

Acts 2 message
Brian Tome

These are the rough notes I use to prepare and when on stage. Stuff I chose not to include are also beneath the dotted line. This isn't a polished article. Typos and notes that may not make sense to you can be expected...

We are spending some time in the book of Acts. Last week Chuck said it could be seen as the "Acts of the Holy Spirit." I can agree with that. I could also make a good case for the "Acts of the Apostles" or the "Acts of the early church." Whatever it is, there are **actions** that are in too short of supply in our world. We have tales of sacrifice. Tales of miracles. People banding together for a common vision. And people finding restoration who others had written off. We are going to see all of these things and maybe more in the 2nd chapter.

BIGFOOT

Ever met someone who you were attracted to and you don't know why? Sometimes we are attracted to someone for obvious reasons since they could make a **magazine** cover. Other times they wouldn't but when you are around them you can't help but notice them and be intrigued with them. Why? They have the X factor. There is something about them that you can't define but makes the equation work.

There are certain athletes who don't have impressive physical abilities but wins happen when they are around. This was Tom **Brady**. His combine results were a joke but he has the X factor. That thing that can't be fully defined nor described.

All of us can have an X factor. And that would be the Holy Spirit. Or more specifically He will be the Holy Spirit.

Acts 2:1 *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*

No definite article. Holy Spirit a Name. Buildings don't have X factor. People do. Holy spirit is a person. That's why many people don't put "the" definite article of the before spirit.

and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance.

Speaking zulu in SA music class

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? 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."

Quick Note on Tongues

The tongues they are speaking are different human languages. Most of the time when we hear "tongues" we are thinking of a "heavenly" tongue which requires an interpreter.

1 Corinthians 13:1 *"If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal."*

These tongues are actual learnable languages *and dialects of the Roman Empire – languages they had not previously learned.*

This is amazing. So amazing or at least foreign to most of our experience that we miss other mind blowing things in this story. Maybe the most amazing thing is who in the early church leadership core interprets spiritually what is taking place.

SCREEN SHOT OF JOURNAL IN THE APP

Truth cuts to the heart. It may not win a popularity contest but when God's truth is spoken, everything else is put on the defensive because God always ultimately wins. The original miraculous outpouring of tongues isn't to give people a personal prayer language. Rather, it is to give people a communal connection with other ethnic groups so that they can preach Jesus.

Imagine the cacophony of sound that would have been coming from this mass of people. There wasn't anybody to interpret what was happening. Peter, who is always aggressive which is why Jesus liked him so much, basically grabs the mic and explains to everyone what is happening. The crazy part is that he was maybe the least spiritually qualified.

50 days earlier he publicly denied Christ 3x. He was arguably the least qualified disciple to give the keynote address at the initial miraculous outpouring of the Holy Spirit. And yet here he is partially because he isn't passive and partially because he knew the forgiving grace of Jesus.

We don't know much about the power of the early church because we don't think and operate like them. We aren't very good at letting people's past sins remain in the past. Today if I were to deny Christ and then repent I would have to go through a multi year restoration process and even then there would be a cloud that would hang over me for the rest of my life with many Christians. Pastors have been permanently banned from many churches because they looked at porn which is way less heinous than publicly proclaiming that you didn't know or follow Jesus.

We don't receive grace very well and we are even worse at giving grace. We judge people according to their past and not their present faithfulness. Excited to talk this in depth on Sunday. Gonna have to copy and paste this in my notes.

Many of us don't have the X factor. It isn't because of our DNA it is because we don't live by The Holy Spirit's power because we don't know what He does. Peter is a great example of how to let the Holy Spirit do HIS work in your life.

1) Holy Spirit Restores instead of Rejects

***Luke 22:60-62** But Peter said, "Man, I do not know what you are talking about." And immediately, while he was still speaking, the rooster crowed. **61** And the Lord turned and looked at Peter. And Peter remembered the saying of the Lord, how he had said to him, "Before the rooster crows today, you will deny me three times." **62** And he went out and wept bitterly."*

Peter would have totally been canceled in our world today. While he did make a mistake, it didn't disqualify him. Instead, the Holy Spirit commissions him to give a crucial talk in history. Peter's initial fall actually strengthened his faith. He learned he couldn't just rely on himself. It prepared him to receive the great helper, the Holy Spirit. He gave credit where credit was due.

Public outcry against you cannot stand against the commissioning of the Holy Spirit.

***Acts 2:14-15** "But Peter, standing with the eleven, lifted up his voice and addressed them: "Men of Judea and all who dwell in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and give ear to my words." For these people are not drunk, as you suppose, since it is only the third hour of the day.*

This is the setup for Peter's BIG moment. He's about to drop the mic on the biggest sermon in history. Peter moves Aggressively. That's part of why Jesus loved him so much and why he gets this prime speaking gig.

