

acts

Sermon Based Questions

Feb 12, 2023

Acts 2:1-21 - Have you ever wondered what the baptism of the Holy Spirit is all about? How about speaking in other tongues? This week we are in Acts chapter 2 where the promised Holy Spirit descends upon all those in the upper room and they speak in other tongues. Let's consider together, how we are to interpret this text and what role the Holy Spirit has in our lives?

Special message to small group leaders:

Since there is likely to be a large diversity of opinions and beliefs concerning the topic at hand, I believe it is important to set the stage for the conversation before diving into the discussion. This is especially true if there are strong proponents of a particular view of the Holy Spirit within the group who may view this moment as their big opportunity to advance their own perspective. The goal is to discuss and learn from one another. I highly encourage leaders to ask questions like, "Why do you believe that particular view of the Holy Spirit?", "What experiences have led you to your particular view (for or against)?", or even "what scriptures have guided you to your position?". Many individuals will immediately respond based on their upbringing, or simply defend something they have previously been taught.

"GET TO KNOW YOU" QUESTIONS

- When in your life did you feel closest to God?

READ ACTS 2:1-4

This disciples and their companions had been waiting for the Holy Spirit for 7-10 days after the ascension of Jesus.

- What do you think they might have expected?
- Those in the upper room experienced two specific signs of the Spirit's coming – sound of wind and tongues of fire. Why do you think the Holy Spirit came with these two signs? Do you believe that we should expect these signs as well?

THE BAPTISM OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

Which of the following categories best describe your understanding of the Holy Spirit today?

- **Cessationism** – the power and gifts of the Holy Spirit were only for the early church.
- **Continuationism** – the power of the Holy Spirit is available to each of us today.

Within the latter category there are numerous interpretations. Here are 3 categories discussed on Sunday you can discuss together.

- a. The disciples already had the Holy Spirit (Jn 20:22) – this is a secondary experience.
- b. The Holy Spirit enters a person at conversion – no secondary experience necessary.
- c. The Holy Spirit enters a person at conversion – many additional experiences and empowerments are available.

READ ACTS 2:5-21

- Peter declares that the outpouring of the Holy Spirit on all flesh would be a sign of the Messiah's coming and a reason to call out on the name of the Lord. How is the Holy Spirit involved in salvation? (John 16:7-15)

WHAT IS SPEAKING IN TONGUES?

- There are two general interpretations for what speaking in tongues can be:
 - Gift of a human language
 - Heavenly, heart, or spirit language
- What do you believe to be the correct interpretation? Why? *[Keep in mind ... This is an opportunity to share your experiences and beliefs whatever they may be, but not to convince everyone that you are right]*

TAKING ACTION

1 Corinthians 14:1-2 – ***Pursue*** love, and earnestly desire the spiritual gifts, especially that you may prophesy. ² For one who speaks in a tongue speaks not to men but to God; for no one understands him, but he utters mysteries in the Spirit."

- Paul encourages us to make love our aim, but that we should also earnestly desire the spiritual gifts. Is there room in your theology to apply this verse?
- What would it look like for you to live out this passage?