

CRAWFORD BIBLE COMMENTARY

BIBLE STUDY

Acts Chapter 2 — The Coming of the Holy Spirit and Peter's Sermon

A Verse-by-Verse Bible Study from the Crawford Standard Bible

Introduction

Acts Chapter 2 records one of the most important turning points in the history of the church.

Jesus had promised His disciples:

“You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you.”

In Acts 2, that promise is fulfilled.

The believers are gathered together on the Day of Pentecost when suddenly a sound like a rushing wind fills the house. What appear to be flames of fire rest upon them, and they are filled with the Holy Spirit.

They begin speaking in languages they had not learned.

Visitors from many nations hear the mighty works of God proclaimed in their own native languages.

The miracle draws a crowd.

Some are amazed.

Others mock.

Then Peter stands.

The same Peter who had denied Jesus only weeks earlier now boldly proclaims Jesus Christ before a large crowd.

Peter explains that the coming of the Holy Spirit fulfills the prophecy of Joel.

He then proclaims:

- The ministry of Jesus.
- The crucifixion of Jesus.
- The resurrection of Jesus.
- The exaltation of Jesus.
- The lordship of Jesus.
- The Messiahship of Jesus.

The people are deeply convicted and ask:

“Brothers, what should we do?”

Peter calls them to repentance.

About three thousand people receive the message and are baptized.

The chapter ends by showing what the newborn church looked like.

They devoted themselves to:

The apostles' teaching.

Fellowship.

Breaking bread.

Prayer.

They shared generously.

They worshiped together.

They praised God.

And the Lord continued adding people to the church.

Acts 2 therefore teaches us:

The Holy Spirit empowers the church to proclaim the risen Christ, and the gospel creates a new community devoted to truth, fellowship, prayer, generosity, and worship.

I. THE DAY OF PENTECOST ARRIVES

Acts 2:1 — Together in One Place

“On the day of Pentecost, all the believers were together in one place.”

Pentecost was an important Jewish feast.

It occurred fifty days after Passover and was connected with the harvest.

Jewish worshipers gathered in Jerusalem from many different regions.

God chose this moment to pour out the Holy Spirit.

Cross References

Leviticus 23:16

Count fifty days until the day after the seventh Sabbath. Then present a new grain offering to the Lord.

Deuteronomy 16:10

Celebrate the Feast of Weeks to the Lord your God by bringing a voluntary offering according to how the Lord your God has blessed you.

Exodus 34:22

Celebrate the Feast of Weeks with the firstfruits of the wheat harvest, and celebrate the Feast of Ingathering at the end of the year.

Pentecost already celebrated harvest.

Now a greater spiritual harvest was about to begin.

By the end of the chapter:

About three thousand people would believe.

Spiritual Principle

God often prepares circumstances long before we recognize what He is doing.

Jerusalem was filled with visitors.

The disciples were together.

The promise had been given.

Everything was ready.

II. A SOUND FROM HEAVEN

Acts 2:2 — Like a Powerful Rushing Wind

“Suddenly, a sound came from heaven like a powerful, rushing wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting.”

The sound came:

“From heaven.”

Luke does not say that a literal wind blew through the house.

He says the sound was:

“Like”

a powerful rushing wind.

Wind is frequently associated with the movement and power of God's Spirit.

Cross References

John 3:8

Jesus said, “The wind blows wherever it wishes. You hear its sound, but you do not know exactly where it comes from or where it is going. So it is with everyone born of the Spirit.”

Ezekiel 37:9

Then the Lord told me, “Prophecy to the breath. Say, ‘Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these dead bodies so that they may live.’”

Exodus 19:16

On the morning of the third day there was thunder and lightning. A thick cloud covered the mountain, and a very loud trumpet sound was heard. Everyone in the camp trembled.

Spiritual Principle

The coming of the Holy Spirit was God's action, not human achievement.

The disciples did not manufacture Pentecost.

God sent the Spirit.

III. WHAT LOOKED LIKE FIRE

Acts 2:3 — Flames Rest Upon Them

“Then what looked like flames of fire appeared and settled on each one of them.”

Luke carefully says:

“What looked like flames of fire.”

Fire often symbolizes God's:

- Presence.
- Holiness.
- Purification.
- Power.

Cross References

Exodus 3:2

The angel of the Lord appeared to Moses in a flame of fire from within a bush. Moses saw that the bush was burning, yet it was not consumed.

Isaiah 6:6

Then one of the seraphim flew to me holding a burning coal that he had taken from the altar with tongs.

Matthew 3:11

John said, “I baptize you with water for repentance, but the One coming after me is greater than I am. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.”

Key Truth

God's presence that once appeared dramatically in particular places was now visibly connected with His people.

The Spirit rested upon each believer present.

IV. FILLED WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT

Acts 2:4 — Speaking in Other Languages

“Everyone was filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages as the Spirit enabled them.”

The believers spoke languages they had not naturally learned.

The ability came:

“As the Spirit enabled them.”

Cross References

Joel 2:28

God says, “Afterward I will pour out My Spirit upon all kinds of people. Your sons and daughters will speak God's message, your old men will dream dreams, and your young men will see visions.”

Acts 10:46

The Jewish believers heard the Gentiles speaking in other languages and praising the greatness of God.

Acts 19:6

When Paul placed his hands upon them, the Holy Spirit came upon them, and they spoke in other languages and prophesied.

Spiritual Principle

The Holy Spirit gives ability for the mission God assigns.

The languages at Pentecost had a missionary purpose.

People from many nations were about to hear about God's mighty works.

V. PEOPLE FROM MANY NATIONS WERE IN JERUSALEM

Acts 2:5 — Devout Jews from Everywhere

“At that time, devout Jews from every nation under heaven were staying in Jerusalem.”

