

The Power of Proclamation **Acts 2:14-36**

No pressure..

The Apostles had been called by the Son of God to walk with Him – Learn from Him – and to bear witness of Him both during His life and after His ascension.

They had witnessed His miracles – seen the signs and wonders that confirmed Jesus of Nazareth was the Christ foretold by the prophets.

They had heard and learned from His teachings.

They had witnessed His arrest, His trials, His torture, His death, and His burial.

They had also witnessed the proof of His resurrection, spoke with, touched and eaten with the risen Lord.

Finally, they had had witnesses His ascension back into heaven, to take His place at the right hand of God the Father.

They had been commissioned and sent out. It was to the apostles the Lord first declared – *“Go therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. Teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you.”* Matthew 28:19-20

- But what did that mean? – When would that become their reality?

They had waited as Jesus instructed them to. – And then one day, as they were gathered together along with other believers, disciples, of Christ Jesus...

Everything changed.

Acts 2:1-4

When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. And suddenly there came from heaven a noise like a violent rushing wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. And there appeared to them tongues as of fire distributing themselves, and they rested on each one of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit was giving them utterance.

The heavenly sound was heard by everyone in the area and a crowd pushed in toward where the followers of Jesus were gathered to see what was happening.

What the crowds found was a collection of everyday people, from across the region of Galilea.

Acts 2:11

“we hear them in our own tongues speaking of the mighty deeds of God.”

The miraculous thing was that each person in the crowd heard these Galileans **proclaiming** the wonders of God *in their own native language!*

Don't miss the UNIQUENESS of this occasion.

- For the **FIRST** time – the Holy Spirit of God did not just rest **ON** faithful believers – as it was in the times of the patriarchs and prophets of the Old Testament saints –
 - Now the Spirit of God had come to reside **IN** – to dwell and work **IN** and **THROUGH** the faithful believers of the current age!
 - 1 Corinthians 3:16 “Do you not know that you are a temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you?”

Don't miss the AFFECT of this occasion.

- The impact of this indwelling so overflowed their **hearts**, that it overflowed their **speech!**
- Those so filled with the Holy Spirit of God **COULD NOT** restrain themselves from **PROCLAIMING** the wonders of God!

Proclamation / pro-claim – pro “forward, out” / claim = declare
Proclaim – an outward or public declaration.

- To make a public announcement.
 - “Hear ye, Hear ye”
- To make a public and official declaration.
 - “I now pronounce you husband and wife”
- To publicly declare something one considers important with due emphasis.
 - “This is a rockin little church!”

Don't miss the RESPONSE to this occasion.

Acts 2:12-13

And they all continued in amazement and great perplexity, saying to one another, “What does this mean?” But others were mocking and saying, “They are full of sweet wine.”

Some marveled –

- Surely this is something new among men! Could this be the work of YHWY?
- Was this evidence the Spirit of the God of Israel rested on those who were speaking?!?

But others mocked –

- Others in the crowd, determined to deny any evidence presented to them, sneered, “Surely these people are drunk!” “This is nothing more than the evidence of an abundance of sweet wine!”

Understand this church, to marvel or mock has been – and will always be – the two responses to publicly proclaiming the wonders of God and the truth regarding Jesus Christ.

This morning we are going to look at the amazing change the indwelling of the Holy Spirit had on those first members of the church.

WARNING: as we look at these things- I want you to ask yourself –

“What happened??”

How does the **church** of today, how does **Pine Grove**, how do **you and I** compare to those who received the Holy Spirit that day when it comes to PROCLAIMING the mighty deeds of God?

Let’s take a look-

1) The proclamation of Peter – Acts 2:14-15

But Peter, taking his stand with the eleven, raised his voice and declared to them: “Men of Judea and all you who live in Jerusalem, let this be known to you and give heed to my words. For these men are not drunk, as you suppose, for it is only the third hour of the day;

The mockers in the crowd accused the faithful of being drunk. Peter responded by declaring they were not – especially since it was only the third hour.

