

Series: How Jesus Acts Through Us Today; Sermon: **Filled with the Spirit of Jesus**; delivered by **Josh Moody**, senior pastor, on February 23, 2020

Bible text explored: Acts 2:1–13

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. ³And divided tongues as of fire appeared to them and rested on each one of them. ⁴And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance.

⁵Now there were dwelling in Jerusalem Jews, devout men from every nation under heaven. ⁶And at this sound the multitude came together, and they were bewildered, because each one was hearing them speak in his own language. ⁷And they were amazed and astonished, saying, “Are not all these who are speaking Galileans? ⁸And how is it that we hear, each of us in his own native language? ⁹Parthians and Medes and Elamites and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, ¹⁰Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, ¹¹both Jews and proselytes, Cretans and Arabians—we hear them telling in our own tongues the mighty works of God.” ¹²And all were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, “What does this mean?” ¹³But others mocking said, “They are filled with new wine.” [ESV]

Review and application:

1. Before they were filled with the Spirit, what secondary concerns preoccupied the gathered “holy huddle” . . .
 - . . . about political developments and their timing? (See *Acts 1:6*.)
 - . . . about when and how Jesus would return? (*1:11*)
 - . . . about replacement Judas as one “the Twelve”? (*1:21-22*)
2. What promise of Jesus was met with a “full filling” on the Pentecost pilgrimage festival day? (See *Acts 1:4-5; John 14:16-18*.)

God provided tangible evidence of a silent, internal empowering. What would the sound of a gale-force wind bring to mind?
(See *Ezek. 37:9, 14; John 3:8*.)

What did the appearance of flames kindled on each one present suggest?
(See *Exod. 3:2; 19:18*.)
3. What was the infilling power of the Spirit intended to accomplish?
(See *Acts 1:8*.)
4. How did a *freshly Spirit-filled* Peter use Joel’s prophecy to explain why all could now hear the good news in their own heart languages?
(See *Acts 2:16-18, 21*.)

How does the Book of *Acts* attribute church expansion to that power?
(See, for instance: *4:31; 9:17-29; 10:44-46*.)

Read the closing sentence of *Acts* (*28:30-31*). Do you think Luke assumed that Spirit-empowered boldness would continue full-speed?
5. Are we, like these original disciples, *expecting* to receive a power beyond ourselves to tell others about Jesus?

Do we gain courage by *gathering* regularly with like-minded believers?
Are we really open to *receiving* the Holy Spirit’s power to witness with clarity and boldness?