

We, the body of Christ called Columbia, continue our exploration of the history of the New Testament church through the book of Acts. Last week, we discovered how the early church prepared for Pentecost and the arrival of the Holy Spirit to empower them for their mission. This week we look at their experience as they all gathered in one place and the promised Holy Spirit came among them.

1. Read **Acts 2: 1- 41** and reflect on the whole experience of Pentecost that day. Rest with this for a while.
2. Read **Acts 2: 1-13**. This time imagine that you are one of the disciples.
  - Can you actually picture in your mind this experience?
  - What are you feeling?
  - What might be running through your mind?
3. Have you ever experienced something pretty amazing that was hard to explain?
  - If you can put it into words, share about your experience.
  - How difficult was that?
  - How are the members of your Ignition Group accepting what you have shared?
  - What kind of question did they, or even you, have about your experience?

Read **Acts 2:2-4** and notice the description of the coming of the Holy Spirit.

4. Compare what Luke says in **Luke 3:16** and Joel's description in **Joel 2:28, 29**.
  - What similarities and differences do you find in these descriptions?
  - If you were a reporter and had to describe this event, what might you write?
  - What were the two different reactions of the eyewitness?
  - Imagine what your reaction might have been?

*"In Old Testament times, God's Spirit did not permanently remain in people who trusted him. Instead, God usually sent his Spirit to inspire specific people at specific times. Though Jesus had talked with his disciples about the new role of the outpouring of the Holy Spirit, the Jews were amazed at the outpouring of God's Spirit in the day of Pentecost and the fulfillment of Joel's prophecy." Max Lucado*

5. How do you personally respond to the gift of Christ's Spirit that lives in us enabling us to live out our faith?
6. Read **Acts 2:14-41**. Peter found himself in a new place; after denying Christ three times when he had been forgiven and restored by Christ Himself. This new, more humble Peter was now bold in confidence through the power of the Holy Spirit.
  - Have you ever felt that you made such a mistake that you would never be forgiven and God wouldn't be able to use you?

Find assurance in Peter's transformation that God is in the redeeming business.
7. In the following passages, what would you say are the reasons why Peter believed people should listen to the testimony of the believers?
  - 2:14-21
  - 2:25-36
  - 2:37-40

8. Read **Act 2:37**. Following Peter's powerful sermon; those who heard him were moved to ask, "*Brothers, what shall we do?*" After hearing Dr. Baucom's sermons and reflecting on this passage this week, challenge yourself to ask the question, "*What shall I do?*" Listen for what God would say to you.