

5-26-2024, COTR Texarkana

Title: The God Connection, pt-5

Purpose: Provoke people to seek and allow the Holy Spirit to work through us to encourage believers and reach the lost.

Truth for Today: The Holy Spirit wants to work through us to encourage believers and reach the lost.

Text: Acts chapter 2

Topic: Holy Spirit, Witnessing, Power, Great Commission, Pentecost

Series Title: The God Connection...The Holy Spirit in the life of the believer.

Series Purpose Provoke people to (1) Develop a vital relationship with the Holy Spirit, (2) Allow Him to work in us, (3) Have faith to let Him work through us supernaturally using spiritual gifts.

The God Connection, pt-5

- I. **Video.** The Great Commission, our #1 job, [Mark 16:15 (NCV)] Jesus said to his followers, “**Go everywhere in the world, and tell the Good News to everyone.**” There are 8 billion people in the world and 2+ billion are Christian. We can’t personally reach everyone, but we can partner with ministries that are, e.g., Christ for India, Jamison Titus.
- II. Introduction
 - A. Review, Series Title: The God Connection...The Holy Spirit in the life of the believer. We’re viewing the Book of Acts not just as church history but a model/ paradigm/ handbook for us to embrace the supernatural work of the Holy Spirit. Some of us were taught the gifts of the Holy Spirit ceased when the apostles died, i.e., cessationism. Last week we discussed the weakness of cessationism and why I believe the Holy Spirit still wants us to seek and use spiritual gifts to help people and reach the lost today. (Sermons and notes are on the church app.)
 - B. Text, Jesus [Acts 1:8 (NLT)] But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you. And **you will be my witnesses, telling people about me everywhere...** The Book of Acts is a record of the Holy Spirit working through believers to fulfill the Great Commission and reach the world for Christ.
 - C. Today we’ll learn about the Holy Spirit in Acts chapter 2. Phrase to activate faith. **Do it in me Lord**
 - D. Title: The God Connection, pt-5
- III. Acts chapter 2
 - A. [Acts 2 (NLT)] On **the day of Pentecost** all the **believers were meeting together in one place.** The day of Pentecost was an annual feast to which Jews from around the world came to Jerusalem.¹
 1. What were Christians doing? (1) Waiting and expecting God to move. [Luke 24:49 (NLT)] “...I will send the Holy Spirit...But **stay here in the city until the Holy Spirit comes and fills you with power from heaven.**” (2) They were praying together while they waited. [Acts 1:14 (NLT)] ...**They all met together and were constantly united in prayer...** App The only hope for America is a spiritual awakening. Prayer can ignite an outpouring of the Spirit.

- B. [Vs 2 Suddenly, there was a sound from heaven like the roaring of a mighty windstorm, and it filled the house where they were sitting. ³ Then, what looked like flames or tongues of fire appeared and settled on each of them. Pic Sound ⁴ And everyone present was filled with the Holy Spirit and began speaking in other languages, (*ESV other tongues*) as the Holy Spirit gave them this ability.
1. This was the fulfillment of Jesus promise to ‘baptize’ them with the Holy Spirit. [Acts 1: 5 John baptized with water, but in just a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.”] What does it mean to be "baptized with the Holy Spirit"? Strongs Concordance: A religious experience, involving special manifestations of God's power and presence.
 2. The tongues of fire portray the presence of God. Several times in the Old Testament God displayed Himself in the form of flames (Gen. 15:17; Ex. 3:2–6; 13:21–22; 19:18; 40:38¹)
- C. [Vs. 5 At that time there were devout Jews from every nation living in Jerusalem. ⁶ When they heard the loud noise, everyone came running...⁷ They were completely amazed. “How can this be?”...“These people are all from Galilee, ⁸ and yet we hear them speaking in our own native languages! ⁹...about the wonderful things God has done!”]
1. The result: [⁴¹ Those who believed what Peter said were baptized and added to the church that day—about 3,000 in all.] the primary reason believers are filled with the Spirit, empower to tell people everywhere about Jesus, Acts 1:8
 2. This wasn’t the 1st time God caused people to speak languages they didn’t learn, i.e., tower of Babel, no one understood what others were saying; now it reversed.
 3. This is not the only time God filled believers with the Spirit and gave them the ability to speak in an unlearned language. (1) Cornelius and Gentile Pentecost, [Acts 10:44–46 (NLT) Even as Peter was saying these things, the Holy Spirit fell upon all who were listening to the message. ⁴⁵ The Jewish believers...were amazed that the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out on the Gentiles, too. ⁴⁶ For they heard them speaking in other tongues (*NCV different languages*) and praising God...] (2) Ephesus, [Acts 19:5–6 (NCV)...they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. ⁶ Then Paul laid his hands on them, and the Holy Spirit came upon them. They began speaking different languages (*ESV speaking in tongues*) and prophesying.] Being filled with the Spirit occurred on a number of occasions after salvation. (Acts 4:8 Peter witnessing, 31 prayer meeting; 6:3, 5 Stephen the deacon; 7:55 Stephen stoned; 9:17 Ananias and Saul; 13:9 Paul and a magician, 13:52 disciples at Iconium)! Do it in me Lord
 4. Digress...other than a sign to other people like Acts 2 or the spiritual gifts of tongues and interpretation, is there a personal benefit to this “Spirit talk” today? Context: church Corinth, confusion over speaking in tongues in church, contrast tongues and prophecy in church, (select the benefits) [1 Cor. 14 (NLT)...² For if you have the ability to speak in tongues, you will be talking only to God, since people won’t be able to understand you. You will be speaking by the power of the Spirit, but it will all be mysterious...⁴ A person who speaks in tongues is

