

Title: Being Spirit-Filled

Passage: Acts 2:1-13

Summary:

The second chapter of Acts marks a turning point in the history of God's kingdom. A new phase of His redemptive plan unfolds as the church is born. In chapter 1, the disciples were told to wait for the coming of the Holy Spirit; in chapter 2, the Holy Spirit comes. In chapter 1, the disciples were prepared and equipped; in chapter 2, they are empowered. In chapter 1, they were held back; in chapter 2, they are sent forth. In chapter 1, the Savior ascended; in chapter 2, the Spirit descends. The promises of the Lord Jesus Christ given in chapter 1 come to fruition, as the disciples who are gathered together in the Upper Room are being Spirit-filled.

Passage: Acts 2:1-13

When the day of Pentecost arrived, they were all together in one place. And suddenly there came from heaven a sound like a mighty rushing wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. And divided tongues as of fire appeared to them and rested on each one of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance.

Now there were dwelling in Jerusalem Jews, devout men from every nation under heaven. And at this sound the multitude came together, and they were bewildered, because each one was hearing them speak in his own language. And they were amazed and astonished, saying, "Are not all these who are speaking Galileans? And how is it that we hear, each of us in his own native language? Parthians and Medes and Elamites and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, Cretans and Arabians—we hear them telling in our own tongues the mighty works of God." And all were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, "What does this mean?" But others mocking said, "They are filled with new wine."

introduction

John Stott

“Without the Holy Spirit, Christian discipleship would be inconceivable, even impossible. There can be no life without the life-giver, no understanding without the Spirit of truth, no fellowship without the unity of the Spirit, no Christlikeness of character apart from His fruit, and no effective witness without His power. As a body without breath is a corpse, so the church without the Spirit is dead.”

EXPOSITION

Context of Passage:

Chapter 1

- Disciples were instructed
- Disciples were prepared
- Savior ascended

Chapter 2

- Disciples were empowered

- Disciples sent forth
- Spirit descended

Question:

Holy Spirit: how did it work before vs. after Pentecost?

- Analogy: new hydropower dam built in Egypt using Nile River. Before the dam, water was only used by those near it. After they dam, energy from dam benefitted many well beyond the dam's vicinity.
- *before Pentecost*: few benefited from the Spirit (prophets, kings, those called for special tasks)

Psalms 51:11

Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me.

- *after Pentecost*: power of the Spirit spread throughout the whole world (indwells in every believer)

Ephesians 1:13

In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit,

Overview

Evidence of Spirit-Filled (v. 1-4)

Effect of being Spirit-Filled (v. 5-11)

Explanation of Spirit-Filled (v. 12-13)

I. Evidence of Spirit-Filled

Acts 2:1-4

When the day of Pentecost arrived, they were all together in one place. And suddenly there came from heaven a sound like a mighty rushing wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. And divided tongues as of fire appeared to them and rested on each one of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance.

When the day of Pentecost arrived, they were all together in one place.

Pentecost

- 50 days after the Passover
- Feast originally was to celebrate the conclusion of the harvest.
- Purpose: praise God for the harvest
- Sovereign timing: people become first fruit of new harvest of believers in Christ.

a sound like a mighty rushing wind

- like = not exact but similar
- Wind = spirit (synonym)

Ezekiel 37 (Valley of Dead Bones)

- story where God brings life into dead bones

it filled the entire house where they were sitting.

- initially only one house (not everywhere)

sitting

- notice it wasn't during time they were praying (thus, it is not accurate to think they prayed and the Spirit came in response immediately or by any particular command)

Fire

- symbol of presence of God

Exodus 3:2 (Moses and burning bush)

And the angel of the LORD appeared to him in a flame of fire out of the midst of a bush. He looked, and behold, the bush was burning, yet it was not consumed.

Numbers 9:15-16

On the day that the tabernacle was set up, the cloud covered the tabernacle, the tent of the testimony. And at evening it was over the tabernacle like the appearance of fire until morning. So it was always: the cloud covered it by day and the appearance of fire by night.

