



Week 2

Acts 2: Empowered

Text: Acts 2

OPEN

This is our second week of our series in Acts called **“Unstoppable”** based on Acts 5:42 which says, “Day after day, in the temple courts and from house to house, **they never stopped** teaching and proclaiming the good news that Jesus is the Messiah.” The resurrection and ascension of Jesus and the descent of the Spirit have ushered in the last days. We are still in those last days, called to proclaim the risen and ascended Lord Jesus in the power of the Spirit. As transformed people we continue the ministry of Jesus as the body of Christ, devoted to worship, prayer and fellowship. This is eternal life, beginning now. To pull this off, we need the reviving work of the Spirit, individually and corporately and so need to pray for this continually.

READ

- **Read Acts 2:1-13.** Describe in your own words what happened on the day of Pentecost? What surprises you about how the Church was born?
- **Read Acts 2:26-47.** What was the result of the Holy Spirit empowering Peter to preach the church’s first sermon?
- At Pentecost the Church communicated the gospel by speaking in tongues. In your Christian journey so far, how would your own experience with the phenomenon of speaking in tongues? Which of the following words would describe your experience with speaking in tongues?

Unaware, uninterested, fearful, confused, excited, troubled , _____?

REFLECT

- Watch the first 3 minutes of this brief (6 min) video <https://bibleproject.com/explore/video/gospel-acts-1/>.
 - How did the early church begin living in “the last days” right then and there? How did they bring heaven to earth by embodying the presence of Jesus to others?
 - The Holy Spirit’s presence came to dwell on each disciple as a “tongue of fire”. How is this similar to the presence of God shown in the Old Testament tabernacle (see Exodus 40:34-38)?
- Read Acts 2.14-36 (the very first Christian sermon)
 - While the specifics of the sermon are tied to Peters local context, what enduring “take away’s” would you identify in terms of principles, wisdom and guidance for today’s preachers and teachers of God’s Word?
- Read Acts 2.42-47. This passage describe the qualities of the first Church. What are the key markers of a Spirit filled community?
- For each of these, where would you place (a) yourself (b) your church on a continuum from dabbling to devoted?



APPLY/PRAY

- Pray for the Spirit to magnify the beauty and glory of the risen and exalted Christ so it will become your enduring motive for life and mission.
- Pray for the Spirit to form and fill Wellspring church so that we will be devoted to, rather than dabble in, the apostles doctrine, true open hearted glad fellowship and prayer.
- Pray for the Spirit to enable bold (counter cultural) and wise (culturally sensitive) proclamation of the Good News.
- Conclude your meeting by praying together this old yet powerful Puritan prayer “Spiritus Sactus” (consider printing this out or putting this into your phone and pray this every Sunday as you come to worship). <https://banneroftruth.org/us/devotional/spiritus-sanctus/>