strengthened personally...⁵ I wish you could all speak in tongues...¹⁴ For if I pray in tongues, my spirit is praying, but I don't understand what I am saying. ¹⁵...I will pray in the spirit, and I will also pray in words I understand. I will sing in the spirit, and I will also sing in words I understand...

5. **14: 23** Even so, if unbelievers or people who don't understand these things come into your church meeting and hear everyone speaking in an unknown language, they will think you are crazy...] App Sun church service worship, Wed night, Problem Life Group

D. **Acts 2:12** They stood there amazed and perplexed. "What can this mean?" they asked each other. ¹³ But others in the crowd ridiculed them, saying, "They're just drunk, that's all!"

1. Don't belittle the activity of the Holy Spirit just because you don't understand it. Context prophecy, app. all spiritual gifts, [**1 Thessalonians 5:19–21 (NCV)** Do not hold back (*ESV quench*) the work of the Holy Spirit. ²⁰ Do not treat prophecy as if it were unimportant. ²¹ But test everything. Keep what is good...]

E. [**Vs. 14** Then Peter stepped forward with the eleven other apostles and shouted to the crowd...¹⁶ No, what you see was predicted long ago by the prophet Joel: ¹⁷ 'In the last days,' God says, 'I will pour out my Spirit upon all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy. Your young men will see visions, and your old men will dream dreams. ¹⁸ In those days I will pour out my Spirit even on my servants—men and women alike—and they will prophesy.]

1. A characteristic of the last days, beginning at Pentecost and culminating at the close of the Book of Revelation, is the supernatural activity of the Holy Spirit working through believers to reach a lost, confused and hurting world for Christ. Gifts such as prophecy and divine communication such as visions and dreams are to be expected.

IV. Conclusion: God's promise and the results

A. [**Vs. 37** Peter's words **pierced their hearts**, and they said..."Brothers, what should we do?" ³⁸ Peter replied, "Each of you must **repent of your sins and turn to God, and be baptized**... Then you will receive the **gift of the Holy Spirit**. ³⁹ **This promise is to you, to your children, and to those far away—all who have been called by the Lord our God.**" ...⁴¹ **Those who believed what Peter said were baptized and added to the church that day—about 3,000 in all.**

1. A willing believer, filled with the Spirit, saw 3,000 people come to Christ. Peter said this gift of the Holy Spirit was for 'those far away', 'all who have been called by the Lord'. That includes us.
2. If we have the same Holy Spirit, shouldn't we expect the same spiritual experiences and the same results. **Do it in me Lord**

V. Response: song and open altar

- A. Prayer:
- B. Souls

VI. Bibliography/ Resources: Logos Bible Software and Library, Platinum Edition, was used to prepare this message.

1. Toussaint, S. D. (1985). [Acts](#). In J. F. Walvoord & R. B. Zuck (Eds.), *The Bible Knowledge Commentary: An Exposition of the Scriptures* (Vol. 2, p. 357). Victor Books.

