21 DAYS

PRAYER & FASTING

Day 1

Spirit-filled People Experience Unusual Outpourings

Read Acts 2:1-4

Reflect

There are experiences in our lives that are 'once in a lifetime' experiences. They are moments we will never forget, markers of sorts in our lives, so unusual that we are sure we will never forget them.

Acts 2:1-4 is that type of unusual outpouring of the Holy Spirit that was a 'once in a lifetime' experience. This passage of Scripture, which begins our 21 Days of Prayer and Fasting, describes an event that gave birth to the early church. It is a moment that was not dictated or orchestrated by man; instead, it was a supernatural experience that God initiated to begin a movement across the globe that we are still feeling the impact of, as we are a part of the local church that finds its beginning in what happens in Acts 2.

God is still pouring out His Spirit in unusual ways in the lives of men and women who are seeking to be filled with the Spirit of God! Over the next 21 days, I hope you will be persistent and determined to boldly ask the Lord to pour out His Spirit in an unusual way in our church family.

Pray

That we would acknowledge our need for the Holy Spirit.

That we would persist in our prayers.

That we would never stop praying for revival and awakening.

Day 2

Spirit-filled People Share Life-Giving Community

Read Acts 2:42-47

Reflect

Think about all the groups you've been part of—social, political, religious, business, or recreational. Most of the ones you've left "timed out." Their value no longer outweighed the commitment they required. Seasons change, priorities shift, and responsibilities grow. That's normal. Yet we're sometimes tempted to treat church the same way. Why is church different? Why isn't usefulness the right measure for staying connected? How does church become a duty instead of a life-giving place? And how do we recover joy and belonging in the body of Christ?

Let's return to Scripture and notice what stands out. Are we experiencing, pursuing, and celebrating these qualities in our church? Three words rise to the surface: **DEVOTED**, **ALL**, and **DAY BY DAY**.

They were devoted to teaching, fellowship, worship, and prayer. All shared life together, met one another's needs, and stood in awe of God. Day by day, they gathered, ate together, praised God, and watched Him grow the church.

A life-giving community means we want it and cannot wait to experience it every day. We become so devoted to the teaching of God's word and to His calling, wanting to be a part of His Kingdom; we seek it out every day and with everyone. And because of that, we are seeing life change happen all around us. Being part of a life-giving church community is not just about attending or even participating once or twice a week. It is bringing the church community into our everyday life.

Pray

That we would be filled with His Spirit and lead people to Christ.

That we would be involved in a life-giving community.

Ask the Lord, what our part is in building this community.

Day 3

Spirit-filled People Speak With Unexplainable Boldness

Read Acts 4:18-20

Reflect

In the beginning of Acts 4, we see Peter and John boldly preaching the Gospel in Jerusalem. Thousands came to believe their message. Rulers and teachers of the law took notice and met together, concerned and astonished. They ordered Peter and John to stop spreading their message and speaking in the name of Jesus. Peter and John's response? Unwavering obedience to remain bold in sharing the Gospel!

When opposition came their way, Peter and John did not back down from witnessing or water down their message; instead, they stood firm in their obedience to boldly proclaim salvation in Christ alone. In a culture full of compromise and conformity, Christ calls us to boldness. Are we a people moved to action? In our action, are we expectant for a mighty move of God? May our prayers reflect our desperation for the move of Christ in us and around us.

Pray

That we would be more desperate for Him.

That we would see God do the miraculous.

That we would boldly share the Gospel and more would be saved.

Day 4

Spirit-filled People Stand Faithfully in Persecution

Read Acts 14:21-22

Reflect

In the second century, Ignatius of Antioch considered tribulations to be a sign of a true Christian disciple. While imprisoned and awaiting his impending martyrdom, he said, "When I suffer, I shall be the freedman of Jesus, and shall rise again emancipated in Him." For Ignatius (and so many others throughout the history of Christianity), suffering was an expected byproduct of one's commitment to following Jesus. To accept Jesus as Lord means the acceptance of persecution from an unbelieving world. With the cross of Christ before you and the world behind, there is to be no turning back. Still, only resilience "to continue in the faith" (Acts 14:22). When we endure persecution, it may seem like we are castaways from the world. Yet persecution unites each of us to a robust community of faithful ones that historically has been used to launch some of the most tremendous Gospel advancements in all of human history.

Pray

That we would support those around us.

That we would keep our eyes on the mission.

That we would remember that tribulations are normal and joyfully persevere by grace.

