

Walking In The Way Of Jesus; Acts 2 (wk2)
Considering the path from the tomb to the world

Acts 2:1-21 NKJV

When the Day of Pentecost had fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. ² And suddenly there came a sound from heaven, as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. ³ Then there appeared to them divided tongues, as of fire, and one sat upon each of them. ⁴ And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance. ⁵ And there were dwelling in Jerusalem Jews, devout men, from every nation under heaven. ⁶ And when this sound occurred, the multitude came together, and were confused, because everyone heard them speak in his own language. ⁷ Then they were all amazed and marveled, saying to one another, "Look, are not all these who speak Galileans? ⁸ And how is it that we hear, each in our own language in which we were born? ⁹ Parthians and Medes and Elamites, those dwelling in Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, ¹⁰ Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya adjoining Cyrene, visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, ¹¹ Cretans and Arabs—we hear them speaking in our own tongues the wonderful works of God." ¹² So they were all amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, "Whatever could this mean?"

¹³ Others mocking said, "They are full of new wine." ¹⁴ But Peter, standing up with the eleven, raised his voice and said to them, "Men of Judea and all who dwell in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and heed my words. ¹⁵ For these are not drunk, as you suppose, since it is only the third hour of the day. ¹⁶ But this is what was spoken by the prophet Joel:

¹⁷ 'And it shall come to pass in the last days, says God,

*That I will pour out of My Spirit on all flesh;
Your sons and your daughters shall prophesy,
Your young men shall see visions,
Your old men shall dream dreams.*

*¹⁸ And on My menservants and on My maidservants
I will pour out My Spirit in those days;
And they shall prophesy.*

*¹⁹ I will show wonders in heaven above
And signs in the earth beneath:
Blood and fire and vapor of smoke.*

*²⁰ The sun shall be turned into darkness,
And the moon into blood,
Before the coming of the great and awesome day of the LORD.*

*²¹ And it shall come to pass
That whoever calls on the name of the LORD
Shall be saved.'*

General considerations:

Fire: Ezekiel 1:12-13 & Exodus 13

The Jewish people were waiting on God

The contrast between Babel (Genesis 11:6 & Zephaniah 3:9) and Pentecost:

Consider that at Babel, mankind was “scattered” by language because of sinful unity.

At Pentecost, mankind was “gathered” by language because of the Holy Spirit to create gospel unity.

The miracle of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost was the reality that everyone understood what was being said in their own native language.

Today we need to focus on the “Giver” not the “gifts”.

If we become divided and enemies over the work of the Spirit of God then it reflects the reality that Jesus is not our focus.

We cannot allow our “self interest” to get in the way of “Father’s interest”.

We must learn to focus and fight to stay focused on the Giver, our Father in heaven, His Holy Son Jesus of Nazareth, and The Helper Holy Spirit.

I am not overlooking gifts but I have seen too many people get enamored with gifts and power that send them in a different direction than the presence and manifestation of Father.

John 15:5 NIV. *“I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; **apart from me you can do nothing.**”*

Nothing stopped or was altered about Jesus words as recorded by the apostle John.

The Holy Spirit is the power or strength for this abiding blooming process.

Consider the process of fruit production.

Allow that concept to sink into your heart and mind.....**abiding blooming process.**

Fruit produced by The Spirit working in and through our lives.

Galatians 5:16-26 NLT

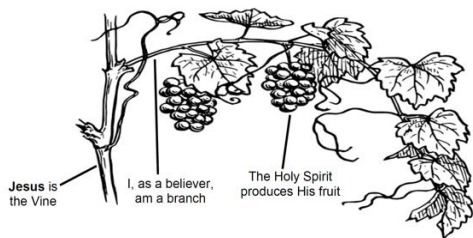
¹⁶ So I say, let the Holy Spirit guide your lives. Then you won't be doing what your sinful nature craves. ¹⁷ The sinful nature wants to do evil, which is just the opposite of what the Spirit wants. And the Spirit gives us desires that are the opposite of what the sinful nature desires. These two forces are constantly fighting each other, so you are not free to carry out your good intentions. ¹⁸ But when you are directed by the Spirit, you are not under obligation to the law of Moses.

When you don't invite the Holy Spirit, when you don't yield to the Holy Spirit, or when you grieve the Holy Spirit of our Holy God.....this is truth regardless of what century in history you live:

¹⁹ When you follow the desires of your sinful nature, the results are very clear: sexual immorality, impurity, lustful pleasures, ²⁰ idolatry, sorcery, hostility, quarreling, jealousy, outbursts of anger, selfish ambition, dissension, division, ²¹ envy, drunkenness, wild parties, and other sins like these. Let me tell you again, as I have before, that anyone living that sort of life will not inherit the Kingdom of God.

²² **But the Holy Spirit produces this kind of fruit in our lives: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³ gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against these things!**

²⁴ Those who belong to Christ Jesus have nailed the passions and desires of their sinful nature to his cross and crucified them there. ²⁵ **Since we are living by the Spirit, let us follow the Spirit's leading in every part of our lives.** ²⁶ Let us not become conceited, or provoke one another, or be jealous of one another.



Balance of a Spirit filled and controlled life involves Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. The God Family involvement in our lives.

In some regards we, as humans, have created two extremes within the Church in our desire to make disciples.

We have a tendency to play to our natural leanings.

I have seen these two extremes in my life experience. It appears that one is more predominant because one feels a bit safer to a lot of people.

- Primarily an intellectual focus.....evangelical focus on intricate theology and doctrine. This approach can easily be boring and dry
- Primarily an emotional focus.....charismatic focus on experiences and feelings. This approach can be exhilarating like chasing the next storm or tornado

It seems to be easier to embrace an “Either/Or” approach instead of a “Balanced” approach

Balance is attainable through the Holy Spirit but does not seem to be our natural human pursuit.

To walk in the Spirit, we must have a balance of mind and emotion regarding our pursuit of Christ.

Acts 2:40-47 NKJV

⁴⁰ And with many other words he testified and exhorted them, saying, "Be saved from this perverse generation." ⁴¹ Then those who gladly received his word were baptized; and that day about three thousand souls were added to them. ⁴² And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine (teaching) and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers. ⁴³ Then fear came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were done through the apostles. ⁴⁴ Now all who believed were together, and had all things in common, ⁴⁵ and sold their possessions and goods, and divided (distributed) them among all, as anyone had need.

⁴⁶ So continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they ate their food with gladness and simplicity of heart, ⁴⁷ praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved.

These believers responded in lifestyle choices because their minds and their emotions were impacted with the reality of Jesus by the presence of the Holy Spirit.

Reminder of verse 21

And it shall come to pass that whoever calls on the name of the LORD shall be saved.'

We are striving to be a balanced church.....a balanced family.

I am striving to be a balanced man, husband, father, grandfather, and friend.

When we promote the three attributes of

- Learning
- Growing
- Changing

It is not a self help approach but rather an approach based on the reality of relationship as mentioned by the prophet Joel and proclaimed with renewed power by Peter.

When you believe in Jesus as God Savior Lord and call out to Him, then spiritual birth takes place.

We are not proclaiming an either/or approach to your pursuit of God but rather a yes to both approach to learning, growing, and changing.

We search the scriptures to understand the Father through the truth of Jesus message by the help of the Holy Spirit.

We believe that as we ask the Holy Spirit to fill and control us that there is a passion that takes over our lives.

Will you press in with us and experience the presence of God through His Holy Spirit like never before?