God had arranged the circumstances perfectly.

Jewish worshipers from many regions had traveled to Jerusalem for Pentecost.

Cross References

Deuteronomy 16:16

Three times each year all your males must appear before the Lord your God at the place He chooses: at the Feast of Unleavened Bread, the Feast of Weeks, and the Feast of Booths.

Isaiah 66:18

The Lord says, “I know their works and their thoughts. The time is coming when I will gather people from every nation and language, and they will come and see My glory.”

Zechariah 8:22

Many peoples and powerful nations will come to Jerusalem to seek the Lord of hosts and pray for His favor.

Spiritual Principle

God can use ordinary events and human movement to accomplish extraordinary purposes.

VI. EVERYONE HEARD HIS OWN LANGUAGE

Acts 2:6 — The Crowd Is Amazed

“When they heard this sound, a crowd gathered. They were amazed because each one heard the believers speaking in their own native language.”

The miracle was understandable.

The crowd heard recognizable languages.

Cross References

Genesis 11:7

God said, “Come, let Us go down and confuse their language so they will no longer understand one another.”

Genesis 11:9

That is why the city was called Babel, because there the Lord confused the language of the whole earth and scattered the people across the earth.

1 Corinthians 14:10

There are many different languages in the world, and every one of them has meaning.

Pentecost provides a striking contrast with Babel.

At Babel, human rebellion led to confusion and scattering.

At Pentecost, God's Spirit enabled people from different language groups to hear God's mighty works.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

The gospel does not erase human diversity; it carries God's truth across human boundaries.

VII. THE GALILEANS AMAZE THE CROWD

Acts 2:7 — “Aren’t These Galileans?”

“They were completely astonished. ‘Aren’t all these who are speaking Galileans?’ they asked.”

The crowd recognized that these speakers were Galileans.

Yet they were speaking many languages fluently.

Cross References

Acts 1:11

The angels said, “Men of Galilee, why are you standing here looking into the sky? This same Jesus who was taken from you into heaven will return in the same way you saw Him go.”

Matthew 26:73

After a little while, those standing nearby said to Peter, “Surely you are one of them, because your way of speaking gives you away.”

John 7:52

They answered Nicodemus, “Are you also from Galilee? Search the Scriptures and see whether a prophet is expected to come from Galilee.”

Spiritual Principle

God delights in using ordinary people to accomplish work that clearly requires His power.

VIII. EACH PERSON HEARS HIS NATIVE LANGUAGE

Acts 2:8 — A Supernatural Sign

“Then how is it that each of us hears them in our own language where we were born?”

The miracle could not easily be dismissed.

The listeners recognized their own native languages.

Cross References

Genesis 11:1

At that time the whole earth had one language and used the same words.

1 Corinthians 12:10

The Spirit gives one person the ability to perform miracles, another prophecy, another discernment of spirits, another different kinds of languages, and another the interpretation of languages.

1 Corinthians 14:10

There are many kinds of languages in the world, and none of them is without meaning.

Key Truth

God was making His message understandable to people from many nations.

IX. THE NATIONS REPRESENTED

Acts 2:9 — From East to West

“Parthians, Medes, Elamites; people from Mesopotamia, Judea, Cappadocia, Pontus, and Asia.”

Luke begins listing the regions represented in Jerusalem.

Cross References

Genesis 10:22

The sons of Shem included Elam, Asshur, Arphaxad, Lud, and Aram.

1 Peter 1:1

Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, writes to God's chosen people scattered throughout Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia.

Esther 1:1

During the reign of King Ahasuerus, his empire stretched from India to Ethiopia and included 127 provinces.

The list emphasizes the broad reach of the miracle.

X. PEOPLE FROM AFRICA AND ROME

Acts 2:10

“Phrygia, Pamphylia, Egypt, the regions of Libya near Cyrene; visitors from Rome—both Jews and converts to Judaism—”

The crowd represented a remarkable geographic range.

Cross References

Acts 6:9

Opposition arose from members of the Synagogue of the Freedmen, including people from Cyrene, Alexandria, Cilicia, and Asia. They began arguing with Stephen.

Matthew 27:32

As the soldiers went out, they met a man from Cyrene named Simon, and they forced him to carry Jesus' cross.

Acts 28:16

When Paul arrived in Rome, he was allowed to live by himself with a soldier guarding him.

Spiritual Principle

The gospel was already being heard by people connected with regions that would later become major areas of Christian witness.

XI. DECLARING THE WONDERFUL WORKS OF GOD

Acts 2:11

“Cretans and Arabs—we hear them declaring the wonderful works of God in our own languages!”

Notice what they were speaking about.

Not themselves.

Not their spiritual experience.

Not their own greatness.

They were declaring:

“The wonderful works of God.”

Cross References

Titus 1:12

One of the Cretans' own writers said, “Cretans are always liars, dangerous beasts, and lazy gluttons.”

Galatians 1:17

Paul said, “I did not immediately go to Jerusalem to consult those who were apostles before me. Instead I went into Arabia and later returned to Damascus.”

Psalms 145:5

I will meditate upon the glorious splendor of Your majesty and upon Your wonderful works.

Spiritual Principle

The Holy Spirit directs attention toward the greatness of God.

XII. “WHAT DOES THIS MEAN?”

Acts 2:12

“They were all amazed and puzzled. ‘What does this mean?’ they asked one another.”

A supernatural event created a spiritual question.

Peter is about to answer that question through Scripture.

Cross References

Luke 24:4

While they were confused about what had happened, suddenly two men dressed in shining clothing stood beside them.

Mark 9:10

The disciples kept Jesus' words among themselves and discussed what He meant by rising from the dead.

John 20:9

They still did not understand from Scripture that Jesus had to rise from the dead.

Spiritual Principle

Miracles may create questions, but God's Word provides the explanation.