Day 5

Spirit-filled People Practice Unceasing Prayer

Read Acts 1:12-14

Reflect

There is something powerful about when a community of believers comes together to pray. Think about a time when you prayed with your close friends, family, or small group.

This passage shows that the disciples were devoting themselves to prayer. This wait time was not a passive one, but an active, devoted time spent in prayer for the power of the Holy Spirit. They all came together for just one thing: to pray. The disciples were obedient, united, and intentionally prayed together.

As we devote ourselves to people who pray without ceasing, may we experience a depth and a power in our prayer life like we have never experienced. As the Spirit of God indwells us and guides us throughout the day, we can be a people who stay in constant communication with the Father.

Pray

That we would be INTENTIONAL in prayer.

That we would be CONCENTRATED in prayer.

That we would expend spiritual EFFORT in prayer.

Day 6

Spirit-Filled People Send and are Sent

Read Acts 13:1-3

Reflect

As we read the calling and sending of the first missionaries, we should note the position these men were in. "Position" can refer to status or role, but its truest meaning is one's location, posture, or responsibility. First, note their location. They were in Antioch, an important city in south-central Turkey, where many believers fled after Stephen's martyrdom. Yet the key detail was not the city itself but their active involvement in the local church. For a whole year, they taught Jews and Greeks, and it was in Antioch that Jesus' followers were first called Christians (Acts 11:25–26).

Second, note their posture. Scripture says, "while they were worshiping the Lord and fasting…" (Acts 13:2). Their hearts, minds, and souls were centered on Christ. In this Spirit-filled posture, they were able to hear and receive the call God placed on their lives.

Finally, note the church's responsibility: "After fasting and praying, they laid their hands on them and sent them off" (Acts 13:3). Churches—not pastors or organizations—send missionaries and plant churches. Church, as Spirit-filled people, we are called both to send and to be sent.

Pray

That we would position ourselves to best hear and respond to the Holy Spirit's call on our lives.

That any obstacles and distractions that keep us from pursuing God's call on our lives would be removed.

That God would give us the wisdom, courage, and discernment to be obedient in being sent or sending.

Day 7

Spirit-filled People Multiply!

Read John 14:12-14

Reflect

In John 14:12-14, Jesus makes a promise that's almost hard to take in. He tells His followers that those who trust in Him will actually do "greater works" than He did. He's not talking about one-upping His miracles; nobody is beating water turned into wine or strolling across the Sea of Galilee. What He's getting at is something far bigger: the Gospel going further than it ever had before.

Once Jesus was resurrected and ascended, the Gospel began to spread into new regions, cultures, languages, and hearts. Regular, Spirit-empowered believers who took the Great Commission seriously accomplished this by spreading the hope of Jesus wherever they went.

Friends, Jesus invites us into that same mission today. And He doesn't just leave us on our own—He meets us and equips us as we pray. Praying "in Jesus' name" means wanting what He wants, asking for what brings Him glory, and trusting Him to work.

As we pray and fast today, remember this: Spirit-filled people multiply. Jesus is still moving His mission forward through ordinary, obedient people. May that be true of us.

Pray

That the Spirit would call more men to gospel ministry.

That more churches would develop intentional training for church planters.

That God would open doors to plant churches in Arkansas, especially among the 80 unreached people groups in our state.

Day 8

Spirit-filled People Experience Unusual Outpourings

Read Acts 1-2

Reflect

The beginning of Acts records the first outpouring of the Holy Spirit upon all who believe in Jesus as Lord. The gift of the Holy Spirit is for everyone who would follow Christ, not a select few. The coming of the Holy Spirit is a fulfillment of a promise Jesus made to us as believers: "And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever, even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, for he dwells with you and will be in you."

When we open our hearts to the Holy Spirit, the outpouring of God is beyond our abilities, and we are allowed to watch as His Spirit works in others and ourselves. The disciples spoke in multiple languages, not for their own benefit, but for the benefit of those witnesses to the glory and power of God, which leads to the redemption of man. The Spirit builds up the body of believers who are used and adds to the number of those being saved.

Pray

That we would surrender to start each day and season in unceasing prayer.

That God would bring a great movement of His Spirit in our lives, homes, churches, and nation.

Day 9

Spirit-filled People Share Life-Giving Community

Read Acts 2:42

Reflect

Have you ever found that with each new stage of life, making friends becomes harder? Think back to your childhood—those days when you could meet someone and become best friends in a single afternoon. The awkward teenage years likely brought with them a few more layers of trust to break through before you found someone who could be a true friend. And as the days and years went by, this truth may have become more and more pronounced.

