



## First Baptist Church Selmer

SALT & LIGHT • "RAISE YOUR VOICE!" • ACTS 2:14-21, 36-41; LUKE 22:54-62 • 10/10/2021

### MAIN POINT

The Holy Spirit enabled Peter to overcome his past in order to be used in the present. God also wants to use you today regardless of what happened in your life yesterday.

### INTRODUCTION

Use this section to introduce the topic of discussion.

**How many of you feel comfortable with speaking in public? Have you always felt comfortable or was it something you had to really work on?**

**Have you ever been put on the spot to speak publicly but were completely unprepared?**

*Glossophobia* is the term for a fear of performing or expecting to perform an oral presentation or a speech in front of other people. It is actually quite common and upwards of 25% of people report experiencing it (*Psychology Today*).

**What about praying in public? Would you be more willing to speak in public than to pray in public?**

Peter was not a man of few words. In all actuality, Peter was oftentimes the only disciple to speak up when asked and even times when he wasn't asked. Peter can be seen many times in Scripture even receiving rebuke from Jesus over his brashness (Matthew 14:22, 15:16, 16:23, 17:4, 17:24, John 13:8). However, something changed in Peter after Pentecost. The man prior to the Holy Spirit and the man after the Holy Spirit were not the same. Let's look today at this transformation.

### UNDERSTANDING

Use this section to read the Bible together and talk about it.

| HAVE A VOLUNTEER READ ACTS 2:14-21.

**Look at Acts 2:13. Why were the people mocking the apostles and saying, "they are filled with new wine."**

We often see in the interpretation of Scripture the tendency to overemphasize or underemphasize a verse or passage that we may not fully understand. Much debate has occurred for years over Acts Chapter 2. The Holy Spirit, on the Day of Pentecost, enabled the apostles present in the upper room to speak in "other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance." Based on what Scripture clearly states, we see:

#1 The Holy Spirit spoke through the apostles present in the room (v.4)

#2 The multitude outside could understand in their own language (v.6)

#3 It had a powerful impact on those both inside and outside the room (v. 7, 11-12).

Basic biblical truth is enough to drive home the idea that, as believers, we have been (once & for all) indwelt with the power & presence of God. The Holy Spirit has been given to us for a divine purpose - to tell the good news of the Gospel.

**Immediately after receiving the Holy Spirit, Peter's speech was empowered so he could share the Gospel with the crowd. What is the main point of Peter's message in verses 17-21?**

**Who does Peter specifically say is able to receive salvation?**

Peter begins his sermon speaking boldly on the Kingdom which was now upon them. Once the Holy Spirit was sent among the people, the last days had officially begun. The Spirit would now indwell the hearts of those that believe and "everyone who calls upon the name of the Lord shall be saved."

| HAVE A VOLUNTEER READ LUKE 22:54-62

**How was Peter changed by the power of the Spirit?**

**What about you? Is this same kind of drastic change evident in your life?**

**In what ways does this encourage or challenge you when you think about the presence of the Holy Spirit in your life?**

When Jesus was arrested prior to His crucifixion, Peter reacted in fear and self-preservation by denying his association with Jesus. After the Holy Spirit came on Peter, though, he was empowered to speak the truth of the gospel to those who accused him and the other disciples of being drunk. The same Peter who had denied Christ in an effort to protect his reputation now jumped to defend Jesus. Now, Peter didn't care what people thought about him; he cared only that they knew Jesus. Peter was living sent by discerning God's mission in light of the Spirit's leading.

| HAVE A VOLUNTEER READ ACTS 2:36-41

**What change would you expect this type of boldness of Peter to have on the people that heard the message?**

**What evidence of change do you see in these verses?**

What an impact the transformation of Peter's life made on the people around him. First, the Holy Spirit came upon Peter and the apostles. Then, Peter began to proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ boldly for all to hear. The Bible states in Acts 1:15 that the number of believers numbered about 120. After this one sermon and testimony of Peter, "there were added that day about three thousand souls." Think about it - the number of new believers added to the church that day was 25 times the number of believers when the day began. Now that is a revival!!!!

Peter's ministry was to the Jews but was later shown that salvation was also for Gentiles. Peter obeyed Jesus' directive to go to Jerusalem first. We, too, must go to our Jerusalem first but not neglect efforts made to Judaea, Samaria, and the uttermost parts of the world.

