

The Acts JOURNEY Abridged – 2026/2027

ACTS 2:1-13 – “PENTECOST”

UPDATE: REMINDER TO MINISTRY LEADERS TO TURN IN CALENDAR OF ACTIVITIES BY MAY 31 (next week!).

➤ **We are continuing our JOURNEY THROUGH the Book of Acts with a focus on the Spirit-empowered Life today, ch. 2!**

- Today IS the Day of **the Feast of Pentecost** and we will be studying the fulfillment of that feast in the 2nd Chapter of Acts.
 - The message is appropriately entitled “**Pentecost!**”
 - Today we will see how the LORD fulfilled this feast by sending what Jesus promised, the empowerment of His Holy Spirit!
 - At the end of service, as we take communion together, we will give you the opportunity to ask God to do the same for you!

REVIEW:

- **As I reminded you last week, we want to keep the whole Bible in mind while we study the individual books...**
- **In the same way** that **Matthew** was a bridge between the promises of the OT and the fulfillments in the NT, the book of **ACTS** is a bridge between the time of the life and earthly ministry of Jesus and the establishment of his bride, the church.
 - *It is this book* that tells us how that **small group** of fearful disciples huddled in an upper room became a church that defied an empire!
 - *It is this book* that chronicles the lives of **the disciples** after the ascension of Christ and how God worked in their lives by His Spirit.
 - *It is this book* that introduces us to the man who was transformed by the Holy Spirit from the chief persecutor of Christianity to its most fruitful missionary... **the Apostle Paul**.
 - **We are making this Journey** with the following outline from **ACTS 1:8**:

- Ministry in **Jerusalem** – ACTS 1-7
 - Ministry in **Judea & Samaria** – ACTS 8-12
 - Ministry to **the Ends of the Earth** – ACTS 13-28
 - Subdivided from there into Paul's **4 Missionary Journeys**: *First* (13:1—15:35), *Second* (15:36—18:22), *Third* (18:23—21:16), and *Fourth* to Rome (21:17—28:31).
 - Today we are continuing in the first section, still in Jerusalem.
- **As we journey through it**, we are also going to look at an **OVERVIEW** of some other Biblical passages that are related in context to this narrative...
 - **The Book of Acts** (and the empowerment of the Holy Spirit) has had a profound impact on the history of **Calvary Chapel** as well.
 - So, as we embark on this journey, we are also going to talk about the history of OUR church and the impact that the ministry of the Holy Spirit has had on our direction.
 - Many of you know that we are NOT a denomination but an affiliation of like-minded churches that began during the Jesus Revolution which our founder **Pastor Chuck Smith** had a major role.
 - *Screensaver Entertainment* made a documentary called "**What God Hath Wrought**" about the amazing history of our church. We will watch a short clip of this documentary weekly before we get into our study because I would like for you all to **know the history of our church and how God has guided us over the years by the Power of His Holy Spirit.**
 - You can also check out this book "**Harvest**" and read some more stories of various CC churches or pick up this short summation of the major **DISTINCTIVES** of the Calvary Chapel Philosophy of Ministry.

- Watch VIDEO CLIP [2:59—7:05]

"We Come to Worship You" - PRAYER

Tongues of Fire – 1:1-4a

1 When the day of Pentecost arrived, they were all together in one place.

➤ For those who missed ch. 1 last week, here's a quick summary:

- LUKE is the human author of the Book of Acts and he wrote it as a sort of VOLUME II accompaniment to his Gospel; writing to a man called THEOPHILUS who was likely a wealthy benefactor of his.
- He will join the group in 16:10 and become Paul's personal physician later writing his book as a result of his extensive travels.
- In Ch. 1 we saw Jesus ascend into heaven from the Mt of Olives and 2 angels promised that he would return in like manner (ZECH 14).
- Jesus also commanded the disciples to stay in Jerusalem and WAIT for the empowerment of the Holy Spirit, but IMHO Peter's impulsive nature got the best of him, and he used the OT method of rolling dice to choose Matthias as a replacement for Judas when Paul was likely the real choice.
- The titles were not from the original authors but were added later and this one should more appropriately be called THE ACTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT!

➤ Ch. 2 begins by saying that the group was together on the Day of Pentecost, so let's dig in and discuss what that day was all about.

- PENTECOST comes from a Greek word meaning "50th" and is the Gentile name of a Biblical holiday of celebrating the HARVEST of Barley and Wheat in Israel that has been observed for more than 3000 years.

