

One of the simple skills we learn as kids is how to bounce a ball. Can you bounce a ball like this? Switch to flat ball. Are you sure? Everyone knows you can't bounce a ball with no air in it. This ball was created to hold air. Without air it cannot accomplish what it was designed to do. It is still a ball; it just can't bounce.

Until we are filled with the air of God's Spirit, we cannot accomplish what we were designed to accomplish. The same goes for churches. A church without the Holy Spirit is like a ball without air. That partially explains why there are so many churches in this country, but it seems to make very little difference in the culture. A. W. Tozer observed that "If the Holy Spirit was withdrawn from the church today, 95 percent of what we do would go on and **no one** would know the difference. If the Holy Spirit had been withdrawn from the NT church (in Acts), 95 percent of what they did would stop, and **everyone** would know the difference."

In the first chapter of Acts, Jesus promised to provide the power to pursue His purpose... Acts 1:8. In the second chapter He makes good on His--promise and **His power transforms the ordinary into something extraordinary.**

Ordinary days become extraordinary events... vv. 1-4. The occasion is Pentecost which means 50th. Pentecost or Shavuoth designates the 50th day after Passover which culminated in a festival called the Feast of Weeks or First Fruits. This was one of the three big festivals of Israel that every male Jew was required to attend in Jerusalem. Pentecost commemorated two things: the giving of the Law and the first fruits of the harvest. The Jews celebrated Pentecost every year. God had prepared His people for the coming of the Holy Spirit 50 days after the resurrection.

What happened on the first Pentecost after the resurrection was something much different from what happened when Moses received the law. In Ex. 32, Moses comes down from the mountain where he received the law, and the people are worshipping a golden calf. He was so angry he threw down the tablets and ordered the death of 3,000 men. In Acts 2:41 we learn that 3,000 were saved. The Law was delivered in Ex. 32 resulting in death. The Spirit is delivered in Acts 2 resulting in life. To know the law without having the Spirit leads to death. "But now we have been released from the Law, having died to that by which we were bound, so that we serve in newness of the Spirit and not in oldness of the letter." Ro. 7:6 "But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the Law." Gal. 5:18. "Christ redeemed us from the curse of the Law..." Gal. 3:13. The Law is a curse because it shows us what is wrong but cannot help us do what is right. We need His Spirit, otherwise we are like a ball without air.

Sometimes the Spirit of God overtakes a very ordinary moment. God transforms the ordinary. I was in a clothing store recently and one of the workers called me by name. She had attended Fellowship years ago. She told me that she had become a Christian during one of my messages. I was desperate to know what I preached so that I can use it every Sunday! Of course, it wasn't my sermon that led to her conversion. It was the Holy Spirit drawing her to Himself. In the OT the Holy Spirit spoke through a donkey. Apparently, He still does! Ordinary days can become extraordinary events.

Ordinary people possess extraordinary abilities... vv. 5-11. God gets the attention of those visiting Jerusalem by the preaching of unlearned men in languages they have never studied. This extraordinary gift of language occurs on four occasions in Acts. Each time it is used as a confirming sign of God's intervention. In Acts 2 the Jews hear the Gospel. In Acts 8:17 the Samaritans. In Acts 10:44 the Gentiles. In Acts 19:6 a group of disciples who didn't even know about the Holy Spirit. Tongues were a sign authenticating the work of salvation. The danger we face in reading Acts is trying to apply that which inaugurates a new work of God in our current context to make it normative. Just because they heard a wind and saw flames of fire doesn't mean we will. God's Spirit can also show up as a still small voice.

Ordinary handyman working on friend's house. When asked what he wanted to be paid to do the job the man said, "I just want as much of the Holy Spirit as I can get." Later he invited the homeowner to go with him to the hospital to pray for a lady in a coma. He went. This soft-spoken man became a force as he prayed. Later that day, the lady came out of the coma. God heard the ordinary prayer of this ordinary man and did something extraordinary. Ordinary people under the influence of the Holy Spirit can accomplish extraordinary things.