XIII. SOME PEOPLE MOCK

Acts 2:13 — “They’ve Had Too Much Wine”

“But some made fun of them and said, ‘They’ve just had too much wine.’”

Not everyone responded positively.

Some mocked what they did not understand.

Cross References

Ephesians 5:18

Do not become drunk with wine, because that leads to reckless living. Instead, be filled with the Spirit.

1 Corinthians 14:23

If the entire church gathers and everyone speaks in different languages, and outsiders or unbelievers enter, will they not say that you are out of your minds?

1 Samuel 1:14

Eli said to Hannah, “How long will you remain drunk? Put away your wine.”

Spiritual Principle

People may ridicule what God is doing when they interpret spiritual realities only through natural assumptions.

XIV. PETER STANDS AND SPEAKS

Acts 2:14 — A Changed Man

“Then Peter stood up with the eleven, raised his voice, and addressed the crowd: ‘Fellow Jews, and all of you living in Jerusalem, listen carefully.’”

This is the same Peter who denied knowing Jesus.

Now he stands publicly and boldly proclaims Him.

Cross References

Acts 4:8

Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, “Rulers of the people and elders of Israel—”

Acts 4:13

When the leaders saw the boldness of Peter and John and realized that they were ordinary, untrained men, they were amazed. They recognized that these men had been with Jesus.

Luke 22:32

Jesus told Peter, “I have prayed for you that your faith will not fail. And when you have turned back, strengthen your brothers.”

Key Truth

The Holy Spirit can transform fearful disciples into courageous witnesses.

XV. THEY ARE NOT DRUNK

Acts 2:15

“These people are not drunk, as you suppose. It’s only nine o’clock in the morning!”

Peter quickly rejects the accusation.

The explanation is not drunkenness.

It is prophecy being fulfilled.

Cross References

Acts 3:1

Peter and John went to the temple at three o'clock in the afternoon, the time of prayer.

Mark 15:25

It was about nine o'clock in the morning when they crucified Jesus.

John 4:6

Jacob's well was there, and Jesus, tired from His journey, sat beside the well. It was about noon.

XVI. JOEL'S PROPHECY IS BEING FULFILLED

Acts 2:16

“No, this is what was spoken by the prophet Joel.”

Peter interprets Pentecost through Scripture.

Cross References

Joel 2:28

God says, “Afterward I will pour out My Spirit upon all kinds of people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your old men will dream dreams, and your young men will see visions.”

Joel 2:32

Everyone who calls upon the name of the Lord will be saved. Deliverance will come from Mount Zion and Jerusalem among those whom the Lord calls.

Numbers 11:29

Moses replied, “Are you jealous for my sake? I wish that all the Lord's people were prophets and that the Lord would put His Spirit upon them.”

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Spiritual experiences must be interpreted by Scripture, not Scripture interpreted by spiritual experiences.

XVII. GOD WILL POUR OUT HIS SPIRIT

Acts 2:17

“‘In the last days,’ God says, ‘I will pour out My Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your young men will see visions, your old men will dream dreams.’”

The coming of the Spirit marks a major stage in God's redemptive plan.

Cross References

Joel 2:28

God says, “Afterward I will pour out My Spirit upon all kinds of people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your old men will dream dreams, and your young men will see visions.”

Numbers 11:29

Moses said, “I wish all the Lord's people were prophets and that the Lord would place His Spirit upon them.”

Ezekiel 39:29

The Lord says, “I will no longer hide My face from them, because I will pour out My Spirit upon the house of Israel.”

Spiritual Principle

The Spirit's ministry is not restricted to one social class, age group, or gender.

XVIII. MEN AND WOMEN WILL SERVE

Acts 2:18

“Even on My servants, both men and women, I will pour out My Spirit in those days, and they will prophesy.”

God's Spirit empowers both men and women for service.

Cross References

Joel 2:29

“Even upon My male servants and female servants, I will pour out My Spirit in those days.”

Numbers 11:29

Moses said, “I wish that all the Lord's people were prophets and that He would place His Spirit upon them.”

Galatians 3:28

In Christ there is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female, because all believers are one in Christ Jesus.

Key Truth

The Holy Spirit distributes His work according to God's purpose, not human status.

XIX. SIGNS CONNECTED WITH THE DAY OF THE LORD

Acts 2:19–20

“I will show wonders in the heavens above and signs on the earth below, blood and fire and clouds of smoke. The sun will be turned to darkness and the moon to blood before the great and glorious day of the Lord comes.”

Joel's prophecy stretches beyond Pentecost toward the great Day of the Lord.

Cross References

Joel 2:30

I will show wonders in the heavens and upon the earth: blood, fire, and columns of smoke.

Matthew 24:29

Jesus said, “Immediately after the tribulation of those days, the sun will be darkened, the moon will no longer give its light, the stars will fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken.”

Revelation 6:12

When the sixth seal was opened, there was a great earthquake. The sun became dark like black cloth, and the moon became like blood.

Joel 2:31

The sun will be turned to darkness and the moon to blood before the great and fearful Day of the Lord comes.

Amos 5:20

The Day of the Lord will be darkness and not light, deep gloom without brightness.

Spiritual Principle

Pentecost points forward as well as backward.

God's redemptive plan is moving toward final fulfillment.

XX. EVERYONE WHO CALLS ON THE LORD WILL BE SAVED

Acts 2:21

“And everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.”

This is the gracious center of Joel's prophecy.

Judgment is coming.

But salvation is offered.

Cross References

Joel 2:32

Everyone who calls upon the name of the Lord will be saved. Deliverance will be found among those whom the Lord calls.

Romans 10:13

Everyone who calls upon the name of the Lord will be saved.

Romans 10:9

If you openly confess that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.

