

Still Called, Still Sent (2)
Empowered for a Purpose
Acts 2:1–21

Introduction: Today as we continue our current sermon series, we'll be diving into Acts 2:1–21, the story of Pentecost, when God kept His promise and gave His Holy Spirit to empower His people.

This passage of scripture – serves as a great reminder that the same Holy Spirit that came on the day of Pentecost, is alive and active in us, here today!

I. The power was delivered just as promised: (Acts 2:1–4)

A. The setting at Pentecost – Acts 2:1; Acts 1:4-5 (120 believers gathered, waiting and praying for and trusting in the promise of the Father (the Holy Spirit) to come.

B. The sounds at Pentecost – Acts 2:2; Ezekiel 37:9-10; John 3:8 (a great wind)

C. The sights at Pentecost – Acts 2:3; Exodus 3:2; Exodus 19:18; 1 Corinthians 6:19 (tongues of fire were a visible sign signifying the Spirit had come and God was doing a new thing)

D. The speeches at Pentecost – Acts 2:4; Acts 1:8; Joel 2:28-29 (Believers filled with the Holy Spirit were empowered to be witnesses to Jesus as promised in Acts 1:8).

E. The sign at Pentecost – Acts 2:4-11; Exodus 20; Ezekiel 36:26-27; Ephesians 1:13
The immediate sign was these believers were able to communicate the wonderful works of God to all who were present in their own language.

II. The power was given for a purpose: (Acts 2:5–13)

A. The men in the crowd – Acts 2:5 Luke named up to 15 different geographical locations (v. 9-11)

B. The major festival at Pentecost – Acts 2:9-11 Pentecost was a major festival that drew Jews from everywhere back to Jerusalem to worship.

C. The marvel of the crowd – Acts 2:6-12; Genesis 11; Acts 1:8; 1 Corinthians 12:7
People were confused about how these Galilean men could suddenly speak “their language.” At the tower of babel God confused languages to disperse men. Here He uses language to draw them together.

III. The power produced boldness in Peter: (Acts 2:14–21)

A. The speaker – Acts 2:14; Acts 1:8; 2 Timothy 1:7 This same Peter who was once afraid to admit he knew Jesus, now stands bolding to proclaim Him.

B. The statement – Acts 2:15 Peter explains the situation as the fulfillment of prophecy and the promise of the Spirit.

C. The scripture – Acts 2:16-18; Joel 2:28-32 Peter uses scripture to prove his point and explain the all-inclusiveness of the promise.

D. The sermon – Acts 2:21; John 14:26; Luke 12:12; Acts 2:37 “...everyone who calls upon the name of the Lord shall be saved (and receive this same Spirit!”

IV. The power of Pentecost is present in us today:

What this means...

A. We have God's person and presence – Acts 2:38-39 The events of Pentecost may have been a one-time historical event, (the entrance of the Holy Spirit in a new way), but its results continue forever.

B. We have God's power within us – Romans 8:11 We need to recognize and remember daily, we are not called to operate in our own strength.

C. We have a purpose to fulfill – Ephesians 2:10; James 5:16 God didn't call us to sit around and wait on heaven. We have people to reach and works to do that are given to us to do.

D. We can be bold witnesses – 1 Peter 3:15; Psalm 71:18 Not everyone is called to preach, but everyone is called to bear witness.

E. We should keep growing in holiness and joy – Romans 8:29; 2 Corinthians 3:18; Philippians 1:6; Galatians 5:22-23; 2 Corinthians 4:16; Psalm 92:14
No matter how long you've been a Christian, the Spirit isn't finished with you yet.

F. God is not done with us – 2 Timothy 1:6; Luke 11:13; Acts 2:21 You are still called, you are still sent, you are still empowered by the same Spirit that came at Pentecost!

Conclusion: To all the believers, especially our seniors, hear this as a commissioning: Like a coach sending a player back on the field, I believe God is saying, *“I'm not done with you. You're still in this. My Spirit is with you – now go in My power and love.”*

Let's step out in faith and watch what God will do. It might surprise us, but it will definitely glorify Him.