

The Spirit empowers us for ministry!

Acts 2:1-13

1

Main Idea: The Spirit empowers us to fulfill God's mission; so, we step out on faith and experience the power of God.

2

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.

3

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?"

4

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."

5

Main Idea: The Spirit empowers us to fulfill God's mission; so, we step out on faith and experience the power of God.

6

The Spirit empowers us for ministry.

1. The Spirit gives birth to the Church (1-5).
2. The Spirit brings unity (5-11).
3. The Spirit leads the Church to glorify God.

7

1. The Spirit gives birth to the Church.

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. (vv. 1-4)

8

The Spirit gives birth to the Church.

Birth of Christ (Luke)	Birth of Church (Acts)
Conceived of the Holy Spirit (Luke 1:35).	Conceived of the Holy Spirit (Acts 1:5).
Visibly baptized by the Holy Spirit (Luke 3:22).	Visibly baptized by the Holy Spirit (Acts 2:3).
Makes his inaugural address, filled with the Spirit (Luke 4:18).	Makes her inaugural address, filled with Spirit (Acts 2:14-40).
Repent! (Matt 4:17).	Repent! (Acts 2:38).

9

The Church continues Jesus' mission.

- i. The Church is the temple (1Co 3:16-17; cf Jn 1:14).
- ii. The Church continues the mission.
- iii. We are the hands and feet of Jesus (1Co 12:12f).
- iv. Jesus' mission defines us.

10

2. The Spirit brings unity.

⁵ Now there were dwelling in Jerusalem Jews, devout men from every nation under heaven ... each one was hearing them speak in his own language ... how is it that we hear, each of us in his own native language ... we hear them telling in our own tongues the mighty works of God." (vv. 5, 6, 8, 11).

11

The Spirit brings unity to divided people.

- i. Pentecost is a reversal of Babel - division and rebellion (Gen 1:28; 9:7; 11:1-9).
- ii. Through the Spirit we find mercy offered to rebellious people (Isa 66:18-23; Acts 2:1-13).
- iii. Pentecost restores our relationship with God (Joel 2; Acts 2:17-18).

12

The Spirit reverses Babel.

Tower of Babel (Genesis 11)	Pentecost (Acts 2)
Confusion of tongues (Gen 11:9)	Understanding of tongues (Acts 2:5-10)
God scatters people in judgment (Gen 11:8)	God scatters people to spread the gospel ... to bring in the harvest (Acts 1:8)
Language promotes a human agenda : "Let's make a name for ourselves..." (Gen 11:4)	Language promotes God's agenda : "you shall be my witnesses" (Acts 1:8)
Results in disunity (Gen 11:8)	Results in unity

13

The **power** of the Spirit enables us to:

- i. Break down cultural and ethnic barriers.
- ii. Leverage our differences for God's mission to all nations (Eph 2:14).
- iii. Unify around the gospel so that all might be saved (Rev 7:9-12).

14

3. The Spirit glorifies God.

(3 steps to see God work)

"When the day of Pentecost arrived ... there came from heaven a sound like a mighty rushing wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting ... ⁴ And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance ... they were amazed and astonished ... we hear them telling in our own tongues the mighty works of God ... all were amazed and perplexed"

15

Step 1: Pray hard and stand together (v. 1).

- i. Learn God's promise (v. 1:8).
- ii. In difficulty, unify as a church (vv. 1:14; 2:1).
- iii. In unity, pray hard (v. 1:14).

16

Step 2: Trust God to keep promises (vv. 2-4).

- i. The great wind is prophecy (v. 2; Ezek 37:9-14).
- ii. One fire, multiple tongues (v. 3; Ex 3:2; 19:18).
- iii. The Spirit arrives, as promised (v. 4; 1:8).
- iv. Seeing God keep promises increases our trust.

17

Step 3: Step out on faith (vv. 5-12).

- i. Live by faith (v. 4; Heb 10:38; 11:1f).
- ii. Share the gospel and God speaks (vv. 5-8).
- iii. God's works through us, for his glory (v. 11).

18

Step out on faith & experience
the power of God.