(The Jewish measure of time, based on sunrise, being 9a.m.)

I think everyone can identify at times with the Apostle Peter.

There were times He said the wrong things-

- like when he tried to defy God’s plan in offering the Son as a sacrifice.
 - Matthew 16:22-23
- Or when he denied three times even knowing Jesus during His trials.
 - Luke 22:54-62

But then there was Peter who was the only one to jump out of the boat and to walk on water to be with Jesus on the Sea of Galilee.

- Matthew 14:22-33

It was Peter who responded to Jesus’ when He asked if the Apostles would also abandon Him as other disciples walked away from His hard teachings.

“Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life; and we have believed, and have come to know, that you are the Holy One of God.” John 6:68-69

And it was Peter who answered the Lord’s question when he asked the Apostles who they declared Him to be:

“Thou art the Christ. The Son of the Living God.” – Matthew 16:16

Yep, Peter had his highs and lows being a disciple of Jesus – **don’t we all?**

But through it all – Jesus loved Peter, and forgave Peter – and Peter loved his Lord back.

Understand the same is true for you and me – we don’t always get it right – but we are following the One who always does.

- And He offers the same love and forgiveness to you and I that He did for Peter.

That day, Peter and the other followers of Jesus **received the fulfilment of the promise** Jesus had made to them prior to His ascension.

John 14:16-17 “I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may be with you forever; that is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it does not see Him or know Him, but you know Him because He abides with you and will be in you.

John 25: 25-26 “These things I have spoken to you while abiding with you. “But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all that I said to you.

Peter proclaimed- *Men of Judea and all you who live in Jerusalem, let this be known to you and give heed to my words..”*

The followers of The Way were not drunk – **they were empowered**. Emboldened. Enlightened. By the Holy Spirit of God. **And here’s the thing - so are ALL those who have received Christ and the Holy Spirit!**

2) The proclamation of Joel – Acts 2:17-21

Peter defends the proclamations being declared that day as fulfilment of the prophecy proclaimed by the prophet Joel.

but this is what was spoken of through the prophet Joel:

‘AND IT SHALL BE IN THE LAST DAYS,’ God says,
‘THAT I WILL POUR FORTH OF MY SPIRIT ON ALL MANKIND;
AND YOUR SONS AND YOUR DAUGHTERS SHALL PROPHECY,
AND YOUR YOUNG MEN SHALL SEE VISIONS,
AND YOUR OLD MEN SHALL DREAM DREAMS;
EVEN ON MY BONDSLAVES, BOTH MEN AND WOMEN,
I WILL IN THOSE DAYS POUR FORTH OF MY SPIRIT
And they shall prophesy.
‘AND I WILL GRANT WONDERS IN THE SKY ABOVE
AND SIGNS ON THE EARTH BELOW,
BLOOD, AND FIRE, AND VAPOR OF SMOKE.
‘THE SUN WILL BE TURNED INTO DARKNESS
AND THE MOON INTO BLOOD,
BEFORE THE GREAT AND GLORIOUS DAY OF THE LORD SHALL COME.
‘AND IT SHALL BE THAT EVERYONE WHO CALLS ON THE NAME OF THE LORD
WILL BE SAVED.’

Not bad recall for a fisherman from Galilee!

Although the **FULL** measure of Joel’s prophecy will not be seen until the Millennial Kingdom, **elements** of that prophecy were occurring right in their midst!!

Joel foretold the “Last days” would be marked by

- The pouring out of the Holy Spirit
- Proclamation of the word of God
- Visions and dreams
- Signs and wonders both in the heavens and on the earth
- And ultimately in the Great and Glorious day of the Lord when our Savior returns in His glory!

In understanding these things, understand that the **FIRST** day of the **LAST** days was **THE day** that Christ ascended back into heaven.