And divided tongues...rested on each one of them

- individually over each person
- Symbolized that Spirit would not be just in one place (Ex: temple only) or just one person (Ex: priest only)

And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit

"Baptism of the Spirit"

- This concerns only salvation

Ephesians 1:13-14

In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory.

- Phrase appears only 7 times in NT
 - 6 times connected with John the Baptist
 - 7th is in 1 Corinthians 12:13

1 Corinthians 12:13

For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and all were made to drink of one Spirit.

- the impact of the Spirit is related to one's salvation

Ezekiel 36:26-27

And I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you. And I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. And I will put my Spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes and be careful to obey my rules.

Galatians 3:27

For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ.

Romans 6:3-4

Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life.

Why important to examine the Bible?

- no commandment to be "baptized in the Spirit"
- There is a commandment to "be filled with the Spirit"
- What does "be filled with the Spirit" mean? (Ephesians 5:18)
- Consciously practice the presence of Jesus Christ in your life and fill your mind with God's truth.

Colossians 3:1-2

If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth.

Ephesians 5:1-2

Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children. And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God...

- Contrast: some people believe one needs to have a post-experience of supernatural with the Spirit
 - Not Biblical

John 3:5-6

Jesus answered, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.

- salvation is not by works (not external but internal)
- "Born of water and the Spirit" (see Ezekiel)

Ezekiel 36:24-26

I will take you from the nations and gather you from all the countries and bring you into your own land. I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you shall be clean from all your uncleannesses, and from all your idols I will cleanse you. And I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you. And I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh.

- I will sprinkle clean water = water
- I will give you a new spirit = Spirit

began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance.

- People spoke in tongues
- Note: Different, known languages were spoken
- Acts 2 does not speak to any necessity as to the gift of tongues
- Why? God shows He is working in people

II. Effect of being Spirit-Filled (v.5-11)

Acts 2:5-11

Now there were dwelling in Jerusalem Jews, devout men from every nation under heaven. And at this sound the multitude came together, and they were bewildered, because each one was hearing them speak in his own language. And they were amazed and astonished, saying, "Are not all these who are speaking Galileans? And how is it that we hear, each of us in his own native language? Parthians and Medes and Elamites and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, Cretans and Arabians—we hear them telling in our own tongues the mighty works of God."

- Who? List of descendants of Noah (Genesis 10)
- Why here? Reflects new unity of the Spirit which transcends races, nationalities, and linguistic barriers.
- On day of Pentecost, symbolized of how the whole world was there in Jerusalem with various representatives present there
- Here, Pentecost was a dramatic reversal of the Tower of Babel)
 - Babel: earth proudly tried to ascend to heaven, but then all were scattered by language
 - Acts 2: heaven humbly descended to earth as all believers united by the Spirit

III. Explanation of Spirit-Filled (v. 12-13)

Acts 2:12-13

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

- people will mock the truth

1 Corinthians 1:18

For the word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

Matthew 5:10-12

Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

APPLICATION

Be reminded of God's holiness and awe

- God is pictured as fire, who purifies us inside out.

1 Peter 1:16

since it is written, "You shall be holy, for I am holy."

Revelation 4:11

"Worthy are you, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for you created all things, and by your will they existed and were created."

Evidence of a Christian is someone who wants to talk about Christ with everyone about them

- Christ is the focus
- It is not talk about their gifts

Psalms 115:1

Not to us, O LORD, not to us, but to your name give glory, for the sake of your steadfast love and your faithfulness!

God's heart is to save people of every race, tribe and nation.

- God's love is not based on anything external or visible (intelligence or education, race or ethnicity)

John 3:16

For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.

- All are welcome to come to Christ as Lord and Savior.

Romans 15:7

Therefore welcome one another as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God.

If not a Christian, come to Christ

Matthew 11:28-30

Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.

Ephesians 3:20-21

Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.