Do you believe that we need true friends in our church family? Hopefully you do. As the family of God, we find ourselves with something close to a directive in Acts 2:42 to devote ourselves to one another—not for social status, but for the good things God has called the church to be and to do.

Being a friend and making friends requires trust. It requires vulnerability. Pray that the Holy Spirit will give us the grace to be people who are willing to be true friends and truly be part of this life-giving community we call the church.

Pray

That we would practice the "one anothers' by His Spirit's power.

That God would give our church a genuine, Spirit-filled unity.

Day 10

Spirit-filled People Speak With Unexplainable Boldness

Read Acts 4:13

Reflect

Webster's definition of boldness is the quality of having a strong, vivid, or clear appearance/ a willingness to take risks and act innovatively, and having confidence or courage.

Ephesians 3:12 states that in **HIM** we have boldness and confident access through faith in **HIM**. Even as an ordinary man, we have access to the Father, who in turn will give us the boldness to proclaim His goodness. Are you willing to allow the power of Christ to transform your life so that you have a "strong, vivid, and clear appearance" of Jesus in your life? Are you willing to take the risk of confidently allowing people to see the power of Christ in you? Do you have the confidence in what you believe and the courage to step out in faith as you seek to carry out the Great Commission?

Tony Evans' commentary states, "If you've never 'been with Jesus' in a spiritual relationship and enrolled in his school of discipleship, you'll make no lasting spiritual impact on others." Who do you need to approach with boldness to share the love of Christ?

Pray

That we would love people as Christ loves them.

That we would speak to people with boldness.

That the Spirit would speak to their hearts.

Day 11

Spirit-filled People Stand Faithfully in Persecution

Read Acts 5:41-42

Reflect

Pain has rarely, if ever, been something we associate with worth or honor in and of itself. However, Acts 5:41 speaks of suffering for the name of Jesus as something one is counted worthy of, which implies some aren't worthy to suffer. That may not make sense to our Western minds.

In Isaiah 52:13-53:12, we find the passage most commonly referred to as The Suffering Servant, which begins with this phrase: "See, my servant, will prosper…" Isaiah goes on to foretell the terrible amount of suffering the Messiah would endure for our salvation.

If Jesus prospered by passing through suffering, then how great a joy for us to be counted worthy to share in His suffering with Him for the sake of His great name. So when life tempts us to despair over an injustice or an unexplainable suffering, be encouraged. Pray to the Lord for the Holy Spirit to strengthen you as you become more like Jesus—the same Jesus who promised His disciples that in this world they would have many sorrows, but still encouraged them to take heart because He has overcome the world (John 16:33).

Pray

That we would understand and long for real JOY.

That we would be filled with the Spirit even during persecution.

That we would recognize the purposes of God in persecution and cooperate with His plan with joy.

Day 12

Spirit-filled People Practice Unceasing Prayer

Read Acts 2:1-4 & Acts 12:5

Reflect

On the day of Pentecost, the disciples gathered with expectancy, not knowing exactly what God would do, but sure that He would move. When the Holy Spirit arrived like a rushing wind, everything changed, and ordinary followers were filled with extraordinary power. That same Spirit is still given to every believer and is still moving and powerful. But by what means does He move in and through His people? In Acts 12, the church faced a dark moment when Peter was imprisoned. Their response was earnest, fervent, unceasing prayer. Their prayers were the knock on Heaven's doorway that flung open the door to Heaven's power, moving on Peter's behalf. We can pray in this same way. We must pray in this way! We never know whose chains may fall off because we chose to pray.

Pray

That we would pray without ceasing.

That we would hear from heaven and see His power.

That we would pray in ways that people's chains fall off.

Day 13

Spirit-Filled People Send and are Sent

Read Deuteronomy 7:6; Ephesians 3:10; Acts 13:2

Reflect

Though we are finite, fragile, and fallible, yet still the Creator of all things chooses us "to be a people for His treasured possession" (Deuteronomy 7:6). But in God's economy, to treasure something is **NOT** like that of a toy collector that purchases an 80's era action figure only to keep it in the original packaging and never play with it. In God's economy, to treasure something is to give it purpose and usefulness.

God treasures His Church—not a building or service time, but a people set apart for the work the Spirit has called them to do (Acts 13:2), to make known His manifold wisdom (Ephesians 3:10). This purpose is worthy not because we are worthy, but because the One who calls us is worthy.

