

Acts The Gospel on the Move

Study 3

The Gospel and the First Spirit-Filled Church

Acts 2:14-47

A. Peter's Gospel Message

Acts 2:14 (NIV)

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.

1. Fill in the Blanks. According to the video slide, fill in the Old Testament passage fulfillment type that the apostle Peter quoted.



B. Joel's End Time Prophecy

Acts 2:15-21 (NIV)

These people are not drunk, as you suppose. It's only nine in the morning! No, this is what was spoken by the prophet Joel:

“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.
Even on my servants, both men and women,
I will pour out my Spirit in those days,
and they will prophesy.
I will show wonders in the heavens above
and signs on the earth below,
blood and fire and billows of smoke.
The sun will be turned to darkness
and the moon to blood
before the coming of the great and glorious day of the Lord.
And everyone who calls
on the name of the Lord will be saved.

2. **Discussion Question. What are the main takeaways from Peter's interpretation of Joel's prophecy?**

C. Resurrection Prophecy

Acts 2:22-28 (NIV)

“Fellow Israelites, listen to this: Jesus of Nazareth was a man accredited by God to you by miracles, wonders and signs, which God did among you through him, as you yourselves know. This man was handed over to you by God's deliberate plan and foreknowledge; and you, with the help of wicked men, put him to death by nailing him to the cross. But God raised him from the dead, freeing him from the agony of death, because it was impossible for death to keep its hold on him. David said about him:

“I saw the Lord always before me.
Because he is at my right hand,
I will not be shaken.
Therefore my heart is glad and my tongue rejoices;
my body also will rest in hope,
because you will not abandon me to the realm of the dead,
you will not let your holy one see decay.
You have made known to me the paths of life;
you will fill me with joy in your presence.’

3. Discussion Question. What are the main takeaways from Peter’s interpretation of David’s Resurrection prophecy?

D. Davidic Covenant

Acts 2:29-30 (NIV)

“Fellow Israelites, I can tell you confidently that the patriarch David died and was buried, and his tomb is here to this day. But he was a prophet and knew that God had promised him on oath that he would place one of his descendants on his throne.

4. Discussion Question. What are the main takeaways from Peter’s interpretation of the Davidic Covenant?

E. Exaltation Prophecy

Acts 2:33-35 (NIV)

Exalted to the right hand of God, he has received from the Father the promised Holy Spirit and has poured out what you now see and hear. For David did not ascend to heaven, and yet he said,

“The Lord said to my Lord:
“Sit at my right hand
until I make your enemies
a footstool for your feet.””

5. **Discussion Question.** What are the main takeaways from Peter’s interpretation of David’s Psalm prophecy?

F. Human Response

Acts 2:31-32 (NIV)

Seeing what was to come, he spoke of the resurrection of the Messiah, that he was not abandoned to the realm of the dead, nor did his body see decay. God has raised this Jesus to life, and we are all witnesses of it.

Acts 2:36-37 (NIV)

“Therefore let all Israel be assured of this: God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Messiah.”

When the people heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and the other apostles, “Brothers, what shall we do?”

6. **Reflection Question.** Have you ever felt “cut to the heart” after hearing the gospel or just “meh”?

G. Repentance

Acts 2:38-41 (NIV)

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. The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off—for all whom the Lord our God will call.”

With many other words he warned them; and he pleaded with them, “Save yourselves from this corrupt generation.” Those who accepted his message were baptized, and about three thousand were added to their number that day.

7. **Reflection Question.** The word “Repent” is *metanoia* in Greek which means change of mind. Go one round and share one thing that you have changed your mind about after becoming a believer/Christian.

H. The Fellowship of the Believers

Acts 2:42-47 (NIV)

They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles. All the believers were together and had everything in common. They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need. Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.

8. a) **Fill in the Blanks. According to the video slide, fill in the characteristics of a Spirit-filled church.**

	Devoted to... (Persistent in...)
1.	
2.	
3.	
4.	
5.	
6.	
7.	

- b) **Discussion Question. The early church had a radical unselfishness based on faith. Gave themselves away (radical unselfishness), their money, their possessions, their time, and their emotional capital to to create community. Do you see this kind of unselfishness around you or in yourself?**

Takeaway

In Acts 2:14-47, apostle Peter explains the Holy Spirit and resultant tongues miracles by pointing to the prophesied Gospel event (Life, death, resurrection, exaltation of Christ). He then appeals to the audience for repentance and many repented and believe. The Holy Spirit changed the hearts of the believers resulting in a radical unselfishness that helped spread Christianity.

Case Study

Case 1 – Spirit-Filled Church

Sigma Goh decides that he can be a Christian because it's only between him and God. He goes church shopping from week to week and comments on them based on:

- their worship songs and skills
- whether the sermon message was entertaining and relatable
- whether there were miracles performed in the church
- whether the church was big enough and had a lot of people attending

If the church matches these criteria then it is a Spirit-filled church.

1. a) Reflection question. Have you ever thought like Sigma?

b) Discussion question. What is a Spirit-filled church like?

c) Discussion question. Would you consider your church a Spirit-filled church? Why or why not?

d) Reflection question. Would you consider yourself a Spirit-filled church member? Why or why not?

e) Discussion question. What are the practical ways of changing Sigma's mind?