Ordinary appeals achieve extraordinary response... vv. 14 - 41. The response to God's intervention is predictable. There were those hard-hearted people that were not interested in what God was doing who attacked the messengers. "They're drunk." Then there were those who were in awe of what was taking place.

Peter, the comeback kid, addresses the crowd. Just a few weeks earlier he had denied Christ. He had been full of pride and presumption. After his post-resurrection encounter with Jesus on the shore of the Sea of Galilee, he was a new man. In Acts 2, he experienced a fullness of the Spirit of God.

Peter's sermon wouldn't win any preaching awards. It is simple, scriptural, Christ-centered, and it called for a commitment. In Acts 2:16-35 Peter uses the OT to support his belief in Jesus as the promised Messiah. The result? Vv. 37-41. Peter doesn't even give an invitation. The people give the invitation.

What then shall WE do? "Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit."

Paul adds to Peter's response in Eph. 5:18. "Keep being filled with the Holy Spirit." So here is a suggestion. Let's practice "spiritual breathing."

Exhale- You can't fill what is already full. Take a moment to expel anything in your mind that is cluttering your life... pride, ambition, worry, lust. As God brings it to mind, renounce it.

Inhale - How do I do that? Let me show you a chart that compares two parallel passages on the subject. (See chart cf. Eph/Col.)

"Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly" and be filled with the Holy Spirit. Without God's Spirit, we are like a ball without air. We live out our ordinary days doing ordinary things fulfilling our ordinary obligations to ordinary religion. But filled with the Spirit we can accomplish great things, extraordinary things.

You and I are tempted every day in our lives and in our churches to do the work of God apart from the power of the Spirit of God... The greatest hindrance to the advancement of the gospel in our day may be the attempt for the people of God to attempt to do the work of God without the Spirit of God. Maybe the greatest barrier to the spread of the gospel is not the self-indulgent immorality of our culture but the self-sufficient mentality of the church. Let's pray (exhale/inhale).




"If the Holy Spirit was withdrawn from the church today, 95 percent of what we do would go on and no one would know the difference. If the Holy Spirit had been withdrawn from the New Testament church, 95 percent of what they did would stop, and everybody would know the difference."

A. W. TOZER







ORDINARY DAYS BECOME EXTRAORDINARY EVENTS.



2 When the day of Pentecost arrived, they were all together in one place. 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. 4 And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance.


ACTS 2:1-4 (ESV)





6 But now we are released from the law, having died to that which held us captive, so that we serve in the new way of the Spirit and not in the old way of the written code.

ROMANS 7:6 (ESV)



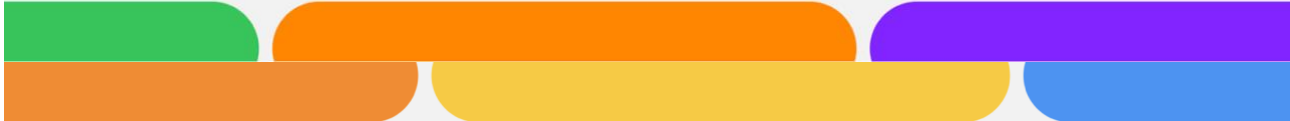
13 Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us— for it is written, “Cursed is everyone who is hanged on a tree”—

GALATIANS 3:13 (ESV)






ORDINARY PEOPLE POSSESS EXTRAORDINARY ABILITIES.



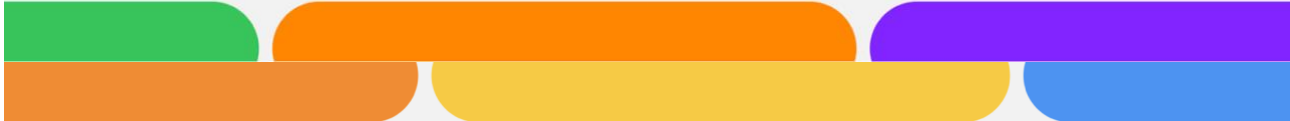
5 Now there were dwelling in Jerusalem Jews, devout men from every nation under heaven. 6 And at this sound the multitude came together, and they were bewildered, because each one was hearing them speak in his own language. 7 And they were amazed and astonished, saying, "Are not all these who are speaking 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."

