

ACTS SERIES TWO
PENTECOSTAL POWER
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Acts 2:1-24
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In Acts 2 the Supernatural comes—and everyone stopped and stared—and life for those who watched—and life for us today—need never be the same again.

For too many Believers the Christian life boils down to doing the best they can. There is no dynamic, no power, no real distinctive that can be attributed to other than a little discipline, a lot of determination and a little prayer. Is that all there is? Is that the best Christianity has to offer?

This morning, engage with me in the sermon, and by the time we are finished, you will know exactly Who the power is—and how to experience Him. Because of what happened on the Jewish Pentecostal holiday in 32 A.D., no Christ-Follower need live an insipid Christian life ever again.

Our Hope Is In The Fulfilled Promise Of Jesus (John 14:16-18; John 16:7; Acts 1:8; Acts 2:4).

The problem of powerlessness is not in the Christianity. More likely the problem is when we live as if we are orphans—as if we are all alone—as if Jesus was just teasing when He promised to send us the essence of life Himself.

If all Christ did when He died on the cross was to save our souls, then He made us fit for Heaven and left us unfit for earth. The rest of the Good News is that Jesus Christ was raised from the dead, ascended into Heaven and sent the Holy Spirit back on Pentecost—that He, in us, may make us fit to live on earth in every situation.

THE BIRTHDAY OF THE CHURCH OCCURRED ON PENTECOST (ACTS 2:1-21).

Acts 2: 1-4

If the first supernatural event engaged their ears, the second captured their eyes. They were within arm's length of the glory of God. The Lord was returning in Spirit. This visible manifestation symbolized His presence.

Apart from this phenomenon the disciples had no way of grasping the distribution of the infinite Christ in the Spirit. Omnipresence was a truth beyond them. But they could understand this. They saw it happen.

Note the shape of a tongue—not a hand.

Speaking in other languages is the first cry of the new church as it is born into the world!

Acts 2: 5-8

These men heard in their own dialects! This is next to impossible.

Acts 2: 9-11

The purpose of speaking in *tongues* at Pentecost was to spread the Gospel. By witnessing to these foreigners, they were actually spreading the gospel to every part of the world.

Paul described the Corinthian spiritual gift of *tongues* as a prayer language (1 Corinthians 14:2, 14). The spiritual gift of tongues operates vertically toward God, whereas these Pentecostal languages operated horizontally—toward man. Pentecostal tongues were known languages. The gift of tongues is a Holy Spirit language.

Acts 2: 12-13

Since when does drinking cause people to speak in another dialect? Drinking may cause us to use some language that we shouldn't! But not another dialect!

Acts 2: 14-20

Peter turns to the Scriptures to explain what is happening. God foretold this day. Beginning with this Pentecost, all could have the Spirit of God. Receiving the Spirit would now be as simple as turning our cups right side up in a rainstorm. The receiving of Christ was meant to be that easy for everyone.

Acts 2: 21: "And everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved."

WHAT DOES PENTECOST MEAN FOR US TODAY?

The Baptism Of The Holy Spirit Occurs Only Once—At Pentecost In 32 A.D.—Or, At Our Salvation Experience (1 Corinthians 12:13).

The Filling Of The Holy Spirit Is To Be An Ongoing, Moment-by-Moment Experience Of The Life And Power Of God (Ephesians 5:16-18). This is good news: We are no longer waiting for the Holy Spirit—He is waiting for us.

Consider our need for total dependence and total Surrender.

Christianity has not been tried and found wanting. It has been tried and found hard. So it is not wanted. (We have to surrender and depend on Someone else—this is hard—but why would we have it otherwise?)

To walk by the Spirit is to live with a moment-by-moment dependency on, and sensitivity to, the initial promptings of the Holy Spirit.

The Holy Spirit intends to produce the character of Jesus Christ in us. What does this look like? The Fruit of the Spirit: Love, Joy, Peace, Patience, Kindness, Goodness, Faithfulness, Gentleness, and Self-Control.

The Fruit of the Spirit is the most effective evangelistic tool we have. Nothing is more attractive than a life characterized by the life of Christ manifested in the Fruit of the Spirit.

HOW MIGHT WE GO ABOUT BEING FILLED WITH THE SPIRIT?

1. I believe that there is a Pentecostal blessing to be received by the releasing of the Holy Spirit throughout my life.
2. I desire to experience it at all cost; and I am prepared to surrender whatever sin or aspect of my self which may hinder the full expression of His life in mine.
3. I will measure the fullness of the Spirit by the Christlikeness of my life as evidenced by the Fruit of the Spirit.
4. I now humbly and thankfully open my heart to receive all that my Savior is waiting to release into my life. Amen.

There must be a constant inhalation of the Spirit of Pentecost!