

GROWTH + GROUPS

NAVIGATE LIFE TOGETHER

Maranatha Chapel Sermon Based Study Guide
SB 08.16.2020

SHAKE UP AND WAKE UP! – ACTS 2:5-47

Receiving the Message and Relating to the Study

What insights, principles, or observations stood out to you from this week's message? Discuss with your group.

Pastor Ray shared with us, in Acts 2, Supernatural Phenomena accompanied the outpouring of the Holy Spirit upon the Church during this Pentecost. This is when they would gather the wheat and grains in early June, and they would offer sheaves to the Lord as a wave offering as the first-fruits. Suddenly... Notice here that Supernatural phenomena accompanying the outpouring of the Holy Spirit upon the Church. 1) There was a Sound like a rushing mighty wind. 2) There were divided tongues of fire that appeared above the followers' heads. 3) They were all speaking in other tongues as the spirit gave them utterance. The Greek word for "other tongues" is *glossa*. It means "an unknown tongue," that is, to the person speaking it. Speaking in tongues is a gift mentioned several times in the Bible. Here in today's passage in Acts 2 is the first mention of its exercise. It is interesting that of the 3 phenomena that occurred during the outpouring of the Holy Spirit, speaking in tongues is the only one repeated on other occasions. Filled with the Spirit, Peter stood to his feet before Thousands who had gathered. Peter spoke at the top of his voice. Note the authority and forcefulness of Peter! What a difference the Spirit makes! The Holy Spirit took Peter's message and used it to convict the hearts of everyone listening. Peter told them how to be saved, Repent of their sin and Believe in Jesus Christ. They could give proof of the sincerity of their repentance by being baptized in the name of Jesus Christ, thus identifying publicly with their Messiah and Savior. Only by repenting and believing Christ could they then receive the gift of the Holy Spirit, and this gift was for both Jews and far away Gentiles! Let's get into our study...

As your group time begins, use this section to introduce the topic of discussion.

1. What stood out or spoke to you most from Pastor Ray's message this weekend?
2. Take some time to reflect on the gift of the Holy Spirit in your life. How do you see the Holy Spirit at work in and through you? How about other people in your group?
3. Have you ever thought of what it really means to be filled with the Holy Spirit?
4. Why do you think so many Christians live as though they are devoid of the Spirit's power?

Digging Deeper in God's Word: Life Lessons

The Jews had been scattered and there were groups of Jews living in many different countries. However, the Jews who lived in other countries would make an effort to come to Jerusalem for the Jewish feasts at least once or twice in their lifetimes. **The Feast of Pentecost was fifty days after the Passover. Many of the Jews living in other countries would come to Jerusalem for the Passover and stay for the Feast of Pentecost.** These were the Jews who were visiting Jerusalem from the other nations on this day of Pentecost.

HAVE A VOLUNTEER READ ACTS (review Acts 2:1-4) and 2:5-13

1. This is an incredibly dramatic scene that must have been both exhilarating and terrifying for those present. What do you think it would have felt like to be one of the disciples in this scene?

Prepare! in 2020

2. What are the various ways that you see the Holy Spirit manifested here?
3. How did the people respond? Try to look at all the groups of people and be specific in describing their response. (Notice all the different languages and peoples gathered on Pentecost)
4. What power does Romans 8:11 attribute to the Holy Spirit?
5. If the Holy Spirit has the power to impart gospel understanding and raise the dead to life, then what does that tell you about His role and power in your life on a daily basis? In what ways would you say you regularly experience the power of the Holy Spirit for daily living?

HAVE A VOLUNTEER READ ACTS 2:14-36

1. What was the point Peter wanted people to understand about current events at their time? (vv. 15,17-18)?
2. How do you understand verses 19-21? What tells you Joel's prophecy is still coming true today?

The real reason for the unusual events the crowd had witnessed was the outpouring of the Spirit as the prophet Joel had predicted (see Joel 2:28-32). By establishing this connection with the prophet early in his sermon, Peter was underscoring his message with scriptural proof. During Joel's prophetic ministry, a locust plague had infested the land. Joel explained that the event was God's judgment on the nation. He called the people to repentance and promised that, if they turned back to God, their land would prosper again. He also declared that the dawn of the messianic age would see God's pouring out His Spirit on all people.

3. What message does verse 21 have for us and our church?
4. Given Peter's audience, why do you think He quoted so heavily from the Old Testament? What does this tell us about Jesus? About the gospel?

HAVE A VOLUNTEER READ ACTS 2:37-47

1. How did many of the people who heard Peter's sermon respond (v. 37)? What might we learn from their response when God's Word convicts our hearts?
2. How did Peter respond to their question (v. 38)? Compare this with Acts 16:31. Did Peter and Paul prescribe different responses to the gospel?

While there were certainly still some people who thought that Peter was either crazy or drunk, there were many more who "came under deep conviction." These people did not ignore or dismiss the conviction they felt but allowed their conviction to move them to cry out to the apostles, "Brothers, what must we do?" Peter responded by instructing them to repent from sin and be baptized as a physical sign of what has already happened in their hearts. When asked a similar question by the Philippian jailer, Paul responded by saying, "believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved" (Acts 16:31). We should not think of Peter's command to "repent" and Paul's command to "believe" as two separate responses to the gospel. When Jesus preached, He commanded people to "repent and believe the gospel" (Mark 1:16). Therefore "to repent" and "to believe" is best understood as two essential aspects of faith. Both Peter and Paul called their hearers to turn away from their former lives and trust Christ alone for salvation.

Applying God's Word

What did you learn from this study and how does this personally speak to you? Discuss with your group.

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This miracle of praising God in all these languages was a Sign! The Spirit was poured out because Jesus had Risen and ascended to Heaven to pour out the Holy Spirit now! The Holy Spirit took Peter's message and used it to convict the hearts of everyone listening. Peter told them how to be saved. Repent of their sin and Believe in Jesus Christ. They could give proof of the sincerity of their repentance by being baptized in the name of Jesus Christ, thus identifying publicly with their Messiah and Savior. Only by repenting and believing Christ could they then receive the gift of the Holy Spirit, and this gift was for both Jews and far away Gentiles! The Church was Unified, Magnified and Multiplied. They met not only weekly but DAILY. Every DAY people were saved!

1. What fears do you have when you think about sharing the gospel? What have you learned from Acts 2 that can help you more fully rely on the Spirit as you witness?
2. What's one way you can rise up this week to make a difference in our community? How can our group encourage you in this?
3. What are some practical steps you could take this week to develop relationships with non-Christian friends for the purpose of sharing Christ with them?

PRAYER - Ask that the Holy Spirit's presence would comfort, guide, and direct our actions and interactions with others daily. Pray that we would have boldness like Peter to share the gospel with those who need Jesus' saving grace.

"And it shall come to pass in the last days, saith God, I will pour out of my Spirit upon all flesh: and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams: And on my servants and on my handmaidens I will pour out in those days of my Spirit; and they shall prophesy: And I will shew wonders in heaven above, and signs in the earth beneath; blood, and fire, and vapor of smoke: The sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood, before that great and notable day of the Lord come:."

(ACTS 2:17-20)