The angels told the Apostles: *"Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into heaven? This Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven."* Acts 1:11

Every day, from **THAT** day to **THIS** day, is **ANOTHER** day closer to the **LAST** day, when Christ returns! **Summary: We have been and are today living in the last days!!!**

Therefore- Joel's vision is **completely accurate** when we consider the prophecy declared through the authors of scripture who spoke and wrote as inspired by God.

New Testament – **27** Books - Written by **8** authors – Inspired by **1** God.

The **visions and dreams** of Paul, John and others is completely in-line and a fulfilment of Joel's writings as revealed to Him by God.

Understand how rare a thing these were, *even in the age of the Apostles.*

And we know that the age of the Apostles has closed, the foundation of the church having been established.

Therefore, there is **NO REASON** to burden the church with interpreting this passage as meaning there will be prophets, dreams and visions on **EVERY** day as we wait for the glory of the **LAST** day.

To many through the church age have abused this passage to declare that they have received "A vision from God" or "A message or revelation from God" and then led people to follow them down un-biblical paths.

Paul declared to the church in Galatia: "But even if we, or an angel from heaven, should preach to you a gospel contrary to what we have preached to you, he is to be accursed!" **Galatians 1:8**

He rebuked the church in Corinth: "For if someone comes and proclaims another Jesus than the one we proclaimed, or if you receive a different spirit from the one you received, or if you accept a different gospel from the one you accepted, you put up with it readily enough." **2 Corinthians 11:4**

Let the hearer beware what God declares to the church. *Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, this he will also reap.*
Galatians 6:7

But as we approach that day, know this, 'AND IT SHALL BE THAT EVERYONE WHO CALLS ON THE NAME OF THE LORD WILL BE SAVED.'

And that is Good News. Because on that day, all who have denied Him will be judged by their deeds and face the wrath of The Almighty God.

3)The proclamation regarding the man- Jesus the Nazarene – Acts 2:22-24

“Men of Israel, listen to these words: Jesus the Nazarene, **a man** attested to you by God with miracles and wonders and signs which God performed through Him in your midst, just as you yourselves know— **this Man**, ... delivered over by the predetermined plan and foreknowledge of God, **you** nailed to a cross by the hands of godless men and put Him to death.

But God raised Him up again, putting an end to the agony of death, since it was impossible for Him to be held in Jesus power.

Having defended the authority of their proclamation, Peter brings into focus **“the man”** Jesus the Nazarene.

- It is likely that every person in the crowd that day had at least heard the name of Jesus.
- If not, there were certainly very few who were not at some level aware of the stir that Jesus of Nazareth had caused in Judea and specifically here in Jerusalem.

Peter first identifies the ‘Person’ of Jesus and connects the audience to Him.

YOU WITNESSED the miracles, wonders and signs He performed in your midst!

- Things which GOD ALONE can do – and which God did – THROUGH HIM.

All of Israel was longing for the coming of the Messiah – the promised King- They themselves had declared of Him-

shouting, “Hosanna to the Son of David; BLESSED IS HE WHO COMES IN THE NAME OF THE LORD; Hosanna in the highest!” **Matthew 21:9**

This man, Jesus of Nazareth, was delivered over by the predetermined and foreknowledge of God.

Before Adam drew his first breath – before Eve took her first bite of the forbidden fruit – God had a plan to restore the relationship that man would break.

- This for His glory – as a revelation of His sovereignty, holiness, mercy, grace, and long-suffering.

In this hard to read but revealing passage of the will of God we read this:

But the LORD was pleased To crush Him, putting Him to grief; If He would render Himself as a guilt offering, He will see His offspring, He will prolong His days, And the good pleasure of the LORD will prosper in His hand. As a result of the anguish of His soul, He will see it and be satisfied; By His

knowledge the Righteous One, My Servant, will justify the many, As He will bear their iniquities. **Isiah 53:10-11**

But to the crowd Peter proclaimed that while the will of God, make no mistake, this man, Jesus of Nazareth, **you** nailed to a cross by the hands of godless men and put Him to death.