Key Truth

The gospel invitation is open to everyone who genuinely calls upon the Lord in faith.

XXI. JESUS WAS PUBLICLY APPROVED BY GOD

Acts 2:22

“People of Israel, listen! Jesus of Nazareth was a man approved by God to you by miracles, wonders, and signs, which God did among you through Him, as you yourselves know.”

Peter moves directly to Jesus.

The miraculous signs of Jesus' ministry were public evidence.

Cross References

John 3:2

Nicodemus said to Jesus, “Rabbi, we know You are a teacher who has come from God, because no one could perform the signs You do unless God were with him.”

Acts 10:38

God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and power. Jesus went around doing good and healing everyone oppressed by the devil, because God was with Him.

John 5:36

Jesus said, “The works the Father has given Me to complete—the very works I am doing—testify that the Father has sent Me.”

XXII. GOD'S PLAN AND HUMAN RESPONSIBILITY

Acts 2:23

“This man was handed over to you by God’s plan and foreknowledge, and you, with the help of wicked men, nailed Him to the cross and killed Him.”

This verse holds two truths together.

Jesus' death occurred according to:

God's definite plan and foreknowledge.

Yet the people who crucified Him remained morally responsible.

Cross References

Acts 4:28

They did what Your power and purpose had already determined beforehand should happen.

1 Peter 1:20

Christ was chosen before the creation of the world but was revealed in these last times for your sake.

Luke 22:22

Jesus said, “The Son of Man will go according to what God has determined, but how terrible it will be for the man who betrays Him.”

Spiritual Principle

God's sovereignty does not erase human responsibility.

The cross was not an accident.

Neither was human wickedness excused.

XXIII. DEATH COULD NOT HOLD JESUS

Acts 2:24

“But God raised Him from the dead, freeing Him from the power of death, because it was impossible for death to keep its hold on Him.”

This is the great reversal.

Men killed Jesus.

But God raised Him.

Cross References

Romans 1:4

Jesus was powerfully declared to be the Son of God by His resurrection from the dead according to the Spirit of holiness.

Acts 13:34

God raised Jesus from the dead, never again to return to decay.

1 Corinthians 15:20

But Christ has truly been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have died.

Key Truth

Death did not defeat Jesus. Jesus defeated death.

XXIV. DAVID SPOKE PROPHETICALLY

Acts 2:25–28

Peter now quotes Psalm 16.

“I saw the Lord always before me. Because He is at my right hand, I will not be shaken.”

Cross References

Psalm 16:8

I keep the Lord always before me. Because He is at my right hand, I will not be shaken.

Psalm 121:5

The Lord watches over you. The Lord is your protector beside you.

Psalm 73:23

Yet I am always with You. You hold me by my right hand.

Peter continues:

“Therefore my heart is glad and my tongue rejoices; my body also will rest in hope.”

Cross References

Psalm 16:9

Therefore my heart is glad and my whole being rejoices. My body also rests securely.

Philippians 4:4

Rejoice in the Lord always. Again I say, rejoice.

1 Peter 1:8

Though you have not seen Christ, you love Him. Though you do not see Him now, you believe in Him and rejoice with indescribable and glorious joy.

Peter continues:

“Because You will not abandon me to the grave, nor will You let Your Holy One decay.”

Cross References

Psalm 16:10

You will not abandon me to the grave, nor will You allow Your Holy One to see decay.

Acts 13:35

Therefore another Psalm says, “You will not allow Your Holy One to see decay.”

Acts 2:31

David saw ahead and spoke about the resurrection of the Messiah, saying He would not be abandoned to the grave and His body would not decay.

Then:

“You have made known to me the paths of life; You will fill me with joy in Your presence.”

Cross References

Psalm 16:11

You show me the path of life. In Your presence is complete joy, and at Your right hand are pleasures forever.

Psalm 21:6

You have given him blessings forever and filled him with joy in Your presence.

John 15:11

Jesus said, “I have told you these things so that My joy may remain in you and your joy may be complete.”

XXV. DAVID'S TOMB PROVES HE WAS SPEAKING BEYOND HIMSELF

Acts 2:29

“Brothers, I can tell you confidently that our ancestor David died and was buried, and his tomb is here to this day.”

Peter's reasoning is simple.

David died.

David's body experienced death.

Therefore Psalm 16 ultimately pointed beyond David.

Cross References

1 Kings 2:10

David died and was buried in the City of David.

Nehemiah 3:16

Nehemiah son of Azbuk repaired the wall as far as the place opposite the tombs of David.

Acts 13:36

David served God's purpose in his own generation, died, was buried with his ancestors, and his body decayed.

XXVI. GOD PROMISED DAVID A KING

Acts 2:30

“But he was a prophet and knew that God had promised him on oath that one of his descendants would sit on his throne.”

David knew God's covenant promise.

Cross References

2 Samuel 7:12

The Lord told David, “When your days are complete and you rest with your ancestors, I will raise up your descendant after you, one who comes from your own body, and I will establish his kingdom.”

Psalm 132:11

The Lord made a faithful promise to David that He will not take back: “I will place one of your descendants upon your throne.”

Psalm 89:3

The Lord said, “I have made a covenant with My chosen one. I have sworn to David My servant.”

Key Truth

Jesus is not merely risen Savior. He is the promised Davidic King.

XXVII. DAVID FORESAW THE RESURRECTION

Acts 2:31

“Seeing what was to come, he spoke of the resurrection of the Messiah, that He was not abandoned to the grave, nor did His body see decay.”

Peter interprets Psalm 16 as Messianic prophecy.

Cross References

Isaiah 53:10

Yet it was the Lord's purpose that the Servant suffer. When His life is offered for sin, He will see His descendants and prolong His days, and the Lord's purpose will succeed through Him.

