

**Acts 2 | The Holy Spirit – God Through Us**  
**Redemption Hill Church | Simon Murphy**  
**Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> January 2009**

**Acts 2.1-13:**

In the book of Acts there are some patterns and policies, but probably not as many as would like! Often we say that if we can just get back to the book of Acts, if we can just do what they did, then we will see results. But I think that the key to Acts wasn't methods they employed, but rather a spontaneous response to God's changing work in their hearts! They were Spirit filled and Spirit led.

In some portions we see incredible signs, wonders and anointed preaching with people being cut to the heart, and at other points Paul is trying to persuade men! There are good times when Peter is miraculously led out of prison by an angel, when Paul gets freed by an earthquake, but then a few chapters later, the next Paul is stuck in prison for years and the book ends with him in house arrest in Rome!

Christianity isn't a pattern we copy, it's an encounter we've had with the living God by His Spirit! **You may be here and saying to yourself, I'll give it a try! Christianity is not something you can try and see if it works for you. It's either objectively true or it's not. It's either fact or fiction. When Jesus was being crucified he almost certainly wouldn't have said that this is working for him! It's something that must happen to you. An encounter with God.**

God's Spirit fills us, brings us into His presence, intimacy and relationship with Him.

**What happened when the Spirit was poured out?**

**1. The infilling was a conscious experience (vs 2-3).**

This certainly was a conscious experience of God on them! It wasn't just deep and subconscious. **"Sudden sound, like"**. In Acts 8.17 when Simon offers money for the gift of the Holy Spirit, it's because there clearly was something evident that happened when people received the Holy Spirit. They were filled and they knew something had happened!

This should not surprise us when we come into close proximity with the presence of God. People were terrified, John fell as though dead (Rev 1), in Acts 4 it says after they prayed that the place where they were meeting was shaken, and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and continued to speak with boldness.

**This shows us that Christianity is not just cerebral.** It's experiential. 'Did not our hearts burn within us' said the disciples on the road to Emmaus (Luke 24).

**2. They received an ability outside of themselves (vs 4).**

**There was a Divine enabling for a task.** They spoke in other tongues (languages). This gift is something God must give you. We see biblically that God gives us natural gifts (things we are naturally skilled at) and then spiritual gifts, in which His Spirit works through us.

God gives these gifts for the building up for the body, until Jesus returns. We should eagerly desire them, and know that they are open to all believers (1 Cor 13 – 14).

Our efforts to serve God are not just our own, we are divinely helped. Supernatural help. Let God work in you.

1 Peter 4.10 says that we are to use the gifts that God has given us to serve one another, being good stewards of God's varied grace.

- **There was a power that accompanied this witness that they had. Miracles, healings, demons out etc.**
- **They were also Spirit led in their endeavors, travels.**

There is more for us!!

**God has made each of us part of a body, and has also given natural gifts and spiritual gifts to each of us for the building up of the body. This is not a professional church, this is a family, where we love one another, all contribute etc. What has God given you, talented you with for the building up of this body?**

### **3. Deep conviction about the wonders of God resulting in witnessing and salvations (vs 11-13)**

They spoke with such conviction people thought they were drunk! They lost their fear of man! Sometimes people drink to get over their own insecurities and shyness, it helps them. The absurdity of their boldness becomes obvious when we realize that they were speaking about Jesus to the people who had murdered Him! A few weeks earlier they had denied Him for fear of their own lives, and now they were loudly proclaiming Him! There was a radical conviction they had about Jesus which led to bold witnessing.

**Whenever they got an opportunity they told people about Jesus!**

**Acts 2.14, Acts 3.12, cripple healed, Acts 4.1, Acts 5.28 (persecution), Acts 7, Acts 8.5, Acts 9.20 Paul at conversion, Acts 11.19 scattered.**

The Holy Spirit applies and makes Christ's work real to us resulting in RECONCILIATION with Christ, and Him subsequently becoming our highest joy and greatest treasure. The challenge of the parable of the treasure in the field is that it was in the man's 'great joy' that he went out and sold all he had. It was not under obligation or fear. Has Christ become this great a treasure to us so that in our joy we forsake all we have for Him? (Matt 13).

This then naturally results in us having a passion to **WITNESS** and tell people about Christ. So what are you a witness to? God working in your heart? **Have you found treasure?**

**They clearly had a passion to witness: 'Woe is me if I do not preach!' Jer 20.9**

**Do you have something to share? Do we see people without Christ and long for them to have what we have? If not, let's press into Christ to see His riches! Do you have Spirit led ideas for reaching out?**

### **4. Ultimately there was Christian Community formed (Acts 2.42-47).**

**It brings us into the presence of Christ the Lord, the King, we have one Father.**

**We get transformed to be like Jesus! 2 Cor 3 and in Acts 13 they were called Christians.**

The reality of the truths changed their lives! We'll see that next week on Sunday, the practical changes that happened. The fruit of the Spirit in the lives of believers. **Gal 5**

The Spirit produces the fruit of the Spirit. It's having God's laws written on your heart, his spirit in you. It's completely transformational. The fruit is love, joy, peace, faithfulness, sharing, fellowship, dying well, enduring hatred! **Struggling in your marriage, let's God's Spirit produce His fruit in you.**

**You may be asking, if I become a Christian do I have to do these things?** Change my life? Yes you do, but the good news, is that you'll want to. It won't just be a matter of having to, God's nature changes your desires.

Have you let go of your small ambitions, desires, methods, plans, and asked God's Spirit to come and fill you!

**In RHC** our faith is deeply theological, looking at the facts of what happened, but oh how terrible it would be if it were only mental! God has poured his Spirit in us, to work through us, to draw us to Him, to reveal Christ to us, to make us empowered witnesses of this gospel! May you do that!

**Are you being made one of God's? Do you belong to Him? Are you His possession? Does His Spirit live in you as a down payment of what's coming?**

**Ask yourself these questions:**

1. Is God more than a mental concept to you?
2. Are you living with a sense of God's divine enabling as you do His work?
3. Are you emboldened to witness through the joy of what you've experienced in Christ?
4. Are you looking more and more like Jesus?