

St Andrew's Goldsworth Park
Sunday May 15 2016
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study notes

Acts 2.1-41
I will pour out my Spirit

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Opener: A quick quiz!

- 1) In 1910 66% of Christians lived in Europe. What do you think the estimated percentage is today?
- 2) In 1910 1.4% of Christians were in Sub-Saharan Africa—and today?
- 3) In 1910 0.7% of Christians came from North Africa and the Middle East—what do you think the percentage is today?

Answers 1) 25.9%, 2) 23.6%, 3) 0.6%.

Source: Pew Research Centre's Forum on Religion and Public Life, Global Christianity 2011.

'Go and make disciples of all nations' Matthew 28.19

Do the figures surprise you at all? Where do they suggest to you that our efforts to make disciples today should be focussed? Are those areas the priority of most British churches today—and of your church?

'Pentecost is not just a party from the past; the Holy Spirit is still being poured out on all believers, even today.' The sermon

Q: Do you agree or disagree? Can you give examples to support your opinion?

Read Acts 2.1-41 together.

Luke describes the coming of the Holy Spirit with images of wind and fire. John Wesley, the founder of the Methodist Church, speaks of his heart being strangely warmed when he received the Holy Spirit. Is it helpful to hear of others' descriptions of the Holy Spirit?

Q: Why? Why not?

On the day of Pentecost the crowd heard the disciples speaking in their own language about the wonderful things God had done. When some in the crowd blame alcohol Peter explains what is happening quoting the prophet Joel (Joel 2.28-32), Acts 17 and 18.

Q: Who will receive God's Spirit? (*Everyone – God will pour out his Spirit on all-flesh—no-one is overlooked*).

Q: What is the result of receiving God's Spirit? (The Holy Spirit will cause people to prophesy, see visions and dream).

It is not until the Holy Spirit comes and reignites their shattered dreams that the disciples fully grasp God's vision—Jesus really is the Saviour of the World! 'Everyone who calls on the name of the LORD will be saved' (verse 21). Now they have a Gospel to proclaim!

The Holy Spirit fills the disciples after a time of great turbulence, and refreshed John and his brother Charles Wesley after their missionary work had left them feeling discouraged and defeated, with their faith at a low ebb.

Q: How do you need the Holy Spirit to bless and equip you in your Christian life?

Q: This week where might you proclaim the wonderful things that God has done?

Prayer

Pray with those who would like to be refreshed by the Holy Spirit or filled with the Holy Spirit.

Pray that as individuals and as a Church we would be open to the Holy Spirit and all *His* gifts.

Pray for our witness as a Church in Goldsworth Park, and as individuals where-ever God has placed us. Pray for our mission partners both Near and Far (see the website for details).