

When God Gets a Hold of You: 9 Transformative Changes to Expect

We're living in an unprecedented time of spiritual awakening. From the recent events surrounding Charlie Kirk to the gathering of over 100,000 people at State Farm Stadium (with another 100 million streams), God is clearly moving in our world. But as powerful as these moments are, we must remember that a season of emotion needs to lead to a life of devotion.

When God truly gets a hold of you, expect changes in your life and from your life. You become a new person with a powerful witness of who Jesus Christ is. Let's explore what happens when God takes hold of your heart, using Acts 2 as our guide.

1. You're Filled with the Holy Spirit and Spiritual Gifts Begin to Operate

In Acts 2:1-4, we see the disciples gathered on the day of Pentecost when suddenly the Holy Spirit fell upon them. There was an audible sound like a rushing wind, visible tongues of fire, and they began speaking in other languages as the Spirit enabled them.

This wasn't emotion worked up—it was the Spirit coming down. When God gets a hold of you, there's a fresh infilling of the Holy Spirit and an outworking of spiritual gifts. Some gifts reach the lost, while others build up the body of Christ.

Remember, spiritual gifts aren't meant to showcase yourself but to promote Jesus Christ. If you're not experiencing a fresh outpouring of the Spirit in your life, Luke 11 reminds us that our Heavenly Father will give the Holy Spirit to those who ask.

2. People Begin Asking Questions Because You're Different

In Acts 2:5-13, we see Jews from every nation gathered in Jerusalem, amazed and perplexed when they heard the disciples speaking in their own languages. They asked, "Whatever could this mean?"

When God transforms your life, people notice the difference. They become curious about what's happening in you. This creates natural opportunities to share your faith.

As 1 Peter 3:15 instructs: "But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect."

3. Your Life Aligns with God's Word

In Acts 2:14-21, Peter stands up boldly, empowered by the Holy Spirit, and connects what people are witnessing with prophecies from Joel. He shows how their experience aligns with Scripture.

When God gets a hold of you, your life starts to align with God's Word. You begin to say, "Lord, I want my walk, work, worship, and life to reflect what You've said in Your Word." You become a living example of the Bible in action, which causes others to ask what makes you tick.

4. Jesus is Preached Clearly and Boldly

In Acts 2:22-36, Peter boldly proclaims Jesus—His life, crucifixion, resurrection, and how it was all part of God's plan to save mankind. He points to Scripture as proof and declares that they were all witnesses to these events.

Evangelism is always a fruit of true revival. When God moves in your life, sharing Jesus becomes natural. It's not someone pushing you to evangelize; it's the love of Christ compelling you from within. Whether you're preaching, serving, or simply loving others, you're motivated by what Jesus has done in your life and want others to experience the same.

5. People Around You Get Saved

In Acts 2:37-41, we see the powerful result of Spirit-filled witness: "When they heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and the other apostles, 'Brothers, what shall we do?'"

Peter's response was clear: "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."

That day, about 3,000 souls were added to the church. This is a beautiful contrast to Exodus 32, where 3,000 died when Moses brought the law. The law brings death, but the Spirit brings life.

6. Church Matters to You

Acts 2:42 shows us that new believers "continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers."

When God gets a hold of you, church becomes family. It's your community—where ministry is not only received but given out. You won't find the grace, forgiveness, and acceptance that exists in church anywhere else in the world.

The church isn't a country club or social media group. We're connected because of Jesus Christ and what He's done. We come from different backgrounds—ethnically, socially, financially—but we're family because of the One who bought us with His blood.

7. God Backs Up His Word with Powerful Works

Acts 2:43 tells us, "Then fear came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were done through the apostles."

When God gets a hold of you, He backs up His Word with powerful works. Not everyone gets saved, but the witness is undeniable. The world looks in and sees something happening that produces good things. There's a reverence and awe for what God is doing.

Wouldn't it be amazing if the world looked at the church and said, "I may not understand or agree with you, but I cannot deny there's something special happening there that's blessing the community"?

8. Love for Others Flows Out of You

Acts 2:44-45 shows us that "all who believed were together and had all things in common, and sold their possessions and goods, and divided them among all, as anyone had need."

When God gets a hold of you, His love flows through you. You become more of a giver than a taker. This isn't communism (which says "what's yours is mine" and takes); it's "communism" (which says "what's mine is yours" and gives).

As 1 John 3:18 reminds us: "Dear children, let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth."

9. Spiritual Growth is Evident

Acts 2:46-47 describes how believers continued "daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they ate their food with gladness and simplicity of heart, praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved."

When God gets a hold of you, there's noticeable spiritual growth—both growing up in maturity and growing out as God adds to His church. It's like when a fire is lit, people in the cold are naturally drawn to its warmth.

People are drawn to the church not because of religiosity but because there's something different about believers and their relationship with the living God.

Life Application

Take a moment to reflect on these nine aspects of what happens when God gets a hold of you. Which ones do you see operating in your life? Which ones need more development?

Ask yourself:

1. Does God truly have me, or am I still holding parts of my life back from Him?
2. Am I experiencing the fresh infilling of the Holy Spirit, or do I need to ask for more?
3. Are people asking questions about the change they see in my life?
4. Is my life aligning with God's Word in practical, visible ways?
5. Am I boldly sharing Jesus with others?
6. Does church matter to me as a vital part of my spiritual life?
7. Am I seeing God work powerfully through my witness?
8. Is God's love flowing through me to others in practical ways?
9. Is there evident spiritual growth in my life?

This week, pray specifically about the areas where you need God to work more deeply. Ask Him to get a hold of your heart in fresh ways so that you can preach boldly, live courageously, point people to Jesus, love people practically, and watch God change and build His church through you.