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empowered by the Spirit

LIFE
GROUPS
WEEK 5 • FEB 9



NORTHSHORE'S COMPELLING STATEMENT

Hope changes everything.

ICE BREAKER

If you could choose to be gifted in a certain area, what would it be?

BACKGROUND

We enter the story in Acts just after the Holy Spirit came upon the disciples and the crowd was divided between amazement and confusion. Some even thought that the disciples were drunk. Peter seized the opportunity to explain what had happened and gave evidence that Jesus is Lord and the Christ. He quoted the prophet Joel (2:28-32), who indicated the coming of the Holy Spirit as a partial fulfillment of the prediction. Although Joel mentioned dreams and prophecy being poured out onto all men and women, young and old, the reference indicated that the apostles were indeed not drunk but empowered by the Spirit. This also would hint that the greater blessing of the Holy Spirit was still yet to come. Peter then confirmed Jesus as the Messiah and reminded the crowd that, although killed by lawless men, His death was all part of God's plan.

The second reference of the sermon is from David, recorded in Psalm 16. Peter intentionally used the same term *Holy One* in Acts 2:27 as David does in Psalm 16:10 to bring forward the reference to Jesus. He followed this with the fact that Christ was not *abandoned to Hades* (Acts 2:27 & 31) but raised to life victorious at the right hand of God. This confirmed that *God had made him both Lord and Christ* (v. 36). The crowd, both intellectually convinced and spiritually convicted, pleaded with the apostles as to what to do next. The response was one that most of us know well, "*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* (v. 38). Peter continued to speak to them and 3000 were added that day.

REVIEW

What was meaningful from the above context or the sermon from last Sunday?

**KEY VERSES:** ACTS 2:38-39

And Peter said to them, "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. For the promise is for you and for your children and for all who are far off, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to himself."

READ: Acts 2:14-42



HEAD LEVEL: These help us to examine what the Word tells us.

1. What time of day was it when Peter began to speak to the crowd?
2. How does Ephesians 5:18 parallel the reference to Joel 2:28-32?
3. What did Peter compel his listeners to do at the end of his sermon?
4. How did those who were saved respond to their salvation?

DEEPER DISCOVERY

In addition to 2:38 from today's text, read the following scriptures. What do these verses tell us about forgiveness and baptism?

- a. Luke 24:46-47
- b. Acts 3:19
- c. Acts 10:43
- d. Acts 13:38-39
- e. Acts 26:16-18



HEART LEVEL: These help us wrestle with what we believe.

1. What are the steps of salvation that we see reflected in the text?
2. What is the difference between the promise of the Holy Spirit and the various gifts given to believers by the Holy Spirit?



HANDS LEVEL: These help us commit to a next step and live it out in our everyday lives.

1. What is it like when the Holy Spirit moves you to bring a witness about Jesus?
How do you typically respond to such promptings?
2. How are you intentionally devoting yourself to teaching, fellowship, and prayer?



MEMORY VERSE: Acts 2:42

And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.

PRAYER REQUESTS

(Please remember that these requests are confidential and need to stay within the group.)