Though God works His will – man is still accountable for his sins due to the effective will that has been granted to him by the sovereign God.

God's chosen people Israel **rejected** the Messiah, **rejected** the Savior of their souls, **rejected** the King of kings and the Lord of lords –

And then PLEADED with their Roman overlords- lawless, godless men – to put the man, Jesus of Nazareth, to DEATH.

What greater indication of your wrongdoing could you have received but that the man YOU had put to death – GOD RAISED FROM THE DEAD!

The resurrection of this 'man' was the final evidence given among men that this Jesus IS the Christ!

- It was evidence that God the Father had received the sacrifice of the Son.
 - It was truly finished.
- It was evidence that this 'man' was truly the Son of God – and therefore though the flesh He had embodied could suffer – the essence of His divinity could never perish.

4) The Proclamation of David – Acts 2:25-28

For David says of Him,

*'I SAW THE LORD ALWAYS IN MY PRESENCE;
FOR HE IS AT MY RIGHT HAND, SO THAT I WILL NOT BE SHAKEN.
'THEREFORE MY HEART WAS GLAD AND MY TONGUE EXULTED;
MOREOVER MY FLESH ALSO WILL LIVE IN HOPE;
BECAUSE YOU WILL NOT ABANDON MY SOUL TO HADES,
NOR ALLOW YOUR HOLY ONE TO UNDERGO DECAY.
'YOU HAVE MADE KNOWN TO ME THE WAYS OF LIFE;
YOU WILL MAKE ME FULL OF GLADNESS WITH YOUR PRESENCE.*

Of this "man" you put to death – David proclaimed-

- He would forever be in the presence of God, at the right hand of God
- This giving the heart a reason to be glad – the tongue a reason to proclaim – the flesh a reason to hope
- God did not abandon the Christ in Hades/Sheol – *He will not abandon us either*

- Nor did God allow Christ's body to decay in the grave – declaring Him "Holy"
- God the Father revealed all things to the Son – giving Him the perspective He portrayed while suffering in the flesh.

5) The proclamation regarding David- Acts 2:29-35

"Brethren, I may confidently say to you regarding the patriarch David that he both died and was buried, and his tomb is with us to this day. And so, because he was a prophet and knew that GOD HAD SWORN TO HIM WITH AN OATH TO SEAT one OF HIS DESCENDANTS ON HIS THRONE, he looked ahead and spoke of the resurrection of the Christ, that HE WAS NEITHER ABANDONED TO HADES, NOR DID His flesh SUFFER DECAY. This Jesus God raised up again, to which we are all witnesses. Therefore having been exalted to the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, He has poured forth this which you both see and hear. For it was not David who ascended into heaven, but he himself says:

*'THE LORD SAID TO MY LORD,
"SIT AT MY RIGHT HAND,
UNTIL I MAKE YOUR ENEMIES A FOOTSTOOL FOR YOUR FEET.'"*

Peter makes it clear that David, the most beloved of all the kings of Israel, was not speaking of himself when he said these things

- David had not rose again – His tomb was still present with them and his bones lay within.

But David was prophet of God – who revealed things to His servant David to proclaim for future generations –

And among these were things concerning the coming Christ – Things that occurred, just has foretold, to this "man" Jesus.

It was not David who raised up from the tomb – it was this man, Jesus

It was not David you witnessed after the resurrection – It was this man, Jesus

It was not David who has ascended into heaven – It was this man, Jesus

It was not David who took the place at the right hand of God – having been assured that all those who have despised Him will be humbled before Him – It was this man, JESUS

Peter's point is that all that has been declared of the Christ – the Messiah promised – In no way points to David, but certainly does point to another man.

Having built the argument about this “man” Jesus of Nazareth – Peter drops the hammer in this first and powerful sermon from the Holy Spirit empowered church-

6) The proclamation regarding Jesus, our Lord and Christ – Acts 2:36

Therefore let all the house of Israel know for certain that God has made Him both Lord and Christ—this Jesus whom you crucified.”

