**WIND & FIRE -- WEEK 2: THE PROMISE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT**

**Getting to Know You:**

1. What is the biggest wind storm you remember? Was it thrilling or terrifying or both?

**Watch:** Jesus’ ascension by Saddleback Kids (2:58)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UcFw8pLBSIo>

1. The video says that “God had promised the Holy Spirit would come to be their helper.” How is the Spirit our helper?
2. How does the Holy Spirit fulfill Jesus’ promise from Matthew 28:20, “...And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”

**Read Acts 2:1-21** *“****1*** *When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place.****2*** *Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting.* ***3*** *They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them.* ***4*** *All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them.”*

1. Why were all the disciples in Jerusalem? What were they waiting for? Look at Acts 1:4 and 8.
2. What is the importance of the fire and the wind? What do these symbols tell us about the Holy Spirit?
3. Can you think of other places in Scripture where fire and wind are used? What can we learn about the Spirit through these verses?

(If you need help, look up --

Fire: Exodus 3:2, Exodus 13:21-22, 1 Kings 18:23-25, 2 Chronicles 7:1…

Wind: Exodus 10:13-19, Exodus 14:21, 1 Kings 19:10-12, ...)

**Read Acts 2:5-15 “*5*** *Now there were staying in Jerusalem God-fearing Jews from every nation under heaven.* ***6*** *When they heard this sound, a crowd came together in bewilderment, because each one heard their own language being spoken.****7*** *Utterly amazed, they asked: “Aren’t all these who are speaking Galileans?* ***8*** *Then how is it that each of us hears them in our native language? Parthians, Medes, and Elamites; residents of Mesopotamia, Judea, and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia,* ***10*** *Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya near Cyrene; visitors from Rome* ***11*** *(both Jews and converts to Judaism); Cretans and Arabs—we hear them declaring the wonders of God in our own tongues!”* ***12*** *Amazed and perplexed, they asked one another, “What does this mean?”* ***13*** *Some, however, made fun of them and said, “They have had too much wine.”* ***14*** *Then Peter stood up with the Eleven, raised his voice and addressed the crowd: “Fellow Jews and all of you who live in Jerusalem, let me explain this to you; listen carefully to what I say.* ***15*** *These people are not drunk, as you suppose. It’s only nine in the morning!”*

1. In Genesis 11:1-9, the story is told of the Tower of Babel. How does the story of Pentecost “reverse the curse” of the Tower of Babel?
2. Why do you think the Holy Spirit gave the apostles the ability to speak in other tongues? (Look at verses 6 and 8.)
3. Do you believe this is still a common gift of the Holy Spirit today?
4. Some Christians have suggested that an experience like the apostles had at Pentecost is necessary for Christians today. They suggest that believers must be “filled with the Spirit” or “baptized in the Spirit”. Do you agree or disagree? Do you believe this story is descriptive or prescriptive?

**Read Acts 2:16-21 “*16*** *No, this is what was spoken by the prophet Joel:****17*** *“‘In the last days, God says, I will pour out my Spirit on all people.Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your young men will see visions, your old men will dream dreams.* ***18*** *Even on my servants, both men and women, I will pour out my Spirit in those days, and they will prophesy.* ***19*** *I will show wonders in the heavens above and signs on the earth below, blood and fire and billows of smoke.* ***20*** *The sun will be turned to darkness and the moon to blood before the coming of the great and glorious day of the Lord.* ***21*** *And everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.’”*

1. In verse 12, the people asked , “What does this mean?” Peter answers in verses 17-21, with final emphasis in verse 21. How would you summarize his answer? Why did the Holy Spirit come?
2. In the Old Testament, The Holy Spirit was given to help people perform certain tasks. (For example: kings, priests, prophets, judges…) Looking at verses 17-18, how has that changed in the New Testament era?
3. Peter is quoting from the prophet Joel. Joel’s prophecy was specifically about the Last Days (verse 17) or the Great and Glorious Day of the Lord (verse 20). How does the fact that we are in the Last Days give urgency to what we are called to do?

**Read Acts 2:38-39**  *“****38*** *Peter replied, “Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.* ***39*** *The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off—for all whom the Lord our God will call.”*

1. According to verse 38, who receives the power of the Holy Spirit?
2. Who is the promise for in verse 39? Where are we in the promise?

“For those who stand outside of faith, the message of the gospel may appear burdensome and shackling. Yet, this could not be farther from the truth. The regeneration of the Spirit liberates believers to turn their affections to Christ and put their faith in Him. God’s people were created to enjoy this knowledge and love of the Savior, and they receive fulfillment only when their hearts are turned to Him. Jesus’ yoke is easy and His burden is light (Matt. 11:30), and man remains in darkness, empty, burdened, and miserable, until the Spirit breathes life and light into his dead, sinful heart.” Sinclair Ferguson, *Who is the Holy Spirit?*

1. The Holy Spirit was with the twelve disciples as they were building the early church. How do we see the Holy Spirit with us today?

**Live It Out:** This week, if possible, try to do one of the following.

* Read and meditate on this passage from the 3rd and 4th Main Points of Doctrine from the Canons of Dort:

Article 11: *The Holy Spirit’s Work in Conversion*

*“Moreover, when God carries out this good pleasure in his chosen ones, or works true conversion in them, he not only sees to it that the gospel is proclaimed to them outwardly, and enlightens their minds powerfully by the Holy Spirit so that they may rightly understand and discern the things of the Spirit of God, but, by the effective operation of the same regenerating Spirit, he also penetrates into the inmost being of man, opens the close heart, softens the hard heart, and circumcises the heart that is uncircumcised. He infuses new qualities into the will, making the dead will alive, the evil one good, the unwilling one willing, and the stubborn one compliant; he activates and strengthens the will so that like a good tree, it may be enabled to produce the fruits of good deeds.”*

* On a windy day, go outside and pray. Reflect on what the wind can teach us about the Spirit.
* Look for an opportunity to tell your God story to someone else.