

The Next Chapter

“BECAUSE IT WASN’T DONE IN A CORNER”

Acts 2:5-41

Since the second century, there has been disagreement among Christians over how the Holy Spirit manifests himself in our lives and churches. This morning we continue in Acts 2, where we begin to see what the Holy Spirit did in and through the Christian community immediately after he was poured out at Pentecost.

The events recounted in Acts 2:1-4 all happened behind closed doors with no outside witnesses to confirm them. That would have raised another objection in Theophilus’ inquiring mind: Did Luke make this story up? Did his sources fabricate these events to give the early Christian movement credibility?

In the rest of Acts 2 and the chapters that follow, Luke brought forward witnesses and evidence that demonstrate the credibility of his account. Borrowing Paul’s words in Acts 26:26, *these things were not done in a corner*. Instead, they were out in the open for all to see. Luke’s proofs, especially the last one we’re looking at today, also tell us what we

can expect to see and experience when the Holy Spirit is active in our lives and church.

See the Crowd of Witnesses – Acts 2:5-13

- A crowd of people heard God speak through the disciples, each in his or her own language.

Hear the Voice of the Prophets – Acts 2:14-36

- The prophets predicted that God give his Spirit to ALL of his children

Observe the Effects of the Spirit – Acts 2:37 ...

- Conviction: *“they were cut to the heart”*
- Conversion: *“and about three thousand were added.”*

How do we know when the Holy Spirit is moving in our lives and in our church? Keep reading Acts and you’ll see that there are a lot of ways, but the first way we know is when he brings conviction. The Spirit brings conviction, not to make us feel like dirt, but to bring about conversion. He wants to convert us sinners into sanctuaries for his presence. He wants to convert us lost and lonely people into children of the most High God.