

Study notes based on Sunday 20 January 2019

Acts 2:1-21 The Church Empowered (John Farren)

1. John Farren indicated that he was looking forward to meeting Luke. Is there a particular Bible character you are looking forward to meeting? And why?
2. John spoke of the experience of the day of Pentecost. They heard a sound like a mighty rushing wind. Consider other links between the Holy Spirit and wind e.g. Ezekiel 37; Jesus conversation with Nicodemus in John 3.
3. They saw fire. Consider OT associations with fire and the activity of the Spirit of God e.g. Moses; Elijah. John drew particular attention to the reference to the tongues of fire resting on each of them. In other words they saw the Spirit in other people – it wasn't particularly individualistic.
4. John suggested that individualistic westerners are obsessed by feelings yet in Acts 2 there is no reference to how people felt. John said 'feelings are important, but we should test spiritual experience by fact and fruit not feelings. How do you respond to this?
5. John spoke of the excitement of Pentecost. What may have been some of the reactions from the crowds to what was happening?
6. John exhorted us to see the Holy Spirit as a person, another one exactly like Jesus; to receive Him and rely on Him. Check out two negative instructions about the Holy Spirit. (1 Thessalonians 5:19 and Ephesians 4:30)
7. Positively what do these verses encourage us to do? (Galatians 5:25; Ephesians 5:18)
8. Who does God give the holy Spirit to? (Luke 11:13; Acts 5:32)

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