Psalm 16:10

You will not abandon me to the grave or allow Your Holy One to see decay.

Acts 13:35

Scripture also says, “You will not allow Your Holy One to see decay.”

XXVIII. “WE ARE ALL WITNESSES”

Acts 2:32

“God has raised this Jesus to life, and we are all witnesses of it.”

Peter's sermon rests upon eyewitness testimony.

Cross References

Acts 1:8

Jesus said, “You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you, and you will be My witnesses.”

Acts 3:15

Peter said, “You killed the Author of life, but God raised Him from the dead. We are witnesses of this.”

1 Corinthians 15:15

If Christ has not been raised, then we would be false witnesses about God because we testified that God raised Christ from the dead.

Spiritual Principle

The early Christian message centered upon a factual claim: Jesus rose from the dead.

XXIX. JESUS POURED OUT THE HOLY SPIRIT

Acts 2:33

“Now exalted to the right hand of God, He has received from the Father the promised Holy Spirit and has poured out what you now see and hear.”

Pentecost is connected directly to the exalted Christ.

Jesus is risen.

Jesus is exalted.

Jesus sends the Spirit.

Cross References

Acts 5:31

God exalted Jesus to His right hand as Prince and Savior to give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins.

Philippians 2:9

Therefore God highly exalted Jesus and gave Him the name above every name.

John 16:7

Jesus said, “It is for your benefit that I go away. If I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you. But if I go, I will send Him to you.”

Key Truth

Pentecost is evidence that the risen Jesus reigns.

XXX. THE LORD SAID TO MY LORD

Acts 2:34–35

“For David did not ascend into heaven, and yet he said: ‘The Lord said to my Lord: Sit at My right hand until I make Your enemies a footstool for Your feet.’”

Peter quotes Psalm 110.

Cross References

Psalm 110:1

The Lord said to my Lord, “Sit at My right hand until I make Your enemies a footstool beneath Your feet.”

Matthew 22:44

Jesus quoted Scripture: “The Lord said to my Lord, ‘Sit at My right hand until I put Your enemies beneath Your feet.’”

Mark 12:36

David himself, speaking by the Holy Spirit, said, “The Lord said to my Lord, ‘Sit at My right hand until I put Your enemies beneath Your feet.’”

Cross References for Verse 35

Psalm 110:1

The Lord said to my Lord, “Sit at My right hand until I make Your enemies a footstool beneath Your feet.”

Hebrews 1:13

God never said to any angel, “Sit at My right hand until I make Your enemies a footstool beneath Your feet.”

Hebrews 10:13

Christ now waits until His enemies are placed beneath His feet.

Spiritual Principle

Jesus is not waiting to become Lord. He is already enthroned.

XXXI. JESUS IS LORD AND MESSIAH

Acts 2:36

“Therefore let all Israel be assured of this: God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Messiah.”

Peter reaches the climax of the sermon.

Jesus is Lord.

Jesus is Messiah.

Cross References

Philippians 2:11

Every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, bringing glory to God the Father.

Romans 10:9

If you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.

Acts 5:31

God exalted Jesus to His right hand as Prince and Savior so that He might give repentance and forgiveness of sins.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

A faithful gospel sermon must ultimately bring people face-to-face with Jesus Christ.

XXXII. THE PEOPLE ARE CUT TO THE HEART

Acts 2:37

“When the people heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and the other apostles, ‘Brothers, what should we do?’”

The sermon produced conviction.

They were:

“Cut to the heart.”

Cross References

Acts 16:30

The jailer brought Paul and Silas out and asked, “Sirs, what must I do to be saved?”

Zechariah 12:10

The Lord says, “I will pour out a spirit of grace and prayer upon the house of David and the people of Jerusalem. They will look upon Me whom they pierced, and they will mourn deeply.”

Luke 3:10

The crowds asked John, “What then should we do?”

Spiritual Principle

True preaching does more than inform the mind. God's truth confronts the heart.

XXXIII. REPENT AND BE BAPTIZED

Acts 2:38

“Peter replied, ‘Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.’”

Peter calls for a decisive response.

Repent

Turn away from sin and toward God.

Be Baptized

Publicly identify with Jesus Christ.

Receive Forgiveness

God offers forgiveness through Christ.

Receive the Holy Spirit

The Spirit belongs to those who belong to Christ.

Cross References

Acts 3:19

Therefore repent and turn back to God so that your sins may be wiped away.

Luke 24:47

Jesus said that repentance for the forgiveness of sins must be proclaimed in His name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem.

Mark 1:4

John appeared in the wilderness baptizing and preaching a baptism of repentance connected with forgiveness of sins.

Important Truth

Repentance is not merely feeling sorry about sin. It is turning toward God in faith.

XXXIV. THE PROMISE EXTENDS OUTWARD

Acts 2:39

“This promise is for you and your children and for all who are far away—for all whom the Lord our God will call.”

The promise would not remain confined to those standing in Jerusalem.

Cross References

Isaiah 57:19

God says, “Peace, peace to those who are far away and to those who are near. I will heal them.”

Ephesians 2:13

But now in Christ Jesus, you who were once far away have been brought near through the blood of Christ.

Joel 2:32

Everyone who calls upon the name of the Lord will be saved, among all whom the Lord calls.

Spiritual Principle

The gospel reaches both the near and the far.

XXXV. PETER WARNS THE CROWD

Acts 2:40

“With many other words he warned them and pleaded with them, ‘Save yourselves from this corrupt generation.’”

Peter did more than present information.

He pleaded.

Cross References

Deuteronomy 32:5

They have acted corruptly toward God. They are no longer behaving like His faithful children because they are a twisted and crooked generation.

Philippians 2:15

Live as blameless and pure children of God in the middle of a crooked and twisted generation, shining among them like lights in the world.