- It was to be observed on the Sunday after the 7th sabbath after Passover, which the Jews appropriately call “*The Feast of Weeks*.”
 - You may recall from our study in **the Book of Ruth** how 2 bundles of harvested grains were waved before the LORD each week starting with the barley harvest in early spring (Easter Sunday) for the next 7 weeks concluding w/the wheat harvest at the feast of **Pentecost** in early summer.
 - It occurs 50 days from the Sabbath but 49 from the Feast of Firstfruits. **Psalm 67** with its 7 verses and 49 Hebrew words is often read daily to mirror the 7-week cycle.
 - Jewish observers connected it also with the giving of the Law to Moses on Mt Sinai. The two sheaves they see as the two tablets of the 10 Commandments.
- **In this chapter** you will see a clear **CONTRAST** between the giving of **the LAW** and the **OUTPOURING of God’s Holy Spirit!**
- *In the giving of the Law* there were two tablets which are connected to the 2 bundles of grain (the “OMERS”) waved before the LORD.
 - *In the outpouring of God’s Holy Spirit*, two groups came together (Jews & Gentiles) which may be symbolized by the two leavened loaves of Pentecost, the ONLY feast with LEAVEN, showing GRACE!
 - In the giving of the Law, 3,000 people perished (**EXODUS 32:28**) but in the pouring out of His Spirit, 3,000 people were saved (**ACTS 2:41**)!
 - **Paul** later highlighted what happened saying, “**For what the law could not do in that it was weak through the flesh, God *did* by sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh...**” **Romans 8:3**

- **We studied the Resurrection** of Jesus in **MT 28** on Resurrection Sunday 7 weeks ago.
 - For obvious reasons, at the feast of Pentecost, the Book of Ruth is read by observers, which we've just studied through ourselves!
 - And here we are now in this chapter on the very day of PENTECOST!
- **I hope YOU** are as excited as I am for this day! Let's continue!

2:2-3 2 And suddenly there came from heaven a sound like a mighty rushing wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. 3 And divided tongues as of fire appeared to them and rested on each one of them. .

➤ **Let's just take this one verse at a time... Vs 1 says that a sound came "from heaven lie a mighty rushing wind..."**

- **You need to know** that in Hebrew & Greek both, the word for Spirit, Wind and breath are the same (**Ruach** in Hebrew, **Pneuma** in Greek).
 - These words are used interchangeable throughout the Bible.
 - At the beginning, Man received his spirit when God literally breathed the breath of life into him. (**GEN 2:7**)
 - In **Ezekiel 37** he was told by God to prophesy to the dry bones to come alive. In the passage, there is wind, breath and Spirit used interchangeably and even a strange noise, that rattling sound!
 - **Jesus** himself had said, "**The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear its sound, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.**" JN 3:8
 - **Paul** wrote to Timothy how "**all scripture is God-breathed**..." 2 TIM 3:16
- **In this connection** with the Wind and the Spirit is a great analogy.

- The Spirit comes and goes as He pleases. We cannot control or manipulate Him. All we can do is glide on his powerful wind.
- Consider the **Albatross**. This bird has a massive wingspan of some 12 feet! Yet it's body weight is out-of-proportion with even that length. It would be morbidly obese on the Bird BMI and thus it can't fly much at all. It remains airborne only by GLIDING on the power of the wind. Boy can an Albatross glide, however. Some have been tracked to remain in the air for some 9,000 miles. It is estimated that with the wind, an albatross may be able to fly for YEARS, even though, on his own, he cannot even fly for a few minutes.
 - We need to be more like an Albatross and ride the wind of the Holy Spirit as he sends us to do God's will.
 - We are grounded WITHOUT the Holy Spirit, but with Him we need only stretch out our WINGS and RIDE the Mighty Rushing Wind!

- **This is NOT an unusual association** between these three, but the **POWER** of the wind was unusual... it caused a great stir throughout the city so that EVERYONE noticed it!
 - It was **sudden**. It was from **Heaven**.
 - It was **loud**. It was **MIGHTY**.

➤ **Vs 3 tells us about another unusual aspect of this fulfillment of PENTECOST, the outpouring of God's Holy Spirit, "**tongues as of fire**"**

- **Though this was a very unique occurrence**, the LORD did display his special pleasure at certain occasions in the OT by sending fire from heaven...

