



PERSONAL STUDY GUIDE

SEPTEMBER 3, 2017

BIBLICAL EMPHASIS:

The Holy Spirit filled Jesus' disciples and empowered them to fulfill the Great Commission.

MAIN POINT:

The church as a spiritual revolution has captured the hearts of men and women since the day the Holy Spirit descended on a small, praying group whose trust was in Jesus the Christ.

INTRODUCTION

- 1 Make a list of words or thoughts related to revolution.
- 2 How do these words and statements apply to the church today?
- 3 How is revolution in the world different than spiritual revolution?

ESSENTIAL QUESTIONS

> Read Acts 2:1-4.

¹ When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. ² Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. ³ They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. ⁴ All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them.

- What were the disciples doing when the Holy Spirit arrived?
- What are some reasons why the disciples may have been together?
- Read John 14:15-18. The coming of the Holy Spirit was a fulfillment of Jesus' promise to the disciples. Why did Jesus send the Holy Spirit?

> Read Acts 2:5-13.

⁵ Now there were staying in Jerusalem God-fearing Jews from every nation under heaven. ⁶ When they heard this sound, a crowd came together in bewilderment, because each one heard

them speaking in his own language. ⁷ Utterly amazed, they asked: “Are not all these men who are speaking Galileans?” ⁸ Then how is it that each of us hears them in his own native language? ⁹ Parthians, Medes and Elamites; residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, ¹⁰ Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya near Cyrene; visitors from Rome ¹¹ (both Jews and converts to Judaism); Cretans and Arabs—we hear them declaring the wonders of God in our own tongues!” ¹² Amazed and perplexed, they asked one another, “What does this mean?” ¹³ Some, however, made fun of them and said, “They have had too much wine.”

- How did the people around the apostles respond to their ministry? Why do you think the people were so shocked?
- People looked on what happened with suspicion. What are ways God works today that might cause others to be suspicious? Have you encountered anything like this?
- Think back to the introduction where we thought about revolution in the world versus revolution through the Spirit. Why did the crowd not see the significance of what was going on (2 Cor. 4:4)?
- What is revolutionary about the gospel?
- What can you do today to prepare yourself for the world’s rejection?

> Read Philippians 2:5-11.

⁵ Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus: ⁶ Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, ⁷ but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. ⁸ And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient to death—even death on a cross! ⁹ Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, ¹⁰ that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, ¹¹ and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

- What characteristics does Paul list as being indicative of the mind of Christ?
- Why are these characteristics revolutionary?
- Which of these characteristics is most lacking in your life?
- How have you been tempted to grow prideful in your spiritual walk? How has this temptation toward pride affected your ability to offer yourself fully to the spiritual revolution that is the church of Christ?

APPLICATION

- 1 Some people believe that inviting the work of the Holy Spirit into their lives requires extraordinary effort, but the disciples were doing very ordinary things when the Holy Spirit arrived. How might ordinary activities like Bible study, prayer, journaling, worship, and other spiritual disciplines invite the work of the Holy Spirit into your life?
- 2 How can you avoid becoming judgmental of the work of the Holy Spirit around you, like some of the crowd in Acts 2?
- 3 Christians are called upon to have the “mind of Christ.” What would change in your life if you took on the mind of Christ by humbling yourself completely to the plan of God? What first step do you need to take?
- 4 Who do you know that has not embraced the revolutionary message of the gospel? What type of response should we be comfortable with as we seek to tell the world?

THIS WEEK

- Memorize Philippians 2:5.
- Read Acts 2:14-21 on Monday
- Read Acts 2:22-41 on Tuesday
- Read 2 Chronicles 7:13-16 on Wednesday
- Read Ephesians 5:8-20 on Thursday
- Read Philippians 2:12-18 on Friday
- Read 2 Timothy 4:1-8 on Saturday