

041424

“Becoming a Beloved”

Acts 2:1-4 (ESV)

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Background

We gather in worship to remind ourselves who God is, what he has done in Christ and what he is doing through his Spirit. Our desire is to praise God and receive afresh his Spirit in us, to affirm that we are family reconciled one to another and to be empowered to reach out to the world.

Sermon Text: Acts 2:1-4 (ESV)

1. When the day of Pentecost arrived, they were all together in one place. ² And suddenly there came from heaven a sound like a mighty rushing wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. ³ And divided tongues as of fire appeared to them and rested^[a] on each one of them. ⁴ And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance

Discussion Questions

1. Preparation

- What is one thing you hoped to talk about today/tonight?
- What question(s) did you come away with from the sermon?
- What is the best thing you heard on Sunday?

2. Sunday Questions:

(1) Jesus' last command was not, "go and make disciples of all nations" (Matt 28:19), but his last command to the disciples was to "wait". What is the significance of the "wait" to the disciples then, and to believers now?

(2) Pentecost is the birthday of the church. How do you see the Holy Spirit at work in our church at PBCC?

(3) The Holy Spirit came in power upon those first disciples with three signs: sound, sight and speech.

On the church's birthday, there was a sign of sound, "a sound like a mighty rushing wind" (Acts 2:2). Throughout the history of God's dealing with his people, wind is a common phenomenon. Wind refreshes (revitalizes), disturbs (knocks out old ways), and is uncontrollable (blowing where and when He wishes). Have you witnessed Holy Spirit like a wind in any of these ways in your life?

(4) On the church's birthday, there was also a sign of sight, "divided tongues as of fire appeared to them and rested on each one of them" (Acts 2:3). Fire illuminates (opens eyes to see the truth), warms (moves the heart towards God), purifies (burns us until He sees Jesus clearly in us) and spreads (from 120 to 3000 people on that day). Which of these aspects of fire-like Holy Spirit do you relate to?

(5) On the church's birthday, there was the third sign of speech. "And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance" (Acts 2:4). This sign of speech teaches us the ministry of the Holy Spirit: universality, generosity and unity. Can you elaborate on these points? Which point gives you a new insight into the work of the Spirit the most?

(6) Shawn says, "When we repent, believe and receive the gift of the Holy Spirit, we incredibly enter into the Father's love that He has for His beloved Son. We become beloveds!" "Having the Spirit in us, we are on our own journeys with God, following our big brother Jesus." On our journeys, what do we encounter?

1. We can expect times of waiting, waiting on the Spirit.
2. We will fan the flame in order to be His witnesses
3. We can expect observable transformation
4. We participate in a community of beloveds

Could you share one of your personal experiences as God's beloved?

Additional notes:

As of the year 2021, [Christianity](#) had approximately 2.38 billion adherents and is the [largest religion by population](#). According to a [PEW](#) estimation in 2020, Christians made up to 2.38 billion of the worldwide population of about 8 billion people. (Wikipedia)