- When **Moses** dedicated **the Tabernacle** (tent temple), God sent a sacrifice-consuming fire from heaven.
 - When **Solomon** dedicated **the Temple** (stone temple) it came again.
 - Here, God was showing His approval for the establishment of a new type of temple that would be inside each believer.
 - **Peter** would later write that “you yourselves like **living stones** are being built up as a spiritual house...” 1 PT 2:5
 - So these “tongues of fire” descended upon them.
 - Like the first two dedications which were never repeated, it seems this was a one-time occurrence as well, the day the church doors opened!
- **It probably should also be connected** with John the Baptist’s prophecy when he said that Jesus would “baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.” (Matthew 3:11).
 - **What were these “tongues”** though? It doesn’t say that they WERE FIRE but that they were LIKE FIRE, a fire of another kind.
 - The Word in the OG Greek is **glossa**, which can refer only to the tongue itself or the language that comes FROM the tongue.
 - This seems to suggest that what happened on that day was a Spiritual Empowerment for FIERY SPEECH.
 - This is a pattern we see throughout the book from disciples who were once had ignorance and confusion in their speech.
 - People heard them declaring “**the mighty works of God...**” (VS 11). Peter gave a bold sermon where 3,000 were saved. Peter and John spoke boldly to the San Hedrin. Paul took the boldness of speech to foreign lands. It’s a DISTINGUISHING mark of the early church.
 - Perhaps that is what it was... **FIERY SPEECH!**

- **Fire was also symbolic** of holiness and purity...
 - The “refiner’s fire” was an often-used OT symbol.
 - Fire burns away impurities.
 - Perhaps these FIERY TONGUES were meant to bring PURITY as well.
 - **Paul** would later write, “Let no corrupting talk come out of your mouths, but only such as is good for building up, as fits the occasion, that it may give grace to those who hear.” EPH 4:29
- Perhaps these **tongues as of fire**, whatever they were, portrayed exactly what the HOLY SPIRIT brings to the CHURCH...
 - **First**, the HOLY presence of the ALMIGHTY Spirit of God in EVERY believer as a new type of temple, a LIVING one!
 - **Second**, the purity & power of the TONGUE [speech] to be used to proclaim “...the mighty works of God...” as we go forth with the gospel declaring salvation to the world, testifying to all who would listen, *until the whole world hears!*
- **Vs 3 also tells us that these fiery tongues “rested upon each one of them”**
 - **This “rest”** speaks of a permanence of position, not temporary. That is an important distinction.
 - In the Old Covenant, the Holy Spirit came upon the nation as a whole or certain individuals for certain activities, but not on EVERYONE.
 - He imparted constructive skills – Exodus 28:3; 31:3
 - He gave physical strength – Judges 14:6,19; 16:30
 - He empowered for executive wisdom – Judges 3:10 “Othniel”; 6:34 “Gideon”; 11:29 “Jephthah”
 - Making this spiritual relationship available to all was a NEW THING.

- The Holy Spirit in the New Testament would PERMANENTLY indwell rather than just empower. He will ALSO empower as we will see.
- **Why the change?** The Spirit could not have come sooner.
 - This NEW Abiding within the believer as a temple was dependent upon the death, burial, resurrection, and ascension of Jesus
 - It could NOT happen before (Jn 7:37–39; 16:7) just as Pentecost comes AFTER Passover and Firstfruits.

4a And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit...

- **The fiery tongues and the mighty wind were the phenomenon that accompanied the real gift... “the Holy Spirit”!**
 - **This outpouring of His Holy Spirit** was such a needed blessing and essential for His people, that Jesus said, as we saw last week, that it was actually BETTER for him to depart so that they could receive this *special gift*
 - He said that in **John 16:7** and He meant it. It would be better because he was limited to locality, but His Spirit is not.
 - The omnipotence of God is manifested through His Holy Spirit. In that sense, Jesus was still with them, dwelling within was His Spirit.
 - **HE is available** to YOU and to ME today as well
 - Everyone, Jew & /Gentile alike, are saved on the same condition... *TRUSTING IN JESUS FOR SALVATION.*
 - To those who meet this one condition... The Holy Spirit is given without DELAY, and He immediately dwells within them.
 - There are FURTHER experiences of the Holy Spirit BEYOND the indwelling, however...
 - **Let’s talk about** the Filling of the Holy Spirit and what it means...