VII. Supplemental Material

A. 1 Corinthians 14 (NLT) Let love be your highest goal! But you should also desire the special abilities the Spirit gives—especially the ability to prophesy. ² For if you have the ability to speak in tongues, you will be talking only to God, since people won't be able to understand you. You will be speaking by the power of the Spirit, but it will all be mysterious. ³ But one who prophesies strengthens others, encourages them, and comforts them. ⁴ A person who speaks in tongues is strengthened personally, but one who speaks a word of prophecy strengthens the entire church. ⁵ I wish you could all speak in tongues, but even more I wish you could all prophesy. For prophecy is greater than speaking in tongues, unless someone interprets what you are saying so that the whole church will be strengthened. ⁶ Dear brothers and sisters, if I should come to you speaking in an unknown language, how would that help you? But if I bring you a revelation or some special knowledge or prophecy or teaching, that will be helpful. ⁷ Even lifeless instruments like the flute or the harp must play the notes clearly, or no one will recognize the melody. ⁸ And if the bugler doesn't sound a clear call, how will the soldiers know they are being called to battle? ⁹ It's the same for you. If you speak to people in words they don't understand, how will they know what you are saying? You might as well be talking into empty space. ¹⁰ There are many different languages in the world, and every language has meaning. ¹¹ But if I don't understand a language, I will be a foreigner to someone who speaks it, and the one who speaks it will be a foreigner to me. ¹² And the same is true for you. Since you are so eager to have the special abilities the Spirit gives, seek those that will strengthen the whole church. ¹³ So anyone who speaks in tongues should pray also for the ability to interpret what has been said. ¹⁴ For if I pray in tongues, my spirit is praying, but I don't understand what I am saying. ¹⁵ Well then, what shall I do? I will pray in the spirit, and I will also pray in words I understand. I will sing in the spirit, and I will also sing in words I understand. ¹⁶ For if you praise God only in the spirit, how can those who don't understand you praise God along with you? How can they join you in giving thanks when they don't understand what you are saying? ¹⁷ You will be giving thanks very well, but it won't strengthen the people who hear you. ¹⁸ I thank God that I speak in tongues more than any of you. ¹⁹ But in a church meeting I would rather speak five understandable words to help others than ten thousand words in an unknown language. ²⁰ Dear brothers and sisters, don't be childish in your understanding of these things. Be innocent as babies when it comes to evil, but be mature in understanding matters of this kind. ²¹ It is written in the Scriptures: "I will speak to my own people through strange languages and through the lips of foreigners. But even then, they will not listen to me," says the Lord. ²² So you see that speaking in tongues is a sign, not for believers, but for unbelievers. Prophecy, however, is for

the benefit of believers, not unbelievers. ²³ Even so, if unbelievers or people who don't understand these things come into your church meeting and hear everyone speaking in an unknown language, they will think you are crazy. ²⁴ But if all of you are prophesying, and unbelievers or people who don't understand these things come into your meeting, they will be convicted of sin and judged by what you say. ²⁵ As they listen, their secret thoughts will be exposed, and they will fall to their knees and worship God, declaring, "God is truly here among you." ²⁶ Well, my brothers and sisters, let's summarize. When you meet together, one will sing, another will teach, another will tell some special revelation God has given, one will speak in tongues, and another will interpret what is said. But everything that is done must strengthen all of you. ²⁷ No more than two or three should speak in tongues. They must speak one at a time, and someone must interpret what they say. ²⁸ But if no one is present who can interpret, they must be silent in your church meeting and speak in tongues to God privately. ²⁹ Let two or three people prophesy, and let the others evaluate what is said. ³⁰ But if someone is prophesying and another person receives a revelation from the Lord, the one who is speaking must stop. ³¹ In this way, all who prophesy will have a turn to speak, one after the other, so that everyone will learn and be encouraged. ³² Remember that people who prophesy are in control of their spirit and can take turns. ³³ For God is not a God of disorder but of peace, as in all the meetings of God's holy people. ³⁴ Women should be silent during the church meetings. It is not proper for them to speak. They should be submissive, just as the law says. ³⁵ If they have any questions, they should ask their husbands at home, for it is improper for women to speak in church meetings. ³⁶ Or do you think God's word originated with you Corinthians? Are you the only ones to whom it was given? ³⁷ If you claim to be a prophet or think you are spiritual, you should recognize that what I am saying is a command from the Lord himself. ³⁸ But if you do not recognize this, you yourself will not be recognized. ³⁹ So, my dear brothers and sisters, be eager to prophesy, and don't forbid speaking in tongues. ⁴⁰ But be sure that everything is done properly and in order.

B. What happened after people were saved?

1. Vs. 42 All the believers **devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching, and to fellowship, and to sharing in meals (including the Lord's Supper), and to prayer**...⁴⁴ And all the believers met together in one place and **shared everything they had**.⁴⁵ They sold their property and possessions and shared the money with those in need. ⁴⁶ They worshiped together at the Temple each day, met in homes for the Lord's Supper, and shared their meals with great joy and generosity—⁴⁷ all the while praising God and enjoying the goodwill of all the people. And each day the Lord added to their fellowship those who were being saved.