

Sermon Notes

A Spirit-filled Church

Acts 2:42-47

In the second chapter of Acts, we see the Holy Spirit at work in amazing ways. He empowered Peter to stand and deliver a sermon that is simple, scriptural and Christ-exalting. Through that Word-centered sermon, the Spirit works in the hearts of the people. They are broken and stunned by the reality of their sin and cry out for a remedy.

Peter's sermon called for repentance and obedience, and 3000 people did just that. They were baptized in water, making an open confession of Christ, and outwardly expressing the reality of their changed heart.

Jesus had told his disciples that after he returned to his Father in heaven they would perform greater works than they had seen him do. (John 14:12) In one dynamic display of grace and power, they saw it happening. Earlier in the day there had been 120 followers of Christ. Now there were 3000!

What happens when 3000 spiritual newborns are filled with the Spirit and brought together in a church? We see the answer in today's passage. The reality of inwardly changed hearts is made evident in the visible reality of gospel-centered lives. This new community of faith, this new Spirit-filled church, displayed key characteristics that were then, and still are today, necessary for any church to grow in spiritual maturity, fellowship, worship and evangelism.

A Spirit-filled church is marked by devotion to the Word (teaching)

A Spirit-filled church is marked by a deep devotion to one another (fellowship)

A Spirit-filled church is marked by Christ-centered worship (breaking of bread & prayer)

A Spirit-filled church is marked by a winsome witness (favor with the people & growth)

Life Group Guide

Sunday

In your journal, reflect on today's sermon by answering the following:

I never knew:

I was challenged:

I was reminded:

I was convicted:

A question I still have:

A truth I could share:

Know

Monday

Spend some time today doing the following:

Read the sermon passage again.

Select a portion of this week's sermon passage to memorize this week.

Write your selected portion and read it to yourself at least 10 times throughout the day.

Know > Be

Tuesday

In your journal, spend some time writing about the following:

Read the sermon passage again.

Write a prayer of response, guided by the passage.

(May include adoration, confession/repentance, thanksgiving, petition, etc...)

Write your selected portion of the Scripture several times to aid in memorization.

Be

Wednesday

Think about this week's questions for group discussion:

How did this look at the first days of the Spirit-filled church affect the way you view yourself as a member of the Body of Christ?

What are the greatest contemporary challenges we face in imitating this early Christian community?

What is the biggest obstacle standing between you and deep, genuine relationships with other believers?

Be > Do

Thursday

In your journal, spend some time considering the following:

What insights have you had while internalizing this week's passage?

How specifically will you seek to apply its truths in your home/workplace/life in general?

Do

**Use this guide to help you internalize this week's passage & message.*

Westwood Staff

Gerald Hodges: Lead Pastor

Jonathan Taylor: Associate Pastor

Jim Fulp: Counseling Pastor

Jason Engle: Pastor of Students
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Upcoming Events

December 16 - Children's Christmas Program

December 18 - PHS Choral Concert

December 19 - Christmas Caroling

December 23 - Worship Service ONLY @ 10am

December 24 - Candlelight Service & Communion

December 25 & 26 - Church Office Closed

December 30 - Worship Service ONLY @ 10am