■ **C.I. Scofield** said... "*The N.T. distinguishes between having the Spirit, which is true of all believers, and being filled with the Spirit which is the Christian's privilege and duty.*"

- Every believer is indwelt by God's Holy Spirit, but we can also be filled by the Spirit for empowerment for ministry.
- Filling is a command (**Eph 5:18**) and it is for the enablement of the believer for Christian Service. [**Acts 4:8, 31; 6:3, 5; 7:55; 9:17; 13:9, 52**]

➤ **From what we see in the scriptures, there seems to be a 3-fold relationship of the Holy Spirit to the Believer...**

- **The first time** we experience the Spirit is usually when He is "**WITH**" us...
 - The word in the OG Greek is "**para**" which literally means "**to come alongside.**"
 - The Holy Spirit COMES ALONG SIDE US to convict us of Sin. This is our first experience as a NON believer. He is helping to DRAW us to the recognition of our sinful state before God and our NEED for forgiveness and salvation! (**JN 6:44 "Father who sent me draws him"**)
 - Jesus said in John's gospel that the Spirit convicts of "**sin... righteousness... judgment.**" **JN 16:9**
 - He has the glorious privilege of presenting Jesus Christ, the object of faith, TO THE UNREPENTENT SINNER (**JN 16:14**).
 - He also helps us to BELIEVE by giving us the GIFT of faith as **Paul** wrote, "**For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God...**" (**EPH 2:8**)
 - He further REGENERATES the SINNER turning him into a SAINT as **Paul** also wrote to **Titus**, "...**by the washing of regeneration and renewal by the Holy Spirit...**" **3:5-7**

- **Once we respond** surrenderingly to the “**alongside**” experience, then (and ONLY then) can we experience the next level where the Spirit dwells within us as ... this is the “**IN**” experience...
 - The OG Greek word is “**en**” and though it’s spelled differently, it means exactly what it looks like...
 - This is the abiding presence of the Holy Spirit INDWELLING the believer as a holy New Testament Temple as **Paul** wrote again, “...**your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you...**” (1 COR 6:19)
 - This indwelling power of God’s Holy Spirit is our greatest resource to gain Victory over the flesh... as **Paul** wrote once again, “**For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit.**” (ROMANS 8:5)
 - Here are just a few of the things that the Spirit is then able to produce within us, from the INSIDE OUT:
 - Access to the Father – **Eph 2:18**
 - Helps us realize our Adoption – **Gal 4:6**
 - Provides comfort – **Acts 9:31**
 - Intercessory Prayer – **Romans 8:26-27; Eph 6:18**
 - Strength in weakness – **Romans 8:11,26**
 - The Fruit of the Spirit (Christian Character) – **Gal 5:22-23**
 - Assists in the process of Sanctification - **2 TH 2:13; 1 PTR 1:2**
- **Once we respond** to the “**alongside**” experience and the Holy Spirit begins to transform us from “**within**,” then the next level is the “**UPON**” exp...
 - The OG Greek word is “**epi**” and it can happen **AT** salvation or **AFTER** salvation, depending on what God is up to...

- Different words are used for this third exp. Such as baptism, anointing, and filling but they seem to refer to the same experience.
- We will see in ACTS 17:6 that Paul and his crew are charged with having “turned the world upside down.” In reality, the Holy Spirit through them was turning their world right-side up! That’s what this experience is, and we will talk about it more as it comes up.
- **Now that we have A GREATER UNDERSTANDING of our relationship to God through His Holy Spirit, we can move fwd** into a *deeper*, more *intimate* connection to Him as His Spirit works in and through us.
 - What we see in this narrative are amazing sermons, people being called into the ministry and people getting saved by the thousands!
 - Does ANYONE wanna see that in OUR church and community?
 - Join me in praying for God to move in our day like He did in thiers!
 - Then let’s **PRAY> INVITE> SERVE**.

The Mighty Works of God – 1:4b-13

4b... and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance.

- **You may have noticed in the Bible that God is really into our language, what comes out of our mouths, how we interact with one another...**
 - **Back in Genesis 11**, he separated humanity with confusion of speech and here at PENTECOST, he brought us unity through spiritual understanding.
 - People of various churches today seem to get very argumentative about this idea of speaking in tongues.
 - Some completely discount it while others give it too high a place. Both are incorrect. Balance is key, as always.