ACTS 2:5-11 (ESV)







ORDINARY APPEALS ACHIEVE EXTRAORDINARY RESULTS.



**14 But Peter, standing with the eleven, lifted up his voice and addressed them:
“Men of Judea and all who dwell in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and
give ear to my words. 15 For these people are not drunk, as you suppose, since
it is only the third hour of the day. 16 But this is what was uttered through the
prophet Joel: 17 “And in the last days it shall be, God declares, that I will pour
out my Spirit on all flesh, and your sons and your daughters shall
prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall
dream dreams;**



ACTS 2:14 - 41 (ESV)






18 even on my male servants and female servants in those days I will pour out my Spirit, and they shall prophesy.19 And I will show wonders in the heavens above and signs on the earth below, blood, and fire, and vapor of smoke; 20 the sun shall be turned to darkness and the moon to blood, before the day of the Lord comes, the great and magnificent day. 21 And it shall come to pass that everyone who calls upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.'22 "Men of Israel, hear these words: Jesus of Nazareth, a man attested to you by God with mighty works and wonders and signs


ACTS 2:14 - 41 (ESV)



that God did through him in your midst, as you yourselves know— 23 this Jesus, delivered up according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of lawless men. 24 God raised him up, loosing the pangs of death, because it was not possible for him to be held by it. 25 For David says concerning him,"I saw the Lord always before me, for he is at my right hand that I may not be shaken; 26 therefore my heart was glad, and my tongue rejoiced; my flesh also will dwell in hope. 27 For you will not abandon my soul to Hades, or let your Holy One see corruption.28 You have made known to me the paths of life; you will make me full of gladness with your presence.'



ACTS 2:14 - 41 (ESV)






29 "Brothers, I may say to you with confidence about the patriarch David that he both died and was buried, and his tomb is with us to this day. 30 Being therefore a prophet, and knowing that God had sworn with an oath to him that he would set one of his descendants on his throne, 31 he foresaw and spoke about the resurrection of the Christ, that he was not abandoned to Hades, nor did his flesh see corruption. 32 This Jesus God raised up, and of that we all are witnesses. 33 Being therefore exalted at the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, he has poured out this that you yourselves are seeing and hearing. 34 For David did not ascend into the heavens, but he himself says,"The Lord said to my Lord, "Sit at my right hand, 35 until I make your enemies your footstool."

ACTS 2:14 - 41 (ESV)



36 Let all the house of Israel therefore know for certain that God has made him both Lord and Christ, this Jesus whom you crucified."37 Now when they heard this they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, "Brothers, what shall we do?" 38 And Peter said to them, "Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. 39 For the promise is for you and for your children and for all who are far off, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to himself." 40 And with many other words he bore witness and continued to exhort them, saying, "Save yourselves from this crooked generation." 41 So those who received his word were baptized, and there were added that day about three thousand souls.

ACTS 2:14 - 41 (ESV)



**RELATIONSHIP OF BEING FILLED...
WITH THE SPIRIT AND WITH THE WORD**

THE HOLY SPIRIT	THE HOLY WORD
Ephesians 5:18, 19, 20	Colossians 3:16, 17
Be filled with (present imperative)	Let... dwell within (present imperative)
The Spirit (of Christ)	The Word Of Christ
Speaking to One Another	Teaching and Admonishing One Another
In Psalms and Hymns and Spiritual Songs	With Psalms and Hymns and Spiritual Songs
Singing and making melody with your heart to the Lord	Singing with thankfulness in your hearts to God
Always giving thanks	Giving Thanks