This “man” – Jesus of Nazareth – whom YOU CRUCIFIED – Is both the **Lord**, spoken of by David and the prophets – and the **Christ**.

- “Christos” The anointed One, Messiah, Christ

Of this “man”, Jesus of Nazareth- The Apostle John wrote- **John 1:1-14**

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² He was in the beginning with God. ³ All things came into being through Him, and apart from Him nothing came into being that has come into being. ⁴ In Him was life, and the life was the Light of men.⁵ The Light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it.

.....

⁹There was the true Light which, coming into the world, enlightens every man. ¹⁰ He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, and the world did not know Him. ¹¹ He came to His own, and those who were His own did not receive Him. ¹² But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in His name,¹³ who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.

¹⁴And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us, and we saw His glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth.

Of this “man”, Jesus of Nazareth- the Apostle Paul wrote-

Romans 1:1-4

*Paul, a bond-servant of Christ Jesus, called as an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, which He promised beforehand through His prophets in the holy Scriptures, concerning His Son, who was born of a descendant of David according to the flesh, who was declared the Son of God with power by the resurrection from the dead, according to the Spirit of holiness, **Jesus Christ our Lord,***

~IN CLOSING~

7) QUESTION: What are YOU proclaiming?

As I stated at the beginning regarding the disciples of Christ Jesus gathered there that day-

Because of the impact of what happened that day, when the for the **FIRST TIME** the Holy Spirit of God came to reside **IN** the hearts of those who have called on the name of the Lord in faith – they **COULD** not be silent.

God did not call a people, to be His people, to be a **SILENT** people.

Christ Jesus our Lord did not die on the cross to redeem for Himself a church that would be a **SILENT** church.

Today we have heard the first sermon, proclaimed through the power Holy Spirit of God dwelling in the speaker.

What of us? – What of you?

Can you guess the number **ONE** reason people do not openly and confidently publicly proclaim the mighty deeds of God and share the hope we have in Christ?

- **Answer: FEAR**

Dress it up however you like –

- I'm not a good speaker.
- I don't have the proper training.
- That's just not my thing.

But in the end – all these have their root in same thing: **FEAR**

- **Fear** of being made fun of / **Fear** of rejection.
- **Fear** of not knowing what to say / **Fear** of saying the wrong thing

Hear me friends – **FEAR NOT** - If you know **who** God is and **what** Christ Jesus has done for you, and have **believed** these things by faith –

Then you know everything you need to know to speak with confidence to those who are perishing for a lack of knowledge and trusting in God.

Why? - Because if you know who God is and what Christ Jesus has done for you – and believed these things by faith –

Then you, just like Peter and these first members of the church – have received the indwelling, empowering, presence of the Holy Spirit of God!

And it is **HE** – not **WE** – that gives us the courage and the confidence to proclaim confidently, courageously, and with power.

Romans 8:15 For you did not receive a spirit of slavery that returns you to **fear**, but you received the Spirit of **sonship**, by whom we cry, "Abba! Father!"

Hebrews 13:7 Remember those who led you, who spoke the word of God to you; **and considering the result of their conduct**, imitate their faith.

Paul encouraged young Timothy – *And I you* –

2 Timothy 1:6-7

For this reason, I remind you to fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you through the laying on of my hands, for God gave us a spirit **not of fear but of power** and **love** and **self-control**.

Think about it – The Holy Spirit of God, working His power in and through **you**.

- "Power"= Greek 'Dunamis' – *Miraculous power, might and strength*

In another proclamation, Peter declared this, to you and I-

1 Peter 2:9

But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may **proclaim** the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.

Go forth church – and in the **power** of the Holy Spirit of God that dwells in you **PROCLAIM** the excellencies of our God and of Christ Jesus - our Lord and Savior.