

LIFE GROUP SERMON SUMMARY QUESTIONS

Acts Series

These questions are for the **September 15, 2019** sermon, "A Mighty, Rushing Wind." Please read the sermon passage (Acts 2:1-13) together out loud.

Sermon Outline

AS WE CONSIDER THE GREATEST OF BIBLICAL REVIVALS, NOTE . . .

1. The nature of this work by the Holy Spirit (1-4)
 - a. The timing of God is ordered and perfect (Jerusalem full of people from nations!)
 - b. The Holy Spirit is not a power to harness, but a Person who dwells within believers.
 - c. The coming of the Spirit is "sudden," and marked by wind and fire, which are both significant symbols of God's presence in the Older Testament.
2. The effect of the work by the Holy Spirit (5-11)
 - a. The goal of making God's Work and greatness known across languages is accomplished.
 - b. See how this moment (many people hearing of God's glory across language barriers) is a reversal of Genesis 11 (Babel, languages were confused as they sought their own glory).
 - c. When the Spirit is at work it produces wonder and awe.
3. The response to this work by the Holy Spirit (12-13)
 - a. Some respond with amazement. They may still have further questions.
 - b. Some respond with mocking. Their opposition seems more hardened.
 - c. In all of this, the evidence is put forth: Jesus is alive, and his Spirit has now come.

Life Group Discussion Questions

1. Based on #1, above: The Holy Spirit is not a "power" (or an 'it') to be harnessed, but a Person who dwells in believers. Why do we struggle with this concept? Process this: we cannot get 'more' of the Holy Spirit, because he resides fully in every believer. But we can submit 'more' of our minds, our emotions and our wills to him.
2. Based on #2, above: The gift of speaking and understanding languages was certainly a miracle that occurred at Pentecost. But the point of the gift was to make the greatness of God known (especially the resurrection of Jesus) throughout the "nations." How does the presence of the Holy Spirit in your life help you witness to the resurrection of Jesus (the fact that he lives!) to people in your world? How have you experienced the power promised in Acts 1:8?
3. Based on #3, above: Some people respond to the call of God with cynicism (and this can be good!) by saying, "What does this mean?" Have you had a conversation with someone who asks, "What is the meaning of the resurrection of Jesus?" How do you answer that question?
4. Based on #3, above: Some people mock at the idea of Jesus. No matter what happens, they will explain it away, sometimes by calling into question the morals and sensibilities of the ones witnessing about Jesus. Peter addresses their mocking with clarity, and without taking it personally. Have you ever been mocked for speaking about the powerful work of God? How did you respond? How can you respond with clarity but without getting defensive?