God desires that a multitude from every nation, tribe, and tongue will one day gather around His throne and proclaim, "Salvation belongs to our God" (Revelation 7:9). Church, as Spirit-filled people, we are His treasured possession—called both to Send and to be Sent.

Pray

Thanks to God for giving us a purpose despite our fallen nature.

That God will do a work first in us so that we might be able to fulfill the call He placed on our lives to be His hands and feet among the lost.

Day 14

Spirit-filled People Multiply!

Read Acts 1:8

Reflect

A cherished title that we have as believers is **AMBASSADORS** of reconciliation. To learn more about the title given to us, look at 2 Corinthians 5:14-21. It is the idea that God is making His appeal through us to the world, calling it to be reconciled with Him. We are the example of what it looks like to be right with God, who created and sustains all things. Our very lives reflect the truth of being reconciled to God. WE are His witnesses, as Acts 1:8 states, through our example and our bold acknowledgement of God in our everyday lives. Because of that, how we do life looks completely different (or should) because we are not at enmity with God, but He calls us friend, He calls us His OWN. If this is true, then the impact will be felt by every level of connection we have: our Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, and the ends of the earth.

So what are those places for you? Below are listed, in order, regional, relational, and religious possibilities for what your Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, and the ends of the earth are. Perhaps God has given you another way to look at these places and has directed you to pray that you will be a witness in all aspects of your life.

Regional: Benton, Arkansas, USA, other countries/ peoples

Relational: everyday, every week, every month, occasionally

Religious: our church, like-minded churches, Christian in word only, people of other faiths

Pray

That we would be attentive to the lostness in our Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, and the ends of the earth.

That we would have intentional Gospel conversations with our family.

That we would be active in sharing our faith with those who are not followers of Christ.

Day 15

Spirit-filled People Experience Unusual Outpourings

Read Acts 2:1-5

Reflect

Shortly before His death, Jesus made a promise to His fearful disciples. While he would not physically be with them, he would send an advocate to be with them forever. This advocate, the Holy Spirit, would live in and with believers.

Jesus' promise to his followers is now fulfilled in Acts 2, as people from all ends of the earth gather for the Jewish harvest festival, Pentecost. As they were gathered together all in one place, something unusual, though not unpredicted, took place. The Holy Spirit, through sounds of mighty rushing winds and bright lights of fire, brought life and judgment.

As we reflect on moments such as this and see the power of the Holy Spirit, let us pray that we don't forget that the same Spirit lives in us if we follow Jesus. He is still mighty, strong, and capable of doing more than we can think or imagine. With confidence that He is always with us, we can make room for the Spirit to be poured out in any way, time, or place through heartfelt surrender to the Lord.

Pray

That our hearts are fully committed to the Lord.

That we would see outpourings of the Spirit.

That we take note of where God is working and choose to join Him there.

Day 16

Spirit-filled People Share Life-Giving Community

Read Acts 2:42

Reflect

According to chapter 9 of the Gospel of Luke, the first disciples of Jesus were worried about their daily provisions, argued about who would be the greatest among them, and remained confused about how the Kingdom of God affected relationships with family and neighbors alike. These same disciples are described in Acts 2 as part of a community that was "devoted"; devotion does not arise from ambivalence or happenstance, but rather from volition, a desire from one's will. Between Luke 9 and Acts 2, the Holy Spirit has filled the hearts of these disciples to respond to God's grace with deep devotion, and because of the Spirit's work within them, they "produce fruit in keeping with repentance" (Luke 3:8) as John the Baptist predicted. The fruit of a repentant community led to intentional fellowship and holistic care for one another.

Pray

That we would desire life-giving community.

That God will be the focus of our life-giving community.

That fruit will come from our life-giving community.

Day 17

Spirit-filled People Speak With Unexplainable Boldness

Read Acts 3:1-10

Reflect

The story of Peter and John's encounter with this crippled man is well-known. The man thought his greatest need was to receive money in his tin cup from those entering the Temple to give an offering. It is also interesting to note that this man was placed daily at the entrance of the Temple, so Peter and John had likely passed by them many times before as they went to the Temple to give an offering, to worship, and to teach. So, what drew their attention to this lame man in this specific encounter?

It is because the power of the Holy Spirit now fills Peter and John. They see situations, opportunities, and people differently now. They see situations for God to use their lives in powerful ways for His glory. They see opportunities for the Holy Spirit to empower them to do things they have been hesitant to attempt before. They have moved from seeing people as a distraction to seeing them as the reason God has gifted and empowered them by His Spirit.

