews as well. The book shows how the early Christians were stimulated to pray, fast, fellowship, and move into the presence of an ordinary life to the presence of God. The book of Acts shows what God was doing in the early church through devoted people.

When the Holy Spirit was given to the apostles and other believers who adhered to the gospel teachings, they were forever changed. Their way of life experienced a paradigm shift. As Peter and John were going into the temple, they encountered a lame man sitting outside of the temple begging for alms (money/goods). While expecting to receive some money from them, Peter had nothing to give the man but powerful words of encouragement. He offered a hand up and urged the man to stand to his feet and the beggar became living proof of God's transformative power. In the Old Testament, the Hebrew term *ruach* means wind, breath, or Spirit. In the New Testament, the Greek word *pneuma* means the same.

Pentecost is also called the Feast of Weeks (Shavuot; Lev. 23). The Feast of Weeks occurs 50 days after the Feast of Firstfruits. Pentecost literally means fifty. All male Jews were required to travel to Jerusalem every year and offer a Firstfruits offering. Firstfruits followed the Passover Feast in commemoration of Israel leaving Egypt. Spiritually, it commemorates Jesus the Messiah resurrecting from the grave. After Jesus rises, He walks the earth another 40 days making Himself visible unto many. When the day of Pentecost had fully come, the Holy Spirit came into every believer. He is our guide through our spiritual wilderness as God was a fire and a cloud for the Israelites during their wilderness journey. You can overcome obstacles of the flesh because of Pentecost.
The word **baptize** comes from the Greek word *baptizo* (G907), which means to make overwhelmed or fully wet. In Matthew 28:19, baptizing into the name would indicate the baptized person became bound to, or the property of the one in whose name he was baptized.
Baptism is the Greek word *baptisma* (G908) which is the processes of immersion, submersion, and emergence. 1) John's baptism, 2) Christian baptism, 3) Overwhelming inflections and judgments, to which the Lord voluntarily on the cross (Luke 12:50), and 4) The sufferings of His followers would experience in fellowship with their master.

1. **What Preceded the in Filling of the Holy Spirit (v. 1)?**
    a. The Day of Pentecost had fully come.
        i. John the Baptist prophesied of this.
            1. *"I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance, but He who is coming after me is mightier than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire."* (Matthew 3:11, NKJV).
        ii. Christ ascended 40 days after the resurrection (Acts 1:3, 9).
        iii. Pentecost = 50 days— Ascension of Christ = 40 days = 10 days.
        iv. In the Old Testament (Leviticus 23), it is the "Feast of Weeks," marking seven weeks (or 50 days) after the beginning of the barley harvest.
    b. Were all in one accord in one place: *homothumadon—unanimously; at once; at the same time.*
        i. They were in prayer with one mind.
            1. *"These all continued with one accord in prayer and supplication, with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with His brothers."* (Acts 1:14, NKJV).
            2. They were constantly praying about a central theme: the baptism of the Holy Spirit.
        ii. There were about 120 people (Acts 1:15).
    c. Believers are to be constant in prayer and undivided.
    d. Seek God for an in filling—keep coming to Him in prayer to be filled.

2. **What Did the Presence of the Holy Spirit Do (v. 2-3)?**
    a. The Spirit of God filled the house (v. 2).
    b. The appearance was like divided tongues and rested on them (v. 3).
        i. This (cloven tongues) meant to become separated into two groups in opposition.
        ii. Tongues as of fire—God's presence like in the Old Testament.
    c. No believer was exempt from this experience.
        i. The outpouring of God's Spirit was present to those seeking Him (Acts 1:8).
    d. Sudden experiences happen when you seek Christ for what you believe.

3. **What Was the Result of People Being Holy Spirit Filled (v. 4)?**
    a. They began to speak in other languages as the Spirit gave them this ability.
        i. It sounded like they were drunk to some (v. 13).
    b. They spoke boldly to the masses—v. 14, Peter raised his voice.
        i. Peter spoke boldly to the rulers and elders.
            1. *"Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, "Rulers of the people and elders of Israel:"* (Acts 4:8, NKJV).
    c. God fills you to equip you—It is dunamis (dynamite) power.
        i. *"And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit,"* (Ephesians 5:18, NKJV).
        ii. The Spirit gives the utterance (sound)—it is not a human invention or education.
            1. *"Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were uneducated and untrained men, they marveled. And they realized that they had been with Jesus."* (Acts 4:13, NKJV).
    d. The purpose is for **empowerment for service** and witness (Acts 1:8).
        i. Providing believers with spiritual power to live a holy life and exercise spiritual gifts like prophecy or healing.