

Sermon Discussion Questions



LOOKOUT
MOUNTAIN
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH

“FULFILLMENT OF THE PROMISED HOLY SPIRIT”

Discuss

In our English Bible, the story of Pentecost begins with the simplest of statements. The day came, and they were all together in one place. There’s hardly a hint that a promise-fulfilling, era-defining moment is about to occur. But the Greek word Luke used that is translated as “came” (NIV) or “arrived” (ESV) could be better translated as “was fulfilled.” Luke wanted us to realize from the start that this was no ordinary celebration of the Jewish Feast of Harvest or Feast of Weeks, also called Pentecost (since it occurred 50 days after Passover). God-fearing Jews were gathered in Jerusalem, as usual, to celebrate Pentecost, but what was ordinary and common was about to be transformed into a wondrous and glorious event.

- 1) Take the time to re-read Acts 2:2-6.
 - What is suggested by the particular ways in which the Holy Spirit was manifested? Why these signs?
 - In particular, what could these signs have suggested to Jews? (If time, see Ez. 37:4-6, 9-10; Ex. 13:21, and Ex. 40:36-38)
 - Why do you think the Spirit enabled Jesus’ disciples to speak in so many languages at Pentecost? (See v. 11 and Gen. 11:1-9)
- 2) What were the two primary reactions to the power of Pentecost? (See vv. 11-12)
 - What can we learn from these reactions about how the Gospel will be received today? About how we should evangelize?
- 3) In his book *Keep in Step with the Spirit*, J. I. Packer shares an excerpt from a letter written by some missionaries in Manchuria in 1908. “A power has come into the church,” they wrote, “that we cannot control if we would.” They then describe how Chinese nationals were confessing sins that would ordinarily never be admitted to in public and were even going so far, in a culture that prized honor and self-respect, as to “demean” themselves to beg for the prayers of fellow-believers.

“Perhaps you will say it’s a sort of religious hysteria. So did some of us. . . But here we are, about sixty Scottish and Irish Presbyterians who have seen it all—all shades of temperament—and, as much as many of us shrank from it at first, every one who has seen and heard what we have, every day last week, is certain there is only *one* explanation—that it is God’s Holy Spirit manifesting himself.”¹

 - Would you, too, judge this to be the work of the Holy Spirit? If yes, why?
 - What do you believe the Holy Spirit is doing today?
 - This is a topic for ongoing discussion, not easy to finish up in a few minutes, but what exactly does the Spirit do, and why do we need the Holy Spirit?

DATE: September 1, 2019

SPEAKER: Chad/Brian

SERIES: Acts

PASSAGE: Acts 2:1-13

Pray

O LORD,

We confess that we so often give in to our sinful natures and gratify our sinful desires. Forgive us. Since we live by the Spirit, help us to keep in step with the Spirit! (Gal. 5:25)

Help us to use our days wisely, making the most of every opportunity and trusting that the Spirit will empower us to do everything you tell us to do in your Word. (Eph. 5:15)

Finally, may we overflow with the rich fruits of the Holy Spirit: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. (Gal. 5:22)

With thanksgiving for the work of the Spirit in our lives, we pray in Jesus’ name. Amen.

PRAY FOR HOME MISSIONS

Chalmers: Faith & Finances for Grace Community Church

PRAY FOR WORLD MISSIONS

Barbara and Bruce Wannemacher serving with MTW in South Africa

¹Packer, pp. 11-12.