

The Gospel-Authenticating Spirit

September 25, 2022

Open: What is the most amazing thing you've observed or witnessed this week?

Read & Discuss: Acts 2:1-41

1. Imagine that you were present at the day of Pentecost. What do you think it would have been like for you as you observed what was happening? How did the Jews who were there respond to what they witnessed (vv. 5-13)?
2. Verse 12 tells us that many of those present said to one another, "What does this mean?" How would you have answered this question? What causes us to often try to find ways to explain events in ways that do not require the intervention of God?
3. Considering what you know of Peter's past character, what evidence do you see in verses 14-15 that he has now been changed and empowered by the Holy Spirit? How have you seen the Holy Spirit change and empower you (or someone you know) for ministry?
4. How do Peter's words in verse 23 highlight the twin truths of divine sovereignty and human responsibility? How do each of these truths both challenge and encourage you as you think about Christ's commission to His Church that we saw in Acts 1:8?
5. In verse 36, Peter says "Let all the house of Israel therefore know for certain that God has made [Jesus] both Lord and Christ." Looking at verses 14-35, what has Peter said that was meant to prove this point? What other arguments have you heard that convinced you this was true?
6. In verses 38-39 Peter tells the convicted crowd how they should respond to his message. What stands out to you regarding both what Peter tells them to do and what he tells them to expect? What lessons can we learn from Peter here for sharing the Gospel ourselves?
7. In summary, what are all the ways you see the Spirit at work throughout this passage? How can we (individually and corporately) better align ourselves with the work of the Holy Spirit in communicating the Gospel?

Prayer: Pray we would be a church family who desperately rely on the power of the Holy Spirit as we eagerly share the Gospel. Pray that, like Peter, we would boldly seize opportunities to proclaim the Gospel to others.

Acts 2:1-41.

¹ 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.

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." ¹² And all were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, "What does this mean?" ¹³ But others mocking said, "They are filled with new wine."

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;*

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 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.'*

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."

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. (ESV)

The Gospel-Authenticating Spirit

Acts 2:1-41

The Spirit is amazing. (Acts 2:1-11)

Jesus is real. (Acts 2:14-36)

What does that mean to you? (Acts 2:37-41)



EMPOWERED
WITNESSES



Acts 2:1–41

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