

Upside Down Living

The First Message of the Church

Acts 2

The Big Picture

On the day of Pentecost, the people were filled with the Holy Spirit. On that day, Peter, gave the first sermon to the early church, which led to 3000 conversions and gives us a model for effective evangelism. Pastor Greg outlines 8 key elements that make Peter's sermon one of the great sermons of all time.

Key Points

A Supernatural work of God (Read: Acts 2:1-13)

The supernatural activity of God on the day of Pentecost was beyond the grasp of humans. People were amazed and perplexed by what they were witnessing when suddenly there came from heaven a noise like a violent, rushing wind and flames and the people were empowered by the Holy Spirit. The Bible describes an incredible scene that will never be repeated again but the Bible also is clear that we too can be filled with the Holy Spirit again and again

To be filled with the Holy Spirit (Acts 4:10, Acts 13:8-10, Acts 4:31, Ephesians 5:18-21)

To be filled with the Spirit means that God's Spirit is infiltrating every aspect of your lives. He is permeating your prayer life, and your worship life. He is permeating your business too. He is permeating the way you treat others and your marriage. To be filled with the Spirit means, I am carried along by and under control of Jesus Christ. It means, I fill myself with the Word of God so His thoughts become my thoughts. His standards are my standards and His will is my will.

Peter's Amazing Sermon (Read: Acts 2:14-41)

The ingredients Peter uses to make this a great sermon are found in these key elements.

1. Peter knew his audience.
2. Peter adapted to his situation. (1 Corinthians 9:19-23)
3. Peter's message was Scriptural. (1 Peter 3:15, Isaiah 55:10-11)
4. Peter's message was Christ-centered. (1 Corinthians 1:2, 23)
5. Peter's message called sin, sin! (Galatians 1:6-8)
6. Peter's message was incredibly bold.
7. Peter went for a decision. (John 16:8)
8. Peter's message preached repentance. (2 Corinthians 7:10)

Take Action

Pray to God with thanks to the Lord for the work of the Holy Spirit in the early church that turned the world upside down and for its continued work in our own lives. Ask God to fill and refill you so that you will joyfully walk each and every day in the center of God's will.