## APPLICATION

Discuss how to apply what you have studied.

**How can we communicate the Gospel more boldly in the community around us?**

**Who in your immediate circle (work, school, friends, etc.) needs to hear the Gospel and be saved?**

**Identify a person or persons that you want to reach out to this week and begin a Gospel conversation. Pray for them today and for boldness to start the conversation.**

# PRAYER

Thank God for the sending of the Holy Spirit to live within us. Pray for boldness to be used by Him to make a Gospel impact on those around you!

# COMMENTARY

## | ACTS 2:14-21

2:14-16. Now filled with the Holy Spirit and fresh from the Pentecost experience, Peter found new courage. He commanded immediate attention and addressed his remarks to fellow Jews and all those who live in Jerusalem. Drunkenness? Not a chance. Not at nine in the morning. On feast days a Jew would not break fast until ten. It was the third hour of the day, a customary hour of prayer.

2:17-21. Peter launched into a recitation of Joel 2:28-32 reproduced by Luke from the Greek Old Testament, the Septuagint. No doubt Peter saw this passage fulfilled at Pentecost, at least in part. Men and women, young and old who gathered in Jerusalem after the ascension had experienced the pouring out of the Holy Spirit and subsequently proclaimed God's wonders. Are we to understand that Peter thought the wonders in the heavens of verses 19 and 20 had also been fulfilled at Pentecost? The context implies that the remainder of Joel's prophecy, the full experience of cosmic wonders, would await the full repentance of God's chosen nation. Nevertheless, it is part of the passage in Joel, so he thunders on to get to his major theme, "And everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved."

## | LUKE 22:54-62

22:54 John 18:13 says that Jesus was first taken to the house of Annas, a former high priest who was the father-in-law of Caiaphas, the current high priest. Most of the apostles fled from Gethsemane, though Peter circled back and tracked down the arresting group, all the while careful to keep a safe distance in the darkness.

22:55-62 In a period of only slightly over an hour, Peter disowned three years of discipleship. Jesus had predicted this only a few hours earlier, and when a rooster crowed after Peter's denials, Jesus turned and looked at him. Immediately Peter remembered Jesus' prophecy and wept tears of shame and regret.

2:33-36. Peter wanted to proclaim the whole gospel, so he could not stop at the crucifixion and resurrection. In these verses he moves on to the exaltation and the coming of the Holy Spirit, bringing his listeners right up to the moment. Another quote from the Psalms (110:1) surely must have stabbed their collective attention. The humble carpenter of Nazareth was not only the Messiah, but now He lives in heaven and has caused all the Pentecostal commotion that evoked this sermon in the first place. Showing an enormous confidence in his God and his message, Peter used a phrase appearing only here in the New Testament (“all Israel”) and hammered home his final point: “God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ.”

2:37. The combination of God’s Scripture and God’s Spirit working through God’s servant had the intended effect. From their initial question “What does this mean?” (2:12) the people now progressed to a specific response—“Brothers, what shall we do?” The phrase “cut to the heart” translates a Greek word meaning “stung” or “stunned.” Had some people listening to Peter that day also screamed for blood in Pilate’s hall? While the word “conviction” does not appear in our verse, this clearly reflects that heart attitude. The New Testament uses this word to describe the work of the Holy Spirit by which we see ourselves as we are in God’s sight.

2:38-39. Peter hesitated not a moment for the answer to their question, calling for repentance and baptism and offering forgiveness and the gift of the Holy Spirit. Repentance is not a new theme in the New Testament, having appeared in the ministry of John the Baptist (Mark 1:4; Luke 3:3) and in the preaching of Jesus (Mark 1:15; Luke 13:3). The context shows “baptism” here refers to water, not the Holy Spirit. The gift of the Holy Spirit then became the seal of salvation.

2:40-41. Luke hastens to tell us we do not have the entire sermon recorded in his book. Peter spoke many other words and pleaded with his hearers who responded. That day God added three thousand people to the small number of believers already serving as Christ’s witnesses. But wait. Don’t miss the importance of what Luke does not say. This time there was no sound, no flame, and no foreign language. These people received the Holy Spirit because that’s what Peter promised in Jesus’ name. Pentecost was a one-time event, with only a mild echo or two appearances elsewhere during the first century.