Matthew 17:17

Jesus said, “You unbelieving and twisted generation, how long must I remain with you?”

Spiritual Principle

The gospel contains both invitation and warning.

XXXVI. THREE THOUSAND ARE ADDED

Acts 2:41

“Those who accepted his message were baptized, and about three thousand were added to their number that day.”

Pentecost produced an extraordinary harvest.

Cross References

Acts 4:4

Many who heard the message believed, and the number of men grew to about five thousand.

Acts 5:14

More and more men and women believed in the Lord and were added to the believers.

Acts 6:7

The Word of God continued spreading, and the number of disciples in Jerusalem increased greatly.

Key Truth

Peter preached, but the Lord produced the harvest.

The church grew because God was working through His Word and Spirit.

XXXVII. FOUR FOUNDATIONS OF THE EARLY CHURCH

Acts 2:42

“They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.”

This verse gives four characteristics of the newborn church.

1. Apostles' Teaching

They learned biblical truth.

2. Fellowship

They shared life together.

3. Breaking Bread

They ate together and remembered Christ.

4. Prayer

They depended upon God.

Cross References

Acts 20:7

On the first day of the week, the believers gathered to break bread together, and Paul spoke to them.

1 Corinthians 10:16

The cup of blessing for which we give thanks is a sharing in the blood of Christ, and the bread we break is a sharing in the body of Christ.

Hebrews 10:25

Do not stop meeting together, as some have made a habit of doing. Instead, encourage one another, especially as you see the Day approaching.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

A healthy church is built upon truth, fellowship, worship, and prayer.

XXXVIII. AWE FILLED THE PEOPLE

Acts 2:43

“Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles.”

God confirmed the apostolic witness through extraordinary signs.

Cross References

Acts 5:12

The apostles performed many miraculous signs and wonders among the people.

Mark 16:20

The disciples went out and preached everywhere, and the Lord worked with them and confirmed the message through accompanying signs.

Hebrews 2:4

God also testified to the message through signs, wonders, various miracles, and gifts of the Holy Spirit distributed according to His will.

Spiritual Principle

The miracles pointed beyond the apostles to the God whose message they proclaimed.

XXXIX. BELIEVERS SHARED WITH ONE ANOTHER

Acts 2:44

“All the believers were together and shared everything they had.”

Their new relationship with Christ created new concern for one another.

Cross References

Acts 4:32

The entire group of believers was united in heart and soul. No one claimed that his possessions were exclusively his own, but they shared with one another.

Deuteronomy 15:4

There should be no poor person among you, because the Lord will greatly bless you in the land He gives you.

1 John 3:17

If someone has material possessions and sees a fellow believer in need but closes his heart against that person, how can God's love remain in him?

Spiritual Principle

Genuine faith creates practical compassion.

XL. GENEROSITY MET REAL NEEDS

Acts 2:45

“They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need.”

The generosity was voluntary and need-driven.

Cross References

Acts 4:34

There was no needy person among them, because from time to time those who owned land or houses sold them.

Acts 4:35

They brought the proceeds and placed them at the apostles' feet, and the money was distributed to anyone who had need.

Luke 12:33

Jesus said, “Sell possessions and give to those in need. Make for yourselves treasure in heaven that never runs out.”

Important Truth

Christian generosity is motivated by love, not forced equality.

The emphasis is upon believers willingly using resources to help others.

XLI. WORSHIP IN THE TEMPLE AND HOMES

Acts 2:46

“Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts.”

The early church combined:

Public gathering.

And:

Personal fellowship.

Cross References

Acts 5:42

Every day in the temple and from house to house, they continued teaching and proclaiming the good news that Jesus is the Messiah.

Luke 24:53

The disciples remained continually at the temple praising God.

Acts 3:1

Peter and John went up to the temple at the time of prayer.

Spiritual Principle

Christian community should extend beyond formal gatherings into everyday life.

XLII. THE LORD ADDS TO THE CHURCH

Acts 2:47

“Praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.”

The chapter ends by emphasizing God's work.

Who added people?

“The Lord.”

Cross References

Acts 5:14

More and more men and women believed in the Lord and were added to their number.

Acts 11:24

Barnabas was a good man, full of the Holy Spirit and faith, and many people were brought to the Lord.

Acts 16:5

The churches were strengthened in faith and increased in number every day.

Spiritual Principle

Church growth is ultimately God's work.

Believers preach.

Believers witness.

Believers pray.

Believers serve.

But:

The Lord saves.

XLIII. SEVEN GREAT LESSONS FROM ACTS 2

1. God Keeps His Promises

Jesus promised the Holy Spirit.

Pentecost fulfilled that promise.

Principle:

What God promises, God fulfills.

2. The Holy Spirit Empowers Gospel Witness

The Spirit's coming resulted immediately in proclamation.

Principle:

Spiritual power should produce Christ-centered witness.

3. Jesus Christ Is the Center of Christian Preaching

Peter's sermon focused upon:

- Jesus' life.
- Jesus' death.
- Jesus' resurrection.
- Jesus' exaltation.
- Jesus' lordship.

Principle:

A sermon can discuss many biblical truths, but faithful Christian preaching must ultimately point people to Christ.

4. God's Sovereignty and Human Responsibility Stand Together

Jesus died according to God's predetermined purpose.

Yet wicked people remained accountable.

Principle:

God remains sovereign without making human sin morally innocent.

5. The Proper Response to the Gospel Is Repentance and Faith

The people asked:

“What should we do?”

Peter answered:

“Repent.”

Principle:

The gospel demands a response.

6. The Church Is a Community, Not Merely a Meeting

The believers shared:

- Teaching.
- Fellowship.
- Meals.
- Prayer.
- Possessions.
- Worship.
- Daily life.

Principle:

Biblical Christianity is personal, but it is never meant to remain isolated.

