

The Mission of My Church: "Filled with the Holy Spirit"

Focus Passage: Acts 2:1–21

Other Passages Referenced: Genesis 1:1–2; 15:17; Exodus 3; Habakkuk 1:5; 2 Corinthians 5:17

Sermon Recap

The sermon played on the image of a hole in the wall that disrupts and causes what is inside to go outside. When the Holy Spirit was poured out on the disciples in Acts 2, it was like a hole was punched in the wall of the house where they were staying. The Spirit moved the disciples from the house into the streets, proclaiming good news to the people who had gathered in Jerusalem to celebrate the Feast of Pentecost.

The coming of the Spirit was accompanied by “a sound like a mighty rushing wind” (Acts 2:2) and visible “divided tongues as of fire appeared to them and rested on each one of them” (Acts 2:3). Those present that day, and the original readers would likely have associated the sound of the might rushing wind with the original creation in which “wind” or “Spirit” from God “hovering over the face of the waters” (Gen 1:1–2). This manifestation of the Spirit was a sign and means of God working a new creation among those who received the Spirit. In addition to the sound of the wind, tongues of fire flames were seen as resting on each of their heads. Fire was repeated seen as a sign of God’s powerful presence in the Hebrew Scriptures (Old Testament). God appeared as a flaming torch to Abraham in Gen 15:17 and in a burning bush to Moses in Exo 3. In each of those instances, God was calling them into His mission.

The sermon asked and answered the questions: “Who are we?” ... “What are we to do?” ... “How are we to do it?” We are God’s new creation as Spirit-dwelled followers of Jesus who have trusted Him to save us (2 Cor 5:17). We walk through Holy Spirit hole together as new creations accompanied by the powerful presence of God. We are called to speak about the mighty works of God He did to bring salvation to His people. We do not need special training in rhetoric and apologetics to simply tell others about the might works of God. The Bible gives great examples of people trusting God when they were concerned about such things as the plight/decline of their nation (Habakkuk 1:5), the wellbeing of their children (Male Hebrew children were being killed right after birth), their health (many healings).

We are to go about speaking good news as people who are virtually unoffendable. Some hearers mocked Peter in Acts 2 and accused the disciples of being drunk. Rather than showing offense, Peter simply explained that they were not witnessing people who were inebriated by alcohol but who were filled by the Holy Spirit. In fact, this event was a fulfillment of God’s promises to send the Spirit, given through the prophet Joel. Let us walk together through the holes the Holy Spirit opens for us and let us speak of God’s mighty works. In a context where there are great divisions and people seem to get easily offended by just about anything, we speak good news as those who are virtually unoffendable, filled with the Spirit, and with the powerful presence of God resting upon us.

Interpretation Helps

- Acts 1:15 tells readers that there were about 120 disciples gathered together to wait on the Holy Spirit as Jesus had instructed them. When the Spirit came, we can assume that group was still gathered.

Group Gathering

Group Check-in — Care, Celebration, Encouragement (About 1/3 of meeting time)

1. Informal conversation to allow individuals to catch up with one another.
2. Ask if anyone would share how they've been hearing and obeying God's direction.

Allow the Word to Speak — Be Hearers of the Word (About 1/3 of meeting time)

READ Acts 2:1–21

1. What from the passage or sermon was most impactful to you?
2. Were you left with any questions or confusion about the passage or sermon?
3. What were the main manifestations of the Holy Spirit in Acts 2:1–21?
4. What adjectives describe the reactions of the people after seeing and hearing the manifestations of the Spirit?
5. How did Peter explain to his hearers what was happening? (2:14–21)

Put the Word into Practice — Be Doers of the Word (About 1/3 of meeting time)

1. What does it mean for you to “come on Sunday and go on Monday”?
2. What do you think of the suggestion that as a believer, you are a burning bush revealing God's presence in the world?
3. What tends to offend you? ... How does the thought of being unoffendable speak to you?
4. Consider your life in light of the questions asked and answered in the sermon: “Who am I?” ... “What am I called to do?” ... “How am I to do it?” Can you think of a next step or two that would allow the Spirit to make an opening and send you out to tell of God's mighty works in salvation?

The Big Question: What do you sense God's Spirit saying to you and what concrete action will you take in response? Share your answer with the group or another trusted Christian and ask them to pray for you.

What We Hope Members Glean from the Passage

1. No set answer.
2. No set answer.
3. Fire looking like tongues resting over the heads of the disciples who had been filled with the Holy Spirit ... The disciples spoke in other languages so that all their hearers heard the message in their own languages.
4. Adjectives
 - Bewildered
 - Astonished
 - Amazed
 - Perplexed
5. Peter explained that they were not drunk but filled with the Holy Spirit and shows that filling as fulfillment of prophecies from Joel.

SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES: Click [here](#) for some good opportunities.