



The Church is... Dynamic: Empowered by the Spirit

DISCUSSION GUIDE

Have you ever had to wait...and wait...and wait for something before you finally got it?

Why would Jesus tell his followers to wait?
(Acts 1:4-8)

"The theological center of Acts lies in God's gift of salvation through Jesus Christ, the task of proclaiming it, and the nature of the new people of God empowered by the Holy Spirit."

—I. Howard Marshall

In Ed's sermon he used the letter "P" as handles to help us understand this passage...

Promise

Read these OT passages that speak about God sending his Spirit on his people in the future?

Isaiah 44:3-4; Ezekiel 36:27-28; Joel 2:28-32 (what Peter quotes)

Jesus tells them to wait in Jerusalem for what God had promised. Read Acts 1:4, 8.

Pentecost

This was one of the three festivals that Jews were expected to participate in annually. There would have been visitors from all over from the Jewish Diaspora.

Peoples

Remember the incident in Genesis 11 with the Tower of Babel? Compare what happened at Pentecost with Babel. What do you think God was up to as the Spirit came on those believers?

Proofs

Read Acts 2:1-5. Imagine what it might have been like to be in the crowd... What physical manifestations accompanied the arrival of the Holy Spirit? What other events in the Bible does this remind you of?

Prophecy

Peter specifically quotes from Joel 2 to explain what was happening. What stands out particularly to you in this passage Peter quotes? This is descriptive of God's renewed people from Pentecost on.

Presentation

As Peter preached, he focused on Jesus and what the people did to him (2:22-36). While the people crucified him, God raised him. Jesus returned to the Father and poured out the Spirit as they witnessed.

Power

What do you think changed these followers of Jesus from cowering in a locked upper room, to being bold enough to stand up and speak to thousands of people? What about you? What do you need in your life to do what God wants you to do?

Presence

Throughout the Old Testament, the Holy Spirit would come upon a person for a particular purpose or season. A few examples are Samson, David, the craftsman who built the tabernacle. What does Peter say will happen when people repent and are baptized (2:37-39)? What is the promise?

The Holy Spirit not only comes upon people for the purpose of salvation, but to empower them for mission. That is the focus of the Spirit in the book of Acts. And it is just as true for us today.