

Small Group Guide

10/31/21: Acts 2:1-4 - "Pentecost"

Sermon Outline

The book of Acts: Jesus went up, Holy Spirit came down, Church sent out
Jesus ascended, Holy Spirit descended, Church commissioned

"And afterwards, when he had risen from the dead and appeared to them, and had taught them to read the prophecies in which all these things were foretold as coming to pass, and when they had seen him ascending into heaven, and had believed, and had received power sent by him upon them, and went to every race of men, they taught these things, and were called apostles." - Justin Martyr, *First Apology* 50:12, c. AD 155

1. The Day of Pentecost (Acts 2:1)

- *Luke, the only Gentile writer, makes note of the Jewish feast.
- *Jewish Significance - 1 of 7 feasts, 1 of 3 pilgrim festivals (Lev. 23:15-21)
- *Historical Significance - celebrated when Moses received Law on Sinai (Ex. 19)
- *Prophetic Significance - Jer. 31:31-34, Joel 2:28-32

2. The Signs of Pentecost (Acts 2:2-4)

- *Sound like wind
- *Divided tongues as of fire
- *Spoken languages (heard, known, understood)
- *All three show up in Exodus 19 in the giving of the Law and Old Covenant.
- *The Spirit had come to write the Word on their hearts and indwell them forever.

3. The Reality of Pentecost

- *Holy Spirit descended upon the believers.
- *Holy Spirit descended upon each believer.
- *Holy Spirit filled each believer.
 - *Baptism in the Spirit - one-time event - Identified/Indwelt (1 Cor. 12:13)
 - *Filling of the Spirit - continual action - Controlled to display/proclaim Christ
- *The coming of the Holy Spirit marked the beginning of the Church's ministry.

Application:

- *God always keeps His promises and accomplishes His purposes.
- *The Holy Spirit is the greatest gift of the Christian life.
- *God's mission must be done in God's power.
- *The Holy Spirit is given to every believer forever.
- *The Spirit comes not for personal experience only but to display/proclaim Christ!

Small Group Questions:

Some small groups were not able to discuss last week's message because of the weather on Wednesday. We have scaled back a few questions this week to give you a chance to recap the 10/24 message if needed.

1. What spoke to you in the sermon?
2. What was the Jewish/historical/prophetic significance to the day of Pentecost? Why is this background important to understanding the event of Pentecost?
3. How did the visible and audible signs point to what was taking place? What were the "tongues" being spoken? Were they understandable? Why is this important?
4. What is the difference in the baptism in the Spirit and the filling of the Spirit?
5. What was the main point of the event of Pentecost?

Next week's passage: Acts 2:5-13 — Read together if you have time.