

Acts Week 7 & 8

Peter's sermon

14 But Peter, standing up with the eleven, raised his voice and said to them, "Men of Judea and all who dwell in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and heed my words. 15 For these are not drunk, as you suppose, since it is only the third hour of the day. 16 But this is what was spoken by the prophet Joel: (Joel 2:28–32)

17 'And it shall come to pass in the last days, says God,

We saw the mockers last week, those who denounce devout believers as being drunk. I wanted to add this comment from Friedrich von Schiller as brought to my attention in William McDonald's Believers Bible Commentary, page 1558. **"The world likes to tarnish shining objects, and drag those that are exalted down to the dust."** We find this in abundance in our world today, hatred and despise toward anything the flesh finds offensive to their need to be the voice above all voices. They are quick to pass judgment on the righteousness of good people, seeking to destroy good names.

Last week we discussed what Peter meant when he changed Joel's words here from, "afterward" to "in the last days, says, God. We have come to a major shift in history in how we are to look and better understand the changes that are taking place due to the crucifixion and ascension of our Lord and the coming of the Holy Spirit. Jesus says in **John 14:26; "But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything, and will cause you to remember everything I said to you."** This is a clear statement directed at the disciples to help them to understand what is happening, they can now reflect on all Jesus has told them previously, that He must go and suffer at the hands of the leaders of Israel, Matthew 17:12. However, we alive today must also find comfort in knowing that the Holy Spirit is still at work in the world. So since Jesus ascended we have been in the last days. For this reason many no longer believe in Jesus' return, **2 Peter 3:4; and saying, "Where is the promise of His coming? For since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of creation."**

The translation here for advocate, helper, counselor, or comforter used in John 14:26, is "paraklētos" in the widest sense, a helper, succorer, aider, assistant; so of the Holy Spirit destined to take the place of Christ with the apostles (after his ascension to the Father), to lead them to a deeper knowledge of gospel truth, and to give them the divine strength needed to enable them to undergo trials and persecutions on behalf of the divine kingdom:¹

That I will pour out of My Spirit on all flesh;

¹ THAYER'S GREEK LEXICON, Electronic Database.

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We were just informed in our verse leading up to the sermon that possibly fifteen different countries or areas were represented here. Luke writes verse five, **5 “And there were dwelling in Jerusalem Jews, devout men, from every nation under heaven.”** Look here at our next verse when Peter addresses both male and female, young and old, all will have receive the Holy Spirit. There is a distinction we must look at in that it is said all flesh, who here is considered? We find the three thousand spoken of here refers to devout Jewish men, these came with families for the Pentecost and the Passover celebration. All flesh is better understood as stripping away that outward worldly flesh of believers as opposed to everyone in the world. We also find this is referring to Jews, men and women, young and old, menservants and maidservants, it will be all who believe to which the Holy Spirit will pour out His spirit upon.

Galatians 5:24-25; And those who are Christ’s have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit.

Ephesian 4:24; and that you put on the new man which was created according to God, in true righteousness and holiness.

Your sons and your daughters shall prophesy,

Your young men shall see visions,

Your old men shall dream dreams.

18 And on My menservants and on My maidservants

I will pour out My Spirit in those days;

And they shall prophesy.

This will be one of those places we need to test the spirit; how do we do this? Through prayer and study. **Luke 21:8; And He said: “Take heed that you not be deceived. For many will come in My name, saying, ‘I am He,’ and, ‘The time has drawn near.’ Therefore do not go after them.**

19 I will show wonders in heaven above

And signs in the earth beneath:

Blood and fire and vapor of smoke.

2 Thessalonians 2:9-12; The coming of the lawless one is according to the working of Satan, with all power, signs, and lying wonders, and with all unrighteous deception among those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth, that they might be saved. And for this reason God will send them strong delusion, that they should believe the lie, that they all may be condemned who did not believe the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness.

Regarding the second beast, the beast from the earth. **Revelation 13:13; that they all may be condemned who did not believe the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness.**

We are being warned of the great deception, but look at what Jesus says about the coming of the Holy Spirit in **John 16:13**, **“However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come.**

John Piper writes of Jesus honoring the Father in all that He does, “He did not come seeking glory for Himself” but displaying complete obedience toward the Father, as does the Holy Spirit. What shall we take away from this? If we hear or practice anything that does not bring Glory to the Father it is not of God. Later in Revelation we find the beast, the false prophet and the antichrist seeking to glorify themselves and have the world follow in their lying.

20 The sun shall be turned into darkness,

And the moon into blood,

Before the coming of the great and awesome day of the LORD.

Another sign we can look for in the return of our Christ Jesus, for those who believe in the rapture we shall not be here when this takes place. This is to take place at Jesus’ second coming when He shall stand on the mount of Olives and defeat evil.

21 And it shall come to pass

That whoever calls on the name of the LORD

Shall be saved.’

This is a simple and straightforward comment to help us overcome the struggle we often feel as the world seeks to turn us away from believing. There are those that have displayed an attitude of conviction merely for the feeling of condemnation being around a solid Christian and faithful Christian. Yes, when people know you are a believer many change their habits to show respect toward your faith and others who are being convicted will seek to mock, jeer, and run you down for your faith. However, the worst of offenders will be those who study the Scripture, who don’t believe but only want to twist the Scripture to bring about confusion.

22 “Men of Israel, hear these words: Jesus of Nazareth, a Man attested by God to you by miracles, wonders, and signs which God did through Him in your midst, as you yourselves also know— 23 Him, being delivered by the determined purpose and foreknowledge of God, you have taken by lawless hands, have crucified, and put to death; 24 whom God raised up, having loosed the pains of death, because it was not possible that He should be held by it. 25 For David says concerning Him:

‘I foresaw the LORD always before my face,

For He is at my right hand, that I may not be shaken.

26 Therefore my heart rejoiced, and my tongue was glad;

Moreover my flesh also will rest in hope.

27 For You will not leave my soul in Hades,

Nor will You allow Your Holy One to see corruption.

28 You have made known to me the ways of life;

You will make me full of joy in Your presence.'

29 "Men and brethren, let me speak freely to you of the patriarch David, that he is both dead and buried, and his tomb is with us to this day. 30 Therefore, being a prophet, and knowing that God had sworn with an oath to him that of the fruit of his body, according to the flesh, He would raise up the Christ to sit on his throne, 31 he, foreseeing this, spoke concerning the resurrection of the Christ, that His soul was not left in Hades, nor did His flesh see corruption. 32 This Jesus God has raised up, of which we are all witnesses. 33 Therefore being exalted to the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, He poured out this which you now see and hear.

34 "For David did not ascend into the heavens, but he says himself:

'The LORD said to my Lord,

"Sit at My right hand,

35 Till I make Your enemies Your footstool."'

36 "Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly that God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ."

37 Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, "Men and brethren, what shall we do?"

38 Then Peter said to them, "Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. 39 For the promise is to you and to your children, and to all who are afar off, as many as the Lord our God will call."

A Vital Church Grows

40 And with many other words he testified and exhorted them, saying, “Be saved from this perverse generation.” 41 Then those who gladly received his word were baptized; and that day about three thousand souls were added to them. 42 And they continued steadfastly in the apostles’ doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers. 43 Then fear came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were done through the apostles. 44 Now all who believed were together, and had all things in common, 45 and sold their possessions and goods, and divided them among all, as anyone had need.

46 So continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they ate their food with gladness and simplicity of heart, 47 praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved.

We find this sermon about the coming of the Holy Spirit

John Stott asked, “What difference do you think it would make if the Holy Spirit were withdrawn from your life and your Christian Community?”