

Discussion Questions

March 17, 2024

Acts 2:14-41 - Spirit-Empowered Boldness for Today



1. Reflect on a time when you felt empowered by the Holy Spirit to step out of your comfort zone.
What was the experience like for you? How did it impact your faith journey?

2. Read: Acts 2:14-18

Summarize the main points that Joel says will happen.

Paul says the disciples speaking in tongues and sharing of what God has done is a fulfillment of what Joel had prophesied. In what ways is this prophecy being fulfilled at Pentecost?

3. Read Ephesians 5:18

Consider the contrast between being filled with the Spirit and being drunk, as discussed in the sermon. How does the Holy Spirit enable us to experience true joy and boldness without reliance on external substances or circumstances?

4. We saw in the sermon going back to Moses the desire for all people to be filled with the Spirit, then echoed in Joel, and demonstrated in Acts. Discuss why you think this is not the lived reality for most Christians. What factors do you think prevent people from increasingly living this Spirit-empowered life as a way of life laid out in Scripture?

5. In what ways are you challenged to or already reaching out to the nations on our door-step?

What are the barriers preventing us from doing so, and how can they be overcome?

6. Pray together for God's empowering presence for boldness to be His witnesses in your spheres of influence.

Acts 2:14–18,21 (NLT)

Then Peter stepped forward with the eleven other apostles and shouted to the crowd, "Listen carefully, all of you, fellow Jews and residents of Jerusalem! Make no mistake about this. These people are not drunk, as some of you are assuming. Nine o'clock in the morning is much too early for that. No, what you see was predicted long ago by the prophet Joel: 'In the last days,' God says, 'I will pour out my Spirit upon all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy. Your young men will see visions, and your old men will dream dreams. In those days I will pour out my Spirit even on my servants—men and women alike—and they will prophesy. But everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.'

Acts 2:15 (NASB 2020)

For these people are not drunk, as you assume, since it is only the third hour of the day;

Numbers 11:17 (NLT)

I will take some of the Spirit that is upon you, and I will put the Spirit upon them also. They will bear the burden of the people along with you, so you will not have to carry it alone.

Numbers 11:26 (NLT)

Two men, Eldad and Medad, had stayed behind in the camp. They were listed among the elders, but they had not gone out to the Tabernacle. Yet the Spirit rested upon them as well, so they prophesied there in the camp.

Numbers 11:27–29 (NLT)

A young man ran and reported to Moses, "Eldad and Medad are prophesying in the camp!"

Joshua... protested, "Moses, my master, make them stop!"

But Moses replied, "Are you jealous for my sake? **"I wish that all the Lord's people were prophets and that the Lord would put his Spirit upon them all!"**

Matthew 26:70–74 (NIV)

But he denied it before them all. "I don't know what you're talking about," ..another servant girl saw him and said to the people there, "This fellow was with Jesus of Nazareth." He denied it again, with an oath: "I don't know the man!" After a little while, those standing there went up to Peter and said, "Surely you are one of them; your accent gives you away." Then he **began to call down curses**, and he swore to them, "I don't know the man!"

Ephesians 5:18 (NIV)

Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery. Instead, be filled with the Spirit,

Acts 2:5 (NLT)

..there were devout Jews from every nation..

Parthians, Medes, Elamites, people from Mesopotamia, Judea, Cappadocia, Pontus, the province of Asia, Phrygia, Pamphylia, Egypt, Libya, Cyrene, Rome, Cretans, and Arabs.



Begin with prayer
Listen
Eat
Serve
Story