

5 N. Feb. 19, 84 AM.  
Grove Park May 2, 90 Prayer meeting

The ~~Empowered~~ POWERED-CHURCH

Acts 2

INTRODUCTION:

~~1:5~~ In chapter one we saw a (waiting) church, for Christ's commission. The believers are waiting and praying.

A praying church will always be a powerful church. The true and real influence of the church does not consist in the number of social positions of its members. Not in the stately building - not in the largeness of its contributions. But in the (presence and the power) of the Holy Ghost. Where the ministry of the Holy Spirit is absent. The church becomes a breathless body. This is compared with the values of dry bones in Ezekiel. For it is the spirit that quickens.

In Psalm 51 - spiritual life is maintained by the spirit. (Did you ever know or meet a spiritually-minded man who did it on his own) We need to emphasize this. That as in Ezekiel, he says he is going to take out the stoney heart and he is going to pour out the spirit on the house of Israel and the spirit is going to empower and help. And this is always true. Jesus had said wait for the power. Witness in the power of the spirit. V. 8.

We are still powerless if we use human devices.

Let us think in (terms) of chapter 2 under 3 heads. This is a long chapter but we will be able to cover it. 1 Pentecost - V. 1-13. 2 Preaching - V. 14-36. And 3 Precious Results - V. 37-47.

We can kind of hang on to these ideas.

I PENTECOST RECORDED - V. 1-13.

V. 1 - The day of Pentecost was fully come. Pentecost was the Jewish harvest festival. The time when the Jews came before God making an offering and thanking him for the harvest. The word means 50th day. They started counting at the Passover. He counted off 7 weeks or 49 days - and the next day was Pentecost. Jesus, the Lamb of God, was slain at the time of the Passover. He came back and remained 40 days. Then the believers prayed 10 days. Now, on the 50th day, Pentecost had fully come and God was ready to pour out his power. *Ezekiel 34:22; Deut. 16:10 also called "Feast of Harvest" Day of first fruits*

It is precise, it is clear, it is accurate, and it is truth.

One accord, one place, all together. That was the condition of the spirit being poured out. Unity in spirit. You know the hymn of love in Cor. - the unity is in the spirit.

To know the power of the spirit, we must come in love. One heart, love the church, love each other, love Jesus. And it is a whole love. That is part of the work of the result of the spirit. One accord.

One truth needs to be pointed out here - many people today say, I can be as good a Christian and never go to church. You may live a good moral life without ever going to church - but, you will never live a spirit filled life. I'm not saying that the church is the only place that you can receive the power of the place. But what I am saying is - it is the most likely place. I know invalids who are great Christians. They do not go to church - but they make their sick room a shrine. *make your sick room a shrine*

With prayer, reading their Bible, and living close to God and worshipping there. But a healthy person seldom does that. Yet, it is among God's people that you receive the blessings and the power. Now I do not hesitate to urge people to attend church. Even though I am the preacher and my sermons may not always be first-rate.

*make your sick room a shrine*  
*Pray for you*  
*Make your sick room a shrine*

I know that there are blessings that you are going to get here that you will never get anywhere else.

Suppose Peter, James, or John had been absent on the day of Pentecost. Think what they would have missed.

One accord - God never works in strife or in confusion. He works in a place of harmony. There were many many people there. Many personalities. If God is to work then there must not be factions and divisions. We need Not expect the blessings and the power to come if we are to foster divisions. If we sow seeds of discord and strife. Prov. 6:19. Says that God hates somebody - here it is. He that soweth discord among his brethren. Now I do not want to be in that category - do you?

120 people doing their very best. Waiting for the promised power. 9 long days and nights to drag by. And they work strictly on a human level. They had not been told it would take place on this particular day, simply wait, for the promise.

V. 2 - How the blessing came. Suddenly. With sound. Like a mighty wind. A strange sound. This thing is going to happen - it is coming down from God. Everything that God sends comes down from Heaven is good. He sent his only begotten Son. He sends the best gifts he has to us. Here is a mighty rushing wind. You can see the wind and you can feel it - so with the spirit. It filled the house.

My prayer is that God will fill this house of God every time we come together.

