

June 5<sup>th</sup>, 2016  
Pinecrest Baptist Church  
a.m.

Sermon Series: Acts Men  
Sermon #2 Title: Everything We Can Do  
Sermon #2 Text: (Acts 2:1)

As we come to our text today, there are two immediate problems that the scripture will set straight for you, if you are dealing with a sprained theology.

~Problem number one is that some people never seem to feel the Spirit of God, and secretly worry they are missing out on something that other people say they have.

~Problem number two is that some people never seem to fail the Spirit of God, and convince themselves and others that they can sense every move God makes.

Now that being said, they both are really just symptoms of one problem, and that's this . . . Neither one has any idea who, what, or how, the Spirit of God is, moves, or works.

- In both cases, they are people who cannot tell the difference between the Holy Spirit of God, and the emotional nature of man.

In fact I would venture to say that the #1 most abused doctrine in the Bible is the doctrine and person of the Holy Spirit.

- He has been blamed for everything from people barking like dogs, to begging for more millions.

- On one hand, every time someone has a sentimental burp, or an emotional seizure, somehow the Spirit of God is moving.

- On the other hand, some people who never do have sentimental meltdowns, or emotional reactions get the idea that they are somehow flawed, failing, or just downright missing something.

A.W. Tozer famously said, "If the Holy Spirit was withdrawn from most churches, 95% of what goes on, would keep going on."

- If God left the building in many churches, no one would notice!

- If God filled the building in many churches, some people would leave!

I love what Vance Havner said in one of his books on Revival – "You can't run a church as you would a business corporation. You can't work up mere human enthusiasm to put over the work of the Lord. We all give lip service, of course, to the Holy Spirit: "Not by might nor power, but by my Spirit" (Zech. 4:6). We sing, "Kindle a flame of sacred love in these cold hearts of ours" (Isaac Watts, "Come Holy Spirit, Heavenly Dove," 1707). But actually we're so wired up to our own devices that if the fire doesn't fall from heaven, we can turn on a switch and produce some false fire of our own. And if there's no sound of a mighty rushing wind, we've got the bellows all set to blow hot air instead.

But God answers by fire, not by feelings, not by fame, not by finances. You can blow up quite a blaze today on Carmel. We can do it, yes. But people are not crying out today, “The LORD, he is the God” (1 Kings 18:39)

Without the Spirit of God – Nothing Happens. Everything that does happen apart from the Spirit of God amounts to nothing.

We must learn the difference between the Work that Belongs to God, and the Obedience that Belongs to Us!

- As we come to Acts 2, I find no greater example than the first example of all that any Christian can do.

It is incumbent on every church, to recognize that we cannot manufacture the Spirit of God, but we cannot afford to not yield to the Word of God.

- We cannot do, what only God can do! But we can do, all that He’s shown us to do!

Vs 1 is the very most that a church can do, from verse 2 on is the action of God. – We cannot do what He can do, but we must do, what we are shown to do.

There is a great deal to learn, and learn doctrinally from the 2<sup>nd</sup> Chapter of Acts.

- This morning, I want to draw your attention to what no one can do!

- And to what everyone can do.

#1 – No Christian can ever make the Spirit of God move among a people. He is not a formula to figure out, He is the Lord to trust and obey.

#2 – Every Christian can obey the Lord Jesus.

As we look at this text, we cannot look to what God did on that day we know of as Pentecost, without looking at exactly what it was that the first church did, on that day that it was empowered by God.

### I. The People That Worshipped – “they were all”

\*Note – the first thing you see is this body of saved people gathered together in obedience to Jesus in worship!

(Many people believe that the church began on the day of Pentecost, but it did not. – It was empowered by the Spirit on the day of Pentecost, but these people were already

- 1.) Saved
- 2.) Baptized
- 3.) Meeting together under the instructions of the Lord Jesus.

#### 1.) They were Saved people!

- a.) These were not religious people
- b.) These were not self-righteous people
- c.) These were people who had realized who Jesus is, and responded to Him in abject trust and obedience.

#### 2.) They were Steadfast people!

- a.) “When the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place.”

\*Note – What that tells you is that for 10 days after the ascension of Jesus, these people had one unwavering, and undistractable attention in their life . . . to do what Jesus had said.

- Now listen – up to this point . . .

  - The Spirit of God had not indwelt them.

  - The Spirit of God had not empowered them.

- All they had to keep their attention on Jesus . . .

  - 1) That they were convinced He was Who He said He was.

  - 2) So they would do what He had said for them to do.

Sometimes people sit back and wait for a holy hiccup, or some kind of spiritual panic to set in before they say, - “hey that’s my cue, the Lord is moving in my heart.”

Write this down – The very first place that anyone comes in contact with the Spirit of God, is with the Word of God.

John 6:63 – “It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing: the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life.”

Every believer begins to know the Spirit of God through the Word of God.

How do you know you’re properly sensing the Spirit of God? – Through the resonance of the Word of God.

