

WARM-UP

- Recall a time when you hesitated sharing important news with a friend. What held you back?
- What was one of the most memorable things you have heard from someone? How did you respond?
- If you could be fluent in any foreign language, what would it be? Why do you want to learn this language?

WORD *“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”*

ACTS 1:8

*¹When the day of Pentecost arrived, they were all together in one place. ²And suddenly there came from heaven a sound like a mighty rushing wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. **ACTS 2:1-2***

(Read also **ACTS 2:3-11.**)

At the beginning of the book of Acts, the disciples had just witnessed the resurrection of Jesus and spent forty days with Him before He ascended to heaven. However, Jesus did not leave them without giving them instructions and a promise. Though some of the disciples still thought this promise would lead to Israel's restoration, Jesus intended for them to preach the message of His salvation to different groups of people and to be His witnesses to the world. Today, let us take a look at the fulfilled promise of the Holy Spirit that began from the upper room.

1 | The disciples experienced the miracle of the Holy Spirit coming upon them.

And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance. ACTS 2:4

A few days after Jesus went up to heaven, the disciples gathered together in Jerusalem and stayed there as Jesus had instructed. Although they knew that the Holy Spirit would come, they did not know when or how this would happen. Suddenly, they heard a sound from heaven like a *mighty rushing wind* and were instantly filled with the Holy Spirit. As they opened their mouths to speak, they began to miraculously communicate in different languages. This outpouring was a fulfillment of the promise Jesus spoke of—the miraculous power of the Holy Spirit. What does it mean for you to have the Holy Spirit indwelling and empowering you today?

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2 | The disciples spoke the wonders of God to different people in a language the audience could understand.

And at this sound the multitude came together, and they were bewildered, because each one was hearing them speak in his own language. ACTS 2:6

The infilling of the Holy Spirit in the disciples happened at an important time when devout Jews from different cities stayed in Jerusalem to attend a Jewish feast known as *Shavuot*. When people heard the disciples speaking about God in different languages, some were amazed, while others doubted. Peter

took this opportunity to preach about Jesus being Lord and Christ. His preaching was a miracle in itself. What are some other ways that the Holy Spirit empowers us today?

3

The church was inaugurated and multitudes turned to Christ.

*⁴¹So those who received his word were baptized, and there were added that day about three thousand souls. . . . ⁴⁷praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved. **ACTS 2:41, 47***

When the crowd heard Peter's preaching, they were *cut to the heart* (verse 37). This Jesus, who they had denied and crucified, was the same Jesus who rose again. He is Lord and Christ, the Savior of the world. On that day, about 3,000 people gave their lives to Jesus and were baptized. Every day, more people were added as the disciples preached the gospel and performed miracles. It was the public launch of Christ's church. This miraculous event opened the door for the proclamation of the gospel and the continuous growth of the church to this day. What does this tell us about how God's church is built?

APPLICATION

- How did you encounter Jesus and how has your life changed since then? How has the Holy Spirit empowered you to share the gospel and to experience life transformation?
- Do you believe that the same Holy Spirit Peter and the disciples had can empower us to preach the gospel boldly today? Ask God to open your heart to receive the Holy Spirit and proclaim the gospel with power and boldness.
- Is there someone you know who needs to hear the gospel, but speaks in a different way? Ask the Holy Spirit to empower you to effectively and intentionally communicate with that person this week.

PRAYER

- Thank Jesus for sending the Holy Spirit to guide and empower us to let others know Him through the preaching of His word and experiencing His miracles.
- Ask God to continue aligning your heart and mind to Him as you become His witness to the people around you.
- Ask the Holy Spirit to fill you with boldness and confidence to share the good news of Christ's salvation with someone this week.



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