7. God Produces Spiritual Growth

The Lord added people daily.

Principle:

Faithfulness belongs to the church; results belong to God.

XLIV. THE TRANSFORMATION OF PETER

Acts 2 provides one of the clearest demonstrations of God's restoring grace.

Only weeks earlier Peter had denied Jesus.

Now Peter stands before thousands.

What changed?

He Had Seen the Risen Christ

His faith had been strengthened by resurrection reality.

He Had Been Restored by Jesus

Christ had not discarded him.

He Had Received the Holy Spirit

Now he spoke with spiritual boldness.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

God can turn yesterday's failure into tomorrow's testimony when a person is restored and surrendered to Him.

XLV. WHAT PETER'S SERMON TEACHES ABOUT PREACHING

Peter's sermon gives us an important biblical model.

It Was Scripture-Based

Peter quoted Joel.

He quoted Psalm 16.

He quoted Psalm 110.

It Was Christ-Centered

Jesus dominated the message.

It Was Doctrinal

Peter explained:

- Providence.
- Crucifixion.
- Resurrection.

- Messianic prophecy.
- Exaltation.
- Lordship.

It Was Direct

Peter said:

“Whom you crucified.”

It Called for a Response

The sermon did not merely end with information.

The people asked:

“What should we do?”

Ministry Principle

Faithful preaching explains Scripture, exalts Christ, confronts sin, proclaims grace, and calls for response.

XLVI. WHAT ACTS 2 TEACHES ABOUT THE HOLY SPIRIT

The Holy Spirit is central to Acts 2.

The Spirit Was Promised

Jesus had already told the disciples He was coming.

The Spirit Was Given by God

Pentecost was divine initiative.

The Spirit Empowered Speech

The believers spoke as the Spirit enabled them.

The Spirit Fulfilled Scripture

Peter connected the event with Joel.

The Spirit Exalted Christ

Peter's Spirit-empowered message focused upon Jesus.

The Spirit Created Community

The believers' lives were transformed after Pentecost.

Key Truth

The Holy Spirit does not merely produce unusual experiences; He produces Christ-centered witness and transformed community.

XLVII. THE PATTERN OF CONVERSION IN ACTS 2

The crowd experienced a clear spiritual progression.

They Heard the Word

Peter preached Christ.

They Were Convicted

They were:

“Cut to the heart.”

They Asked What to Do

Conviction produced urgency.

They Repented

Peter called them to turn toward God.

They Were Baptized

They publicly identified with Christ.

They Joined the Believers

About three thousand were added.

They Grew

They devoted themselves to teaching, fellowship, breaking bread, and prayer.

Principle:

Biblical conversion produces a changed direction and a new devotion to Christ.

XLVIII. THE FOUR DEVOTIONS OF A HEALTHY CHURCH

Acts 2:42 should continually challenge churches.

1. Biblical Teaching

A healthy church wants to know God's Word.

2. Fellowship

A healthy church develops genuine relationships.

3. Breaking Bread

A healthy church remembers Christ and shares life together.

4. Prayer

A healthy church recognizes its dependence upon God.

Application

A church can possess:

Beautiful facilities.

Modern technology.

Excellent organization.

Large attendance.

Professional music.

Strong programs.

Yet still be spiritually weak if these four foundations are neglected.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

The strength of a church is measured less by what it attracts and more by what it is devoted to.

XLIX. QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS FOR PERSONAL STUDY

Question 1

What happened on the Day of Pentecost?

The believers were gathered together when a sound like a powerful rushing wind filled the house.

What looked like flames of fire appeared.

The believers were filled with the Holy Spirit and began speaking in other languages as the Spirit enabled them.

This fulfilled Jesus' promise that His followers would receive power from the Holy Spirit.

Question 2

Were the languages in Acts 2 understandable human languages?

The passage emphasizes that visitors from different regions heard the believers speaking in:

“Our own language where we were born.”

Acts 2 presents the miracle as recognizable languages understood by the people present.

Question 3

Why were so many nations represented in Jerusalem?

Pentecost was one of Israel's important feast periods, bringing Jewish worshipers and converts from many regions to Jerusalem.

God used this gathering to spread the message outward.

People from many places heard about God's mighty works.

Question 4

Why did Peter quote the prophet Joel?

Peter wanted the crowd to understand that the coming of the Holy Spirit was not meaningless confusion.

God had promised through Joel that He would pour out His Spirit.

Peter interpreted the event through Scripture.

Question 5

What was the main subject of Peter's sermon?

Jesus Christ.

Peter proclaimed:

- His miracles.
- His crucifixion.
- His resurrection.
- His fulfillment of prophecy.
- His exaltation.

- His lordship.
- His Messiahship.

The Holy Spirit's coming led to Christ-centered preaching.

Question 6

How can Jesus' crucifixion be both God's plan and the responsibility of wicked people?

Acts 2:23 teaches both truths.

God's redemptive plan included the cross.

At the same time, those who betrayed and crucified Jesus acted wickedly and remained responsible for their choices.

Scripture affirms divine sovereignty and human accountability together.

Question 7

Why was it impossible for death to hold Jesus?

Because Jesus is the promised Messiah and Son of God.

Death could not permanently conquer Him.

God raised Him from the dead in fulfillment of Scripture.

His resurrection demonstrates His victory over death.

Question 8

What does it mean that the crowd was “cut to the heart”?

They became deeply convicted by the truth they heard.

They realized the seriousness of their sin and asked:

“What should we do?”

True conviction does not merely produce discomfort.

It creates a desire to respond rightly to God.

Question 9

What is repentance?

Repentance is a genuine turning of heart and life away from sin and toward God.

It involves more than regret.

It includes a changed mind about sin, agreement with God, and a new direction of life rooted in faith.

