

LIKE A ROCK

The Spiritual Journey of Simon Peter

The Day that Rocked the World Acts 2:1-47

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Have you ever thought that God may have more in mind for you than you have ever dreamed? Or perhaps, that He sees more potential in you than you think is possible?

This was certainly the case for Simon Peter (Jn. 1:42; Mt. 16:17-18). On the day of Pentecost, ten days after Jesus' ascension, Simon was filled with the Holy Spirit and became the Rock that Jesus said he would be.

In our text, Peter and a small assembly of believers received the gift of the Holy Spirit, and the church of Jesus Christ was born.

Main Thought...

➔ Don't settle for being _____ when you're meant to be a Rock.

1. **Be filled with the _____ of Christ (v. 1-21).**

2 Chron. 7:1-2; 1 Cor. 12:13; Eph. 5:18

2. **Be empowered as a _____ for Christ (v. 22-41).**

Acts 1:8; 4:31

3. **Be united in the _____ of Christ (v. 42-47).**

- Be devoted to _____ as a disciple of Christ (v. 42-46).
- Be devoted to _____ make disciples for Christ (v. 47).

Mt. 4:19; 28:18-20; Acts 2:41; 4:4; 5:14; 6:7

Final Thoughts...

➔ Have you _____ for being Simon?

➔ When will you _____ up to be a Rock?

John 1:42 - He brought him to Jesus. Now when Jesus looked at him, He said, "You are Simon the son of Jonah. You shall be called Cephas" (which is translated, A Stone).

Matthew 16:17-18 - Jesus answered and said to him, "Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah, for flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but My Father who is in heaven. And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it.

2 Chronicles 7:1-2 - When Solomon had finished praying, fire came down from heaven and consumed the burnt offering and the sacrifices; and the glory of the LORD filled the temple. And the priests could not enter the house of the LORD, because the glory of the LORD had filled the LORD's house.

1 Corinthians 12:13 - For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free—and have all been made to drink into one Spirit.

Ephesians 5:18 - Do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit.

Acts 1:8 - You shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.

Acts 4:31 - When they had prayed, the place where they were assembled together was shaken; and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and they spoke the word of God with boldness.

Matthew 4:19 - Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men.

Matthew 28:19-20 - Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.

Acts 2:41 - Then those who gladly received his word were baptized; and that day about **three thousand** souls were added to them.

Acts 4:4 - Many of those who heard the word believed; and the number of the men came to be about **five thousand**.

Acts 5:14 - And believers were increasingly added to the Lord, **multitudes** of both men and women.

Acts 6:7 - Then the word of God spread, and the number of the disciples **multiplied greatly** in Jerusalem, and a great many of the priests were obedient to the faith.

The rapid rise of the early church is an enigma in human history. The first century disciples didn't merely make a difference in the world, they literally made the world a different place.

"One of the most amazing and significant facts of history is that within five centuries of its birth Christianity won the professed allegiance of the overwhelming majority of the population of the Roman Empire." **(Kenneth Scott Latourette; A History of Christianity, Vol. 1)**

"Christianity went from being a fringe sect in the Roman Empire to dominate religion of Western Civilization" **(Rodney Stark; Professor University of Washington, The Rise of Christianity)**.

Stark believed that Christianity grew in the Roman Empire at a rate of 40 percent a decade, growing from around 1,000 (0.0017 percent of the population) in A.D. 40 to nearly 34 million (56.5 percent of the population) in A.D. 350, when it reached "a critical mass" of at least 10 percent of the Roman Empire. Stark said conversions did not take place with rallies in marketplace but rather quietly through relatives and friend.

"This was a ragtag group of nobodies. Nobody knew their names, nobody knew their platform, nobody knew where they'd come from. Yet history records that they were used by God to literally turn the world upside down. When you realize the magnitude of what happened through this group of people, it raises a question: What was it about them that enabled them to be so mightily used of God?" **(Vance Pitman; "4 Things that Caused the Early Church to Spread Like Wildfire," imb.org).**

The filling of the Spirit occurs when the believer walks in obedience to the Word and Spirit. Yielding to His control releases His power in the believer's life. This principle is foundational to all the rest; yieldedness to the Holy Spirit is the key to successfully handling persecution. Because Peter was Spirit-filled, persecution merely drove him closer to the Lord. Lack of being filled with the Spirit is the reason the church today has difficulty facing opposition **(MacArthur)**.