Then above every man, there will be strange things. A fire, and not beyond upon the crowd by warbling with a Band, Hand clapping, Dancing, or diabolical utterances, came a roaring sound. Not Wind - Sounded like Wind - illustrate As Dry Bones being.

V. 3 - And cloven tongues of fire set upon each of them. To whom the blessing came. To the Audible sound was added this visible one - it was real.

It set upon each of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost. They each received the like gift. Although the manifestation of power came down the same spirit. The lesson is for us. There was an outward visible sign and the sign that was given was fire. John the Baptist had spoke of this - when he comes, he shall baptize you with fire and the Holy Ghost. You remember Isaiah had a vision and his lips were touched by a coal of fire from off the altar. The spirit melts and separates. And these tongues signify that God would here divide into all nations the knowledge of his grace. And it set there for a time and made its residence upon these 120.

One truth did not miss - individually. Tongues was plural. Rested and distributed - it is like taking money out of your pocket. Now if you toss it out - people will scramble for it. But if you go along the line and you give this one a dime and this one a dime - and this one a dime - Paul says, each one, every last one you get individually. I Cor. 12:5,11. It is a portion he says to each individual. So it is here individually resting upon each one. And what is distribution. That is that each one carefully gets his share. He rests upon each one. That is specific. That is a way of say every last one. You get one, the Holy Spirit is to all - each one of them. And so when Paul was underlining the variety of gifts, but the same Lord.

He says a portion is given to each one. I Cor. 12:11. Now there is not a person in this room this evening - if you believe in the Lord Jesus Christ, you have a gift of the Holy Spirit.

You have not been converted if you do not have the Holy Spirit. Because that is the work of the Holy Spirit.

Now the gift of that spirit - the gift of tongues *Moves clearly and carefully*

Read the Bible to see what it says even if it shocks you. *Moves clearly and carefully*

No doubt on the day of Pentecost there was a gift of tongues - if you could picture Jerusalem that day a few weeks before, they nailed Jesus to the cross. Some believed he was the Messiah and some believed he was just a worker of mighty deeds. But those who watched him die believed he was the man and was something more than a man. And on the third day from the grave, something gave up its dead. Now at the feast of Pentecost, it was well attended. There were travelers. Diasper Jews gathered in Jerusalem outside of the Holy Land that had been dispersed of Babylon and other places scattered. Here and there, they come. And when God needs a great mission and a mighty mission to be carried on - and when God wants to speak to the world, and he wants to tell them that this Jesus was indeed the king of glory. He gathered people from many lands. And God is going to say, that this is the cross. And he wants them all to hear it. And the holy spirit is given to all of the disciples.

*Husband & Wife, riding in (Buggy), Not on speaking terms -  
 " said, See how these horses cooperate & Pull together -  
 wife " , yes But there is only one tongue between them!*

V. 4 They began to speak as the Spirit gave them utterance.  
 " " " " With their Tongues

Utterance means orderly, reasonable discourse. That does not mean estatic language or utterance - it means an intelligible, orderly discourse. As Paul speaking <sup>eloquently</sup> stated clearly his case. The same word is used as used at Pentecost. When they spoke, they spoke and intelligible language because God wanted to make that impact. This was not for Jews only - but for different tongues and different races. And all needed to hear that Jesus is the Saviour.

I believe the Holy Spirit gave these simple people, men and women that ability. Luke says the Holy Spirit was poured out and gave the ability to people to speak. To all people gathered there.

Now I don't understand how the Spirit was able to do all of this. But I believe it. I was not in a position to understand how Jesus loved me enough to die for me - but I believe it.

Now that is what the Holy Spirit is around for. To make us more than we are. He did it in those days. And yet some people get their authority here for the unknown tongues.

V. 5 - But these 120 in the Upper Room understand the Gospel. But this is not an (unknown) language. These languages were known to these foreigners. And that is why Paul said in I Cor. 14:19 - in the church, I'd rather speak 5 words with my understanding - that by my voice I might teach others. Than to speak 10,000 words in an unknown tongue.