Good news for Peter, his story doesn't end with this failure. Jesus restores and redeems him.

Peter fails horribly and still steps into one of the biggest moments in the New Testament. The only way he's able to do this is because the Holy Spirit is dwelling in him.

This is an unleashing of creativity by God that leads to different people groups hearing about Jesus in a language they can understand.

- That accuser doesn't want us to forget our past, he wants us to be defined by it...
- You weren't a good student. You can't do this mind work.
- You did porn last night. You can't be used by God today.
- You used to live with your grandmother. You can't own property of your own.
- You participated in an abortion. You aren't worthy of a family.
- You filed for bankruptcy. You will always be a failure with money.
- You are divorced. You can't hold anything together.

2) Reaches instead of Insulates

There is a commissioning here. Jesus had commissioned Peter earlier in his life when he nicknamed him “Rock” which is what Peter is instead of his given name of Simon. Is commissioning was to extend the reach of Jesus. Jesus isn’t interested in keeping his family same ole same ole. He isn’t interested in helping a stale church meet budget. He also isn’t all that interested in giving you a spiritual experience that is only for you. This outpouring of tongues was for other people.

Those who don’t have the x factor are always insulated and always into themselves over other people.

John 16:7 *Nevertheless, I tell you the truth: it is to your advantage that I go away, for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you. But if I go, I will send him to you.*

3) Holy Spirit Convicts vs Condemns

Peter was convicted over His sin. He had major regrets over his momentary weenyness. But he didn’t wallow in condemnation. The Spirit never reminds us of our past wrongs. When it is over and we have repented before God, it is over. There may be ramifications but there isn’t in our relationship with God.

The Holy Spirit convicts us of our sin in order to reconcile us with God. The Devil condemns us to keep us separated from God. Condemnation and conviction are two ways we internally process guilt. One is healthy and one is not. Conviction inspires repentance and positive change. Condemnation makes us want to run and hide in a bunker somewhere – it inspires shame.

Romans 8:1 *“There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.”*

The Holy Spirit’s job is to testify of Jesus. If He was only concerned with making us feel good, he’d be doing both Jesus AND His followers a disservice.

When I **walk into a room, the presence** of God enters the room and so it does with you.

Acts 2:38 *“And Peter said to them, “Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. 39 For the promise is for you and for your children and for all who are far off, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to himself.” 40 And with many other words he bore witness and continued to exhort them, saying, “Save yourselves from this crooked generation.”*

Ours is a war torn generation. Shrapnel, Land mines and violence is everywhere. Emotional and spiritual that is. The culture wars are real and unfortunately only seeming to get worse while people shout down others on the other side of the aisle or in a different spiritual camp. It isn’t the ideas of Christianity that make a difference but the X factor of Christianity. That x factor is the Holy Spirit.

=====

Acts 19:6 *And when Paul had laid his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came on them,*

and they began speaking in tongues and prophesying.

Mark 16:17 *And these signs will accompany those who believe: in my name they will cast out demons; they will speak in new tongues;*

“Christ crucified is of no practical value to us without the work of the Holy Spirit; and the atonement which Jesus wrought can never save a single soul unless the blessed Spirit of God shall apply it to the heart and conscience. Jesus is never seen until the Holy Spirit opens the eye: the water from the well of life is never received until the Holy Spirit has drawn it from the depths. As medicine unused for want of the physician’s word; as sweets untasted because out of reach; as treasure unvalued because hidden in the earth; such is Jesus the Saviour, until the Holy Spirit teaches us to know him, and applies his blood to our souls.” [Charles Spurgeon, “The Superlative Excellence of the Holy Spirit,” Sermon: June 12, 1864.](#)

“The Spirit-filled life is not a special, deluxe edition of Christianity. It is part and parcel of the total plan of God for His people.” [A. W. Tozer](#)

When a Christian leader stumbles, it does not invalidate their work. It means they are human. We need to learn and teach each other how to love our fellow brothers/sisters even — and especially — when they make a mistake. Or even when they make a decision that we disagree with. The redemptive act of loving them through their actions will often speak much louder to a watching world than the momentary effects of their supposed indiscretion. [“Finding a Way Out of Cancel Culture,” Relevant Magazine.](#)

1 Peter 1:2 *According to the foreknowledge of God the Father, in the sanctification of the Spirit, for obedience to Jesus Christ and for sprinkling with his blood: May grace and peace be multiplied to you.*