- This is simply **a blessing of supernatural understanding**.
 - The Jewish people spoke and people from many nations understood what was being said. We really don't even know if the people were speaking other languages or if those from other nations were able to supernaturally understand them.
 - You might point out that **Vs 4** says, "**they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues**" yes but **Vs 6** also says, "**each one was hearing them speak in his own language**" and **Vs 8** says, "**we hear, each of us in his own native language**" AND **Vs 11** says, "**we hear them telling in our own tongues the mighty works of God.**"
 - It could be like Tim LaHaye and Jerry Jenkins wrote about in "Left Behind" where the two witnesses of **REV 11** spoke in Hebrew but were understood by all in their native language.
 - Whatever was happening, God gave a blessing of miraculous communication, breaking the language barrier HE ERECTED back in the day, so that people from many nations could hear "**the mighty works of God**" (vs 11) in their native tongue. Praise the Lord.
 - If God thinks you need this blessing, He will impart it to you by His Spirit. If not, He won't. It's that simple. If you have to prime the pump by chanting over someone "***I'd rather drive a Nissan than a Honda but you drive a Subaru...***" then you've definitely defaulted to the Flesh, NOT the Spirit, IMHO> That's **Charismania** (not Charisma!)
- At 19 years old, **Bruce Olsen** felt called by God to go into the Jungles of South America to minister to the headhunting tribe called **The Motilones**. He did and when they met him, they shot him through the thigh with a 4ft arrow and dragged him to their camp. Try as he might, even though he was

an excellent linguist, he could not pick up their language for more than 18 months. He repeated the word for “**banana**” and they brought him an **axe** and he later discovered that this South American tribe had an out-of-place tonal language so that the word “brokbah” could mean both banana AND axe, depending on the tone. He took him 12 years living in their longhouse to discover how to share the gospel. If he said ***Schkeel bie nanaihee*** the with the wrong tone, it would mean “The animal went into the hole” instead of “**I know the way of everlasting life!**” Imagine him saying for years, “The animal went into the hole, FOR YOU!” After a long 12 years a man named **Barbarishora** finally understood and responded to the gospel and then helped Bruce to find better ways to explain it to the rest of his people. Today, Bruchko as the Motilone people affectionate call him STILL lives in the jungles of South America and the vast majority of Motilones have committed their lives to Christ. Now God could’ve short-circuited that 12 year gap by giving Bruce supernatural understanding but He did NOT. Probably because the JOURNEY of discovering the language is what made the gospel message so powerful once he did.

- I’ve been in MANY situations where I wish God would give me supernatural understanding of other languages, especially the Japanese I’m learning RIGHT NOW.
- But God is in control. He gives me what I need, not what I want.
- For further reading, see “**Living Water**” by Pastor Chuck Smith.

5 Now there were dwelling in Jerusalem Jews, devout men from every nation under heaven. 6 And at this sound the multitude came together, and they were bewildered, because each one was hearing them speak in his own language.

- Vs 5 tells us that there were many folks gathered in Jerusalem from many places, literally, “**every nation**” (vs 5)...

- **This is because** there were 3 feasts that those who followed the Jewish Law were *legally bound* to attend IN JERUSALEM (the men anyway)... **Passover, Pentecost, and Tabernacles** (*spring, summer, fall*)...
 - Pentecost came in the early summer & traveling was much easier, so, many came to celebrate the feast, Jews & God-fearing Gentiles alike.
 - Having only been 7 weeks since the Crucifixion of Jesus, MANY of this same crowd would've been there to see the gory details themselves.
- **Vs 6 tells us that** "**at this sound the multitude came together**" (vs 6)...
 - This tells me that they were no longer in the upper room as **Vs 1** only says that they "**were all together in one place**" w/out locating it.
 - From the quick response, they were most likely in one of the many temple colonnades or rooms when this occurred.
 - We don't know if the "**sound**" refers to *the mighty rushing wind* or *the declaration of God's mighty works* in their languages.
 - Either way, people began to gather and wonder what was going on.

7 And they were amazed and astonished, saying, "Are not all these who are speaking Galileans? 8 And how is it that we hear, each of us in his own native language? 9 Parthians and Medes and Elamites and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, 10 Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, 11 both Jews and proselytes, Cretans and Arabians—we hear them telling in our own tongues the mighty works of God." 12 And all were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, "What does this mean?" 13 But others mocking said, "They are filled with new wine."

➤ **Vs 7 says that people were amazed at this supernatural miracle of communication they were hearing...**

- **A little about language...**
 - A language is created when two or more people agree that certain sounds mean certain things. It can be anything as long as they agree.

- In the book "**Living Water**" [Pastor Chuck](#) tells a humorous story about some boys creating their own language. He said, "Boys who have secret clubs like to make up 'codes' so no one can understand what they are saying. Perhaps 'UGH' means 'Let's go to Dairy Queen.' Then 'NUG' means 'Great Idea! Who's buying?' Then 'TUG' means 'My treat.' Finally 'LUG' means 'Sweet. Let's get outta here before anyone notices.' So one of your son's friends walks into a room full of kids and says 'UGH'. Your son replies with 'Nug.' Another boy says 'TUG.' And a fourth says 'LUG.' Then they all run out of the room leaving everyone mystified, but the boys knowing exactly what to do."