Suppose today we had people of all races and all nations - Russians, Italians, Chinese, Japanese - and God would give one of us power to preach in Russian. Another in Italian. Another to the Chinese. Now that would give to us a small picture of Pentecost. God gave these people this peculiar talent for a purpose. He is a God of order and he would never have 100 people running around gathering in a tongue that no one could understand. He is not that kind of God. Where Was H.S. Before?

*Special possession for special purpose; Enchanted construction of Tabernacle; enchanted Prophets; Now common possession all believers.*

V. 6-7 Multitudes came and they heard them speak in their own language. And these were Galileans that were speaking. The great crowds in the street gathered to hear the Disciples. And praise God in their own familiar tongue. The visitors of the city - they spoke in the tongues known to all the Jerusalem visitors.

V. 9 - 10 - 11 - Tells of the nations that were represented there. Who heard the message in their language.

V. 12 - 13 - They were amazed to see these farmers, fishermen, housewives, carpenters, all Galileans - these country folk speaking intelligently and plainly in every language known to man. And they wondered.

*(Seventeen or Eighteen Nationalities fully)*

he stood in boldness.

V. 15 - These are not drunk. This is before 9 o'clock in the morning. It is apparent that we are living in more sinful times and of course men and women get drunk in all hours of the day, in the day in which we live. But they had charged these people that - it is very much like people today when they misunderstand Christians. They say they are fanatics. Why go to the bother. But Peter stood up and he knew he had to support his brethren and he began to claim this message to his people.

V. 16 - He talked about the fulfillment of prophecy. He was a good preacher - in his sermon he backed it up with Scripture. He quoted the prophet Joel in his sermon. Really Peter had about 3 points. He talked about Christ being crucified. Christ being raised from the tomb. And Christ going back to Heaven. He spoke of the fullness of Christ. V. 17 He talked of the last days. And the things that would happen. The fulfillment of a prophecy, that was going to take place.

V. 18-21 - He discusses with them the judgement that is going to come. The destruction of Jerusalem that was going to take place - which was about 40 years away. And he talked of that day of judgement - a notable day that Joel had

described that would come to the men on earth.  
described that would come to the men on earth.

judgement - a notable day that Joel had described that would come to the men on earth.  
judgement - a notable day that Joel had described that would come to the men on earth.

v. 19 - Wonders - like - 8 Signs of Sky - Marvel - 3 words

- 1 Powers
- 2 Wonders
- 3 Signs

v. 22 - He talked of the wonders and signs of Jesus.  Gospel Truth  
 Not some mythical character from a strange land, He was Born in Nazareth, Son of Virgin  
 Miracles done right before your eyes

v. 23 - He bore down in his first sermon in the power of the Holy Spirit -  
 on (Jesus' death.) (He) tells them how it happened. life, death, resurrection Divine Plan  
 a Lamb slain from Foundation of World.

v. 24 - Whom God hath raised up - Why should this puzzle a believer?  
 His unnatural Birth, life of Miracles, Superior Character, Divine Authority.

v. 25 - David could not possibly say those things about himself.  
 Ps 110:1

v. 26 -

v. 27-28

v. 32 - He speaks of his resurrection and God exalted him.

v. 36 - He declares that Jesus is both Lord and Christ.

Pentecost recorded the coming of the spirit - the preaching that they received  
 from Peter was very challenging.

III. PRECIOUS RESULTS - V. 37-47

This section has to do with the praise-worthy results and the precious results  
 that happens on the day of Pentecost and of course, as a result of the coming of  
 the Spirit.



V. 37 - The effect of the cross. As the cross is lifted up from the earth - will draw all men. John 12:32. Man's sin had been responsible for crucifying Jesus. Every man had a hand in the crime and the experience brings about results and demands reaction. When we come into the presence of it. Luke says they were (pierced in heart.) Stung sharply like a horse - denting the earth with his hoof. As his hoof hits the ground and makes a dent - so is the Gospel as it descends upon the hearts of these people. It made an impression - they felt the sting of the message.

Reveals nature of the Gospel & Corruption of Human Hearts.  
In a fix - sin proven worse than they expected!

What shall we do? there was a compulsion to do something. They were cut pretty deep. They realized they were all undone. They realized that they needed something that they didn't have.

