

Holy Spirit in the Church (Part Two): Wind and Fire

Relevant Bible Verses: Acts 2:1-12 ; Exodus 19:16-19

Main Points: The Holy Spirit has a way of surprising us, even if expecting him. When he first appeared among the disciples, the presence of God was made apparent through audible and visual signs, in a way they *knew* wasn't natural (no denying the presence of God).

Message Notes:

- In Acts 2, the disciples were gathered together in obedience. This obedience is important when seeking the Holy Spirit because some think that sacrifices are badges of the Holy Spirit, and some would only seek the Holy Spirit if they can get him 'To Go'. If they have to *wait*, as God told the disciples to do, they may not want to put in the time and effort.
- The Holy Spirit has a way of surprising us, even if we're expecting him. Jesus appeared in a locked room, and his first words were peace be with you. In Acts, he came *suddenly*, much like the way we experience God today, but it is always clear that it is God's presence.
- In the upper room, the Spirit appeared with both audible, with the sound of blowing wind and tongues of all languages, and visual signs, like the tongues of fire. Through these things, the presence of God was made known, without a doubt. In Exodus there were similar signs when God appeared on Mount Sinai.
- The Greek word, Pneuma, indicates air, breath, or wind in motion. God spoke word into existence. Adam had the breath of life breathed into him. The Holy Spirit reflects this *pneuma*.
- When he appeared to the disciples, he appeared not only with a wind, but a *violent* wind, one that was clearly not natural but from heaven. The Holy Spirit WILL shake us up; locked doors inside will be blown open, hidden things will be exposed in our lives. In addition, it filled the *whole house* as the Spirit does in our lives. You cannot partly let the Spirit in. When he comes, he fills you entirely.
- When they saw the fire, the words used are that they *seemed* to be tongues of fire. In other words, they knew it wasn't natural, like the burning bush and the catch of fish that almost tipped the boat over. The tongues of fire separated (indicating one source) to rest on all (not just the leaders).
- There's something fascinating about fire. When you divide it, it doesn't diminish but rather intensifies. The Holy Spirit is a refining fire, undiminishing. Whatever he moves through, he cleanses.
- **Summary:**
 - The Holy Spirit is a gift, you can't buy or earn it. In addition, he's a promised gift, for us, our children, and our children's children. In the

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same way you receive a worldly gift, you receive the Holy Spirit simply by accepting it and waiting in obedience.

For Further Study:

- Take the same desire, same hunger, that you have at church into your home, to receive the Holy Spirit, expecting him to shake things up.