Question 10

What were the first Christians devoted to?

Acts 2:42 identifies four things:

- Apostolic teaching.
- Fellowship.
- Breaking bread.
- Prayer.

These became foundational practices of the early church.

Question 11

Why did the believers share their possessions?

Their love for Christ created concern for one another.

When believers had needs, others willingly used their resources to help.

Their generosity reflected transformed hearts.

Question 12

Who caused the church to grow?

Acts 2:47 says:

“The Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.”

The believers faithfully preached and lived the gospel.

But God produced the spiritual harvest.

L. PERSONAL APPLICATION

Acts 2 asks several important questions.

Am I Depending Upon the Holy Spirit?

Or am I trying to live the Christian life entirely through human strength?

Is My Life Pointing People Toward Jesus?

The Spirit-filled believers declared God's mighty works.

Do I Know Scripture Well Enough to Understand Spiritual Truth?

Peter interpreted Pentecost through God's Word.

Is Christ Central to My Message?

Peter preached Jesus.

Have I Truly Responded to the Gospel?

The crowd was convicted and asked:

“What should we do?”

Am I Devoted to Biblical Teaching?

Do I hunger for God's Word?

Am I Practicing Genuine Fellowship?

Am I connected with other believers?

Is Prayer Central in My Life?

The early church was devoted to prayer.

Am I Generous Toward People in Need?

Faith affected their possessions.

Do I Depend Upon God for Results?

The Lord added people to the church.

LI. A CRAWFORD BIBLE STUDY PRINCIPLE

“Spirit-Filled Christianity Always Points to Jesus”

Pentecost included extraordinary signs.

Wind.

Fire.

Languages.

A huge crowd.

But Peter does not build his sermon around the signs.

He quickly directs attention toward Jesus.

Jesus lived.

Jesus performed miracles.

Jesus was crucified.

Jesus rose.

Jesus was exalted.

Jesus poured out the Spirit.

Jesus is Lord.

Jesus is Messiah.

That gives us an important principle:

The clearest evidence of Spirit-filled ministry is not fascination with the Spirit Himself but faithful exaltation of Jesus Christ.

The Holy Spirit glorifies Christ.

Spirit-filled preaching should glorify Christ.

Spirit-filled churches should glorify Christ.

Spirit-filled believers should glorify Christ.

LII. FINAL APPLICATION

Acts Chapter 2 begins with believers waiting.

It ends with thousands worshiping.

It begins with about 120 followers gathered together.

It ends with about three thousand added to them.

It begins in one room.

The message quickly reaches people from many nations.

What caused the difference?

Not a new marketing strategy.

Not political influence.

Not wealth.

Not impressive buildings.

Not human celebrity.

The Holy Spirit came.

The Word was preached.

Jesus Christ was exalted.

People were convicted.

Sinners repented.

Believers were baptized.

A church community formed.

And the Lord added to their number.

This gives us a powerful picture of genuine spiritual awakening.

When God moves:

Christ is exalted.

Scripture is proclaimed.

Sin is confronted.

Repentance occurs.

Lives change.

Believers gather.

Prayer increases.

Generosity grows.

Fellowship deepens.

Worship becomes sincere.

And the gospel moves outward.

Acts 2 therefore challenges every believer and every church.

Do not merely ask:

“How can we become larger?”

Ask:

“Are we filled with the Spirit?”

Do not merely ask:

“How can we attract attention?”

Ask:

“Are we proclaiming Christ?”

Do not merely ask:

“What programs should we create?”

Ask:

“Are we devoted to teaching, fellowship, breaking bread, and prayer?”

Do not merely ask:

“Why isn't the church growing?”

Ask:

“Are we faithfully doing what Christ commanded while depending upon God for the harvest?”

The pattern of Acts 2 remains powerful:

The Spirit empowers.

The church witnesses.

The gospel is proclaimed.

People respond.

Christ builds His church.

Closing Prayer

Heavenly Father,

Thank You for fulfilling Your promise and sending the Holy Spirit.

Thank You that You did not leave Your people powerless to carry out the mission of Jesus Christ.

Fill our lives with a deep dependence upon Your Spirit.

Give us courage to speak about Jesus.

Give us wisdom to understand Scripture.

Give us boldness like Peter.

Transform our failures into testimonies of Your restoring grace.

Help us proclaim Jesus clearly.

May we never become distracted from the central message:

Jesus died.

Jesus rose.

Jesus reigns.

Jesus is Lord.

Jesus is Messiah.

And salvation is offered through Him.

Convict hearts through Your Word.

Bring genuine repentance.

Save those who call upon Your name.

Build churches that are devoted to biblical teaching, genuine fellowship, breaking bread, and prayer.

Give us generous hearts.

Teach us to care for brothers and sisters who are in need.

Remove selfishness, pride, division, and hypocrisy.

Give Your people glad and sincere hearts.

May our homes become places of fellowship.

May our churches become places of truth.

May our lives become testimonies of grace.

And may Jesus Christ receive all the glory.

We recognize that we cannot save anyone.

We cannot manufacture revival.

We cannot produce spiritual life.

Therefore we depend upon You.

Do through Your church what human ability cannot accomplish.

And continue adding to Your people those who are being saved.

In Jesus' name, Amen.

Key Verse

“They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.” — Acts 2:42

Central Truth

The Holy Spirit empowers believers to proclaim the risen Jesus Christ, calling sinners to repentance and creating a new community devoted to biblical truth, fellowship, prayer, generosity, and worship.

Acts 2 in One Sentence

At Pentecost the promised Holy Spirit comes upon the believers, Peter boldly proclaims the crucified and risen Jesus as Lord and Messiah, thousands respond in repentance and faith, and the Spirit-empowered church begins its life of teaching, fellowship, prayer, generosity, worship, and gospel growth.