It is the Spirit of God in your heart that uses the Word of God in your Head to reveal the Will of God for your Life.

Ephesians 6:17 – “And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God:”

Hebrews 4:12 – “For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.”

- In both cases the Word for “sword” is the Greek Word Machirah – it means “sword” but it was also the word that was used for the Physicians scalpel.

One more for good measure 2 Timothy 3:16-17 – “All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.”

- Now all of that being said, before the Holy Spirit of God descended upon that first church, they were a people who were . . .

  - Saved, Baptized, Serious, and Steadfastly attentive to the Words of the Lord that they did have!

We cannot manufacture the Spirit of God, but we can follow the example of the first people.

II. The Promise They Waited For – “ye shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days hence.”

- Back in chapter 1:4 – Jesus had commanded them that they should not depart from Jerusalem, but wait for the promise of

the Father, which was the promise, that they would be “baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days hence.”

- 1) They waited for the Lord do, what the Lord said He would do.

- (You can never wait for the Lord do something, He never said He would do.)

- (You can never refuse to wait for the Lord to do something He said He would do.)

- 2) The Lord said, “You will be baptized with the Holy Spirit”

(Now it is not the purpose of this message to explain the Baptism of the Holy Spirit -, we’ll do that but the Lord was promising them a New Power, new Presence, and New Ability that God had not given in History.)

- But note what it takes to wait for the Lord to fulfill His promises . . .

- a.) Faith – You have to Take God at His Word

- b.) Patience – You have to Wait for God to Keep His Word.

- c.) Obedience – You have to Obey the Word of God that you do have.

(To take God at His Word, is to take God at His Timing!)

- What promises do we have?

- 1.) the promise of His presence

a.) Where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst.- Matthew 18:20

(now that is not a blanket meaning like some people think it means. – meaning that every time two or three Christians

get together on the golf course or the fishing boat, there is a worship service.)

“in my name” carries the idea of having “my authority”.

For example – you can’t write checks “in my name” – you’ll go to jail

Matthew 7:22 – there will be people that say, “We have preached in thy name” – Jesus is going to say, “wait a minute!”

- He promises His presence any time He has ordered people to meet and they meet, whether there is two, three, or a hundred and twenty.

- That’s the idea of when He commands the meeting.

(preacher I can’t feel Him – you don’t want to . . .

Isaiah did, and fell on his face

John the Revelator did and fell on his face

Manoah did, and thought he was going to die)

- We do not live by the feelings of the Heart, we live by the Word of the Lord . . .

- He is here, because He says He is, and I know it

He also promised His presence in genuine Praise!

Psalm 22:3 – “He inhabits the praises of Israel” – According to the New Testament, we are “spiritual Israel”

The point is that we take God at His Word, we do not live by feelings, emotions, signs, or symptoms.

2.) We also have the promise of His coming

3.) We have the promise He will not leave us nor forsake us. – (He’s omnipresent, where would He put you?)

We could go on, and on with promises!

- We cannot make the Spirit of God move, but we can do what the People of God did before the Spirit of God moved.

### III. The Process They Went Through – “one accord, one place”

#### 1.) They were “all with one accord in one place”

##### a.) Who is “all?” 1:14-15

(1.) It was the eleven Apostles, Mary the mother of Jesus along with his other earthly family, and a hundred or so of Jesus’ closest friends!

Do you know who those people were? They were the ones that wanted to be there. (Here is the gathered assembly –

- Here is the primal example of the first church gathered together under the Lord’s instruction!

(2.) Steven the first martyr had joined this group.

(3.) Matthias, the one they selected to take Judas place was in this group.

(4.) Joseph Justus was one of the men in this group.

- Luke also records that a roll of names was kept and noted – in fact they were more interested in the names than they were the numbers.

- 1:15 – “the number of names together were about a hundred and twenty.”

- There were countless others who had been saved and baptized . . . - but they had not “joined themselves” to the Apostles.

#### 1.) They were of one mind, one heart!

(a) here is the earliest concept of a church covenant – an agreement . . . in one accord . . . with one heart and one mind . . . they were all actually there for the same reason . . . Jesus!

- How did they do that?

a.) Simon the Zealot forgot all about overthrowing the government.

b.) Matthew the tax collector forgot all about his problems with Simon the Zealot.

c.) Peter, James, and John, no longer had the fishing business on their minds.

- Their one accord in one place at one time, was not an issue of pretending there had never been any problems. – Their one accord in one place at one time was now a clear view of the pettiness of those problems in light of the Lord Jesus.

Now note this . . . Here is the very most that a man can do. – Verse 2 onward was totally and completely an act of God.

- Man has as much to do with make the Spirit of God move, as he did in creating the world.

Conclusion: - Jesus forever set the clear distinction for us in John chapter 3 when talking to Nicodemus.

Vs 6&8 – “That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. The wind bloweth where it listeth, and thou hearest the sound thereof, but canst not tell whence it cometh, and whither it goeth: so is every one that is born of the Spirit.”