V. 38 - Repentance is given and this will bring remission of sins. At the same time you are converted and receive the Holy Spirit. Change your mind or purpose - Prodigal changed his mind

Included in V. 39 - and this promise is good - even to your children.

Turn now and crown Jesus now as the Lord of your heart and be baptized. With each of you, he says, do this. And the promise will be to your decendent sons and daughters. All that are a far off.

This has been a part of Repentance - Public Profession

V. 41 - They were baptized in accordance to the great commission. Here was a uniform that they took on - it was a committment to themselves, to begin walking in the steps of their Lord.

Characteristics of This Impoverished Church

V. 42 - There was (learning) in the church. It was a studying church. Steadfastly. These Christians were hungry to hear the teachings of Jesus - and they applied what

they learned. The heart of the church program is teaching and preaching the word. This grows Christians.

There was fellowship in this church as they stayed together. As a band. I do not believe that any church can grow healthily without good fellowship. Churches that have hostility and splits produce spiritually deformed Christians. I thrill to the spirit of fellowship that prevails in our church. I like to see people stand around and talk for 30 minutes or so after the service is over. Only people in good fellowship do this.

*Many churches seek to impose the results without first proclaimed - received the spirit - Paul calls them fruit of spirit.*

The breaking of bread by the early church was a committment of fellowship in the New Testament.

Prayer was also a precious result. The early Christian knew that they could not meet life in their own strength. They always spoke to God and asked him to help them meet the problems of life. They not only talked to each other in fellowship but they talked to God. They did not know what the future held but they knew it held many problems. And a prayerless church is like a disconnected lamp. It does not shine.

V. 44-45 - Speaks that it was a sharing church. A church of stewardship. They had received spiritual maturity. And they were strong on the emphasis of giving and gratitude to God.

V. 43 - It was a reverent church. They stood in reverence of God and in fear. That the living God.

V. 46 - It was a worshipping church. These people enjoyed their church. And they came with a privilege and an obligation. It was the best place in the world outside their home. And the church ought to ring with laughter and with smiles. And with

Cure for backsliding - folks say my name or I'll not  
 but that is all - off so 4 things  
 -11-  
 1. go to church 2. Give God his part  
 3. observe words bigger 4. Pray - joy in heart  
 Cure for backsliding

great joy. And there ought to be a warm climate of unity and fellowship. And gladness expressed here in this worshipping church.

It was a happy place. There were no gloomy members.

V. (47) - It was a church of good reputation. It produced good people and good public relations. And the community thought well of that church and they could not help but like it. Also it looked good. It was a lovely thing. Now there are many people who are labeled as good people. But they have streaks of unlovely sin within them. We really wouldn't like to weep on their shoulder. Or confide in them because they are not the kind of individual that has the reverence and the reputation. And that makes it inviting.

The Ch. Divinely led - The soul added to them - not some labeled sheep But such as were saved!

Lost people in the Mission of This Church - Our Mission is Not Older Than The Church - 1st Born LST, Our Business Not put on a circus - consistent basis.

Christ center of all our activities, if a stranger should visit our sinners he should recognize the fact is here

The Holy Spirit is still the power of God - to pierce their conviction - the heart of sin. To compel men to confess their needs. To bring the joy of forgiveness to a believing heart. To keep in fellowship those who are obeying. To turn self-denial into a great delight. To fill the heart with praise to God and to make the life a testimony for God.

That's why God send The H.S. -  
 He loves you!

Brother C. B. Howard, of Buies Creek, N. C., tells of an occasion when a family of modest means invited him to come to their home for supper. They

had been married several years and this was the wedding anniversary. That night after supper the husband said to his wife, "Mary, close your eyes." Then he went and stood behind her and drew from his pocket a string of genuine pearls and placed them about her neck. Instantly her hands reached for them and as she discovered what they were, burst into tears. When they were courting she told him that one thing above all others she wanted was a string of genuine pearls. He never forgot. Through the years he had saved any "extra" money he made and put it away. He finally had enough to purchase them. It was too much for Mary, however, and when she recovered from her excitement she said:

"But, John, why, why did you do it?"

As he choked back the tears he said simply, "Because I love you."