As we continue to seek the filling of the Holy Spirit, would you pray for God to give us an unexplainable boldness to verbally speak the Gospel to those whom God puts in our daily path?

Pray

That we would walk in the power of the Holy Spirit.

That the Spirit would give us eyes to see people in need.

That we would have unexplainable boldness to speak the gospel.

Day 18

Spirit-filled People Stand Faithfully in Persecution

Read Acts 5:17-21

Reflect

The early church understood that following Jesus often meant facing fierce opposition, yet they moved forward with unwavering faith. In Acts 5, the apostles were arrested not because they did wrong, but because the religious leaders were jealous of the power of God working through them. Even in prison, God had not abandoned them. He sent an angel to open the doors and set them free. The commands they received were bold and straightforward: “Go”, “stand”, and “speak.” Rather than retreating in fear, the apostles returned to the very place of danger and faithfully preached the words of life at daybreak.

Spirit-filled people do not let persecution silence their witness. We preach to darkness, not run from it. The Holy Spirit empowers us to obey God’s voice when circumstances grow difficult or discouraging. And He teaches us to rejoice, not because trials are pleasant, but because Christ is worthy. May we stand with the same courage, trusting that God is present, powerful, and always calling us onward - even in our most challenging moments.

Pray

That we would be relentless in sharing the gospel, even when opposed.

That we would obey God, even in tough times.

That we would rejoice even when in opposition.

Day 19

Spirit-filled People Practice Unceasing Prayer

Read Acts 1:14; Acts 2:42; Acts 4:31

Reflect

Hopefully, we can all agree that we like to consider ourselves devoted people—devoted to our families, our jobs, habits that keep us healthy, and even a certain sports team. We devote ourselves to things we believe in, care about, and value. Often, we think of devotion as something personal. However, Acts 1:14 and 2:42 show us that we are to be devoted to prayer together. There is a shared responsibility to carry one another's burdens, to petition the Lord on behalf of each other, and to trust in His faithfulness as a community. When we devote ourselves to the practice of unceasing prayer together, we grow more attentive to how He is working around us.

On Day 3, we read about Peter and John's boldness in continuing to proclaim that salvation is through Christ alone, even in the face of persecution. Acts 4:31 describes how the other believers responded when they heard what had happened. They prayed for boldness in the face of opposition, healing from ailments, and miracles in Jesus' name. The shaking of the place where they gathered was evidence of their prayers and of the powerful presence of the Holy Spirit. When we devote ourselves to unceasing prayer together, we will experience the power and presence of the Holy Spirit in our lives.

Pray

That we would be filled with the Holy Spirit today.

That we would have a running conversation with God all day long.

That people would see the evidence of our prayers from our life and church.

Day 20

Spirit-Filled People Send and are Sent

Read Acts 13:1-3

Reflect

As these devotionals come to a close, let's focus on the obedience and support we see in the church at Antioch in Acts 13:1-3.

In response to the Holy Spirit's command, "Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them" (Acts 13:2), we see in verse 3 that the church obeyed by commissioning Paul and Barnabas, sending them out as missionaries. These were the first called missionaries, and while God only called a few at that time, the church didn't question the call. Instead, they supported the newly commissioned missionaries "after fasting and praying, they laid their hands on them and sent them off" (Acts 13:3). This act wasn't the church empowering Paul or Barnabas or giving them the Holy Spirit; instead, they were supporting the call on their lives.

We need to posture ourselves to be receptive to God's calling for us and our church, so that we may be ready to say yes and prayerfully support others.

Pray

That we would posture ourselves to hear God's voice, as a believer and a church.

That we would join what God is doing immediately.

That we would continue to pray for those He calls.

Day 21

Spirit-filled People Multiply!

Read Acts 2:46-47

Reflect

1 Corinthians 13 tells us that faith, hope, and love are the elements we should desire, with the greatest of these being love. Love originates with the Father who showed us His love first, while we were yet sinners. He sent Jesus to live out His love on earth, showing us that we can have faith in our heavenly Father. He died and rose again so we would have hope for a future with Him eternally.

Love is the greatest because it leads us to gratitude in salvation and a clear purpose in life, to share that love with others in the good news of Jesus. This love brings about faith and hope, and should inspire us to share again and again to make more disciples who make disciples. Without discipleship, there is no conversion. How will they know of God's goodness unless we share it in love? How will they desire to have a faith and hope like ours unless we live it before them?

Pray

That our prayer life would be filled with passion.

That God would use everything in our life to lead to multiplying disciples and churches.

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

BENTON • ARKANSAS