



Acts Lesson 4 – 2:14-41

Discussion Questions for Week of October 2-8, 2022

1. In verses 17-18, what does the prophecy say will happen in the last days when the Spirit is poured out on all flesh?
2. In scripture, to "prophecy" does not only mean to predict the future. What other kinds of things did God's prophets do? What does it mean for believers today to prophesy?
3. In verses 19-21 Peter follows the promise of the Holy Spirit with a warning of the coming of the Day of the Lord. The only reliable source of safety is to call on the name of the Lord (v. 21). What are some other things people look to for safety or salvation? What are some things you are tempted to put your confidence in other than the name of Jesus?
4. In verses 25-28 the Psalmist expresses supreme confidence and hope. He will not be shaken, and his flesh will rest in hope. What is the source of this assurance? How is he so confident?
5. Can we have a similar attitude to David's in Psalm 16? What aspects of the gospel message can help you be a person who "rests in hope" (v. 26) when you are experiencing fear or doubt?
6. When people were affected by the story of Jesus, what did Peter tell them to do (v. 38)? What would they get in return?
7. Summarize the key points of Peter's gospel message (check the leader notes for an outline). Spend some time discussing how each part of his message could be relevant to the world today.
8. How do we see the Holy Spirit working behind the scenes in this week's passage?
9. Peter spoke God's message, and many were saved. When the Spirit was poured out, Peter tells us that all kinds of believers, men and women, young and old, rich and poor, should be speaking the message of God. Think of a time when God has used another person to speak to you, or a time when God used you to speak to another person, and share it with the group.
10. How can we be people who prophesy, or who "say God's words for Him"? Give some examples of ways we can be prepared to better do this. How might we do the opposite and thus hinder the Spirit's work?



## I Will Pour Out My Spirit in Those Days

### Leader Notes for Acts 2:14-41

*"However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth...He will glorify Me, for He will take from what is mine and declare it to you." John 16:13-14*

The Spirit had hardly been on earth for five minutes before He started to accomplish this work. This passage covers the first sermon in Acts, preached just after the Holy Spirit has filled the believers on the day of Pentecost. Only a portion of Peter's sermon is recorded for us here (see verse 40, "with many more words..."), but the portion that is recorded is packed with power. It is clear from the nature of the sermon, and perhaps even more so from the nature of the response, that this is the beginning of the fulfillment of Jesus' promise in Chapter 1 of Acts: "You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you..."

We would do well to analyze Peter's sermon, to understand the arguments he makes and how the thoughts flow from one to the next. But beyond that I also encourage us to consider the work the Holy Spirit has begun. How does He work together with the believer? How does He work on the non-believer? How is He glorifying Christ? If I, as a believer, am to be filled with power and to bear witness to the wonderful works of Jesus, I'd better know what to expect.

### **Peter's Sermon**

#### 1. The Holy Spirit has come [2:14-21]

(Peter's text: Joel 2) Peter answers the crowd's genuine question in verse 12, "Whatever could this mean?" and also their scoffing accusation in verse 13, "They are full of new wine." He explains that this is the event so many in Israel have been waiting and hoping for: God at long last is pouring out His Spirit.

#### 2. Jesus of Nazareth is God's Messiah [2:22-31]

(Peter's text: Psalm 16) But how does Peter know this is the event Joel prophesied? This event is not happening out of the blue! It is not an isolated incident; it is connected to everything that has been happening in Jerusalem over the last two months. This Pentecost (like the first Pentecost) was directly connected to the events of Passover. On Passover they killed a man who all knew to be a man of signs and wonders, and He rose from the dead! Jesus of Nazareth fulfilled every prophecy about the Messiah and is the Holy One, in whom David put so much hope.

#### 3. Jesus has ascended and poured out this Spirit [2:32-39]

(Peter's text: Psalm 110) Peter expounds on the text that Jesus Himself quoted to convince the people that the man they killed was not just a prophet, not just a priest, but a King. He was David's Lord and sits at the right hand of God.

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## Leader Notes for Acts 2:14-41, continued

### **The Work of the Spirit**

This passage, like many others where the Spirit is said to be present (see Genesis 1, the Spirit hovering over the surface of the waters), does not attribute many direct actions to the Spirit of God. Despite this, the evidence that He is at work is clear. Peter shows an incredible understanding of Scripture (2:29-31), Jesus is glorified (2:36), people are convicted of sin (2:37), the word reaches hearts, and people gain new life (2:41).

Peter quotes Joel in saying that all types of people will “prophesy.” In common vernacular, that word only refers to telling the future, but in Scripture it is much richer than that. To prophesy means to speak the message of God, to speak God’s words on His behalf. As believers, we can be the people through whom God brings His message. We have the Spirit of God and speak the words of God. How can we do this? We can look to Peter’s example and that of the early believers.

1. Prayer. As we have already seen in Acts and will see again, they were people “devoted to prayer”.

2. Studying the Scripture. It seems clear from this chapter and Acts 1 that Peter has been spending a great deal of time studying his Old Testament. The Holy Spirit can take the word of God and use it mightily when it is close to our hearts.

3. Be all about Jesus. Peter told what He knew about Jesus. The Holy Spirit is in the business of glorifying Jesus (John 16:13-14). When we spend our time talking about Jesus, we will be on the right track to be used of Him. We know the gospel. That is powerful! We did receive power when the Holy Spirit came on us, because we received the ability to speak life to a dying world. Our power comes from telling people about Christ, in whom all the problems of the world can be solved.

4. Be ready to bear witness. Peter was once scared to be identified with Jesus, but not any more. Never again! He does not miss a beat when the people start asking questions. He was ready to give the reason for the hope that was in him.

We can’t see where the wind comes from, but we can certainly see its impact. It is the same with the Spirit: although you may not see Him, He is moving. Our key verse for Acts is 1:8, “You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you and you will be My witnesses...” It will be really hard to fully experience the first part of that verse if we are resistant to engaging in the second part. If we want to see the Spirit move on our behalf, we need to be about the work that the Spirit is about! We need to talk about the things the Spirit talks about. He glorifies Christ so we should glorify Christ. He seeks to grow the church so we should seek to grow the church. He is the comforter so we should care for those in distress. Let’s go where the Spirit is working and join in!