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## WIND AND FIRE

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### ACTS 2:1-41



As a body without breath is a corpse, so the church without the Spirit is dead. Luke is well aware of this and emphasizes the power of God's Spirit throughout Acts, especially in Acts 2. It's all about the day of Pentecost<sup>1</sup>, when the Spirit comes as promised.

### THE PROMISED HOLY SPIRIT (2:1-13)

1. Luke's depiction of the coming of the Spirit in Acts 2:1-4 would have had special significance to a Jewish audience. Read Exodus 13 and Ezekiel 1. How do these chapters help us understand what's happening in 2:1-4?
2. Read Genesis 11:1-9. In Acts 2:5-13, what curse is God undoing through the pouring out of his Spirit on the disciples? What does this mean for Christian world missions going forward?
3. What has the Spirit done in our midst recently that has grabbed the attention of others? If nothing, why is that so?

#### "THE HOLY SPIRIT"

Jesus promised to send a helper and advocate who would minister to and through the church – the Holy Spirit. He is the third person of the Trinity and the active presence of God among his people.

<sup>1</sup>For a first-century Jew, **PENTECOST** was the fiftieth day after Passover. It was an agricultural festival. But Passover and Pentecost also awakened echoes of the great story of the exodus from Egypt, when the people of Israel crossed the Red Sea and God rescued them from slavery. Fifty days after Passover, the Israelites came to Mount Sinai, where Moses received the God's Law. Pentecost is about God giving to his redeemed people the way of life by which they must now carry out his purpose.

## THE SPIRIT FILLS AND FULFILLS (2:14-21)

4. Peter begins his gospel presentation by citing Joel 2:28-32. How does Peter use Joel's prophecy to explain what's happening?
5. In the Old Testament, God had acted by his Spirit through one or two people at a time. What should be the significance of this new widespread action of God's Spirit for how our church carries out its work?

## JESUS: LORD AND CHRIST (2:22-41)

The heart of Peter's message is that God raised Jesus from the dead and enthroned him as humanity's rightful Lord. Through the rest of acts, the Spirit-empowered apostolic message continues to narrate Jesus' resurrection and announce that he is Lord. The Spirit supplies boldness to preach Christ.

6. Read Psalm 16. From Acts 2:25-28, why does Peter say this psalm must ultimately be talking about King Jesus, not King David? How does Psalm 110 strengthen Peter's argument in 2:34-35?
7. How did you first respond to Peter's message of salvation<sup>2</sup>: "God has made him both Lord and Christ this Jesus whom you crucified?" Why does secular culture reject this message and how should we respond?

### SUMMARY

Our struggle is this: how are we to be faithful to this gospel message as we present it in a way that resonates with people today? Like Peter and the apostles, we must begin with Jesus. We are *witnesses of his work*.

<sup>2</sup>**SALVATION** points toward a concrete and particular reality in the future; the promise not only of heaven after death but of resurrection into God's new creation. What God has promised for the future has come forward to meet us in Jesus Christ. Whenever we are in trouble, of any kind and for any reason, we should remember that we are a "turn-and-be-delivered" people; a "repent-and-be-baptized" people (Acts 2:38).