Living Water pg 186-187

- Humanly, there's ONLY understanding when there's a code, a known code. There are about 7,000 languages today that have such codes. They emanate from about 100 root languages.
- Here, God gave supernatural speech and/or hearing to break the coded language barrier and it was AMAZING to witness.
- **Whoever was speaking for the crowd** was all the more amazed when they recognized that it was Galileans who spoke in the foreign languages...
 - This is because Galileans were known to be uncultured and poor speakers. They had a unique inability to pronounce certain sounds like the gutturals (back of the throat). They were the OG rednecks.
 - Thus, to hear them fluently speaking and without the Galilean drawl was especially impressive.
 - You know what its like when you [travel internationally](#) and you finally hear someone who speaks English. It's an instant connection. They were amazed to hear their language being spoken aloud in Jerusalem and were intrigued as to what it was.

➤ Vs 8 once again states that “**we hear, each of us in his own native language**”

- **Again, this leads me to believe** that this was more of a miracle of HEARING than speaking, though it could be both!
- In Vs 9-11 the speaker provided **a long list of nations** covering most of the known world at the time and providing one of the most comprehensive lists of *the Jewish diaspora* (those living outside of Israel).
 - This infant Christian group was already witnessing to much of the known world, though it would be much more thorough later.
 - These people who’d come from all over the Roman world were hearing “**the mighty works of God**” declared in their native tongue.
- **This seems to be the purpose** of this blessing, especially when you consider what **Paul** wrote in his definitive ch. on “tongues...”
 - “**For he who speaks in a tongue does not speak to men but to God...**” (1 COR 14:20)
 - The message is for others to hear and understand but the message itself is to give glory to God.

➤ Then Vs 12-13 supply the response as “**all were amazed**” but some said, “**They are filled with new wine.**”

- Some didn’t know what to make of this phenomenon while others mocked.
 - Those who mocked wrote them off as drunk.
 - Often, the Charismaniacs of today like to portray their weird spiritual activities as being “drunk in the Spirit.”
 - **I totally disagree.** Drunkenness is CONTRASTED to the filling of the Spirit in the NT because they are very different. There are some similarities like the ability to be more expressive and less reserved but overall the differences outweigh the similarities. The work of the

Spirit is OTHERS centered, loving, kind and CONTROLLED while drunkenness is self-centered and violent with lack of control.

In conclusion...

Conclusion

- We need the empowerment of God's Holy Spirit to walk in the Spirit as opposed to our fleshly existence. The good thing is that you don't have to earn it, you only ask for it. We're going to do that in a moment...
- **First, you cannot be FILLED with God's Holy Spirit unless you surrender to his work of CONVICTION...**
 - Perhaps the Holy Spirit has been coming alongside YOU and whispering in your spiritual ears that you are a SINNER in need of SALVATION.
 - You can RESPOND right now so that the Holy Spirit comes and dwells inside of you...
- **I can tell you how to do that in just 4 amazing words!**
 - **People** have *a problem...* we are all sinful and sin separates us from God, creating an impassable rift between us and Him... [ROM 3:23 / ISA 59:2]
 - That put's **God** in *a difficult situation...* God is a Loving Father and doesn't want to punish us, but he is also a Righteous Judge who must punish all sin... that's a serious dilemma... [JER 31:3 / 1 JN 4:7-8 / EXO 34:7]
 - **JESUS** is *the solution...* God sent JESUS to die on the cross to close that rift between us by paying the penalty for our sin (*sacrifice*) [JN 3:16]

God also raised JESUS from the grave providing victory over sin and death, giving us Eternal Life [ROM 1:3-4] CELL PHONE ILL.

- **Faith** is *the response...* we can respond by placing our faith in what Jesus has accomplished on our behalf and receive forgiveness of sins and eternal life. It's like lifting empty hands to receive the **free gift**. [ACTS 16:31 / ROM 6:23]
- The Bible says that if you "confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved."

➤ **Communion** – **Luke 22:19-20** ¹⁹ And he took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to them, saying, "This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me." ²⁰ And likewise the cup after they had eaten, saying, "This cup that is poured out for you is the new covenant in my blood"

- I'm going to ask yall to come up to receive the elements during this first song.
- Then, I'm going to come up again and invite you up for prayer to be filled with God's Holy Spirit for the last song.