

When God Turns Up



... people come to faith Acts 2:1-41

Birkdale Baptist Church
Small group studies

“We are not going to move this world by criticism of it nor conformity to it, but by the combustion within it of lives ignited by the Spirit of God”.

Vance Havner made that statement and he was right. The early church had none of the things that we think are so essential for success today – buildings, money, political influence, social status – and yet the church won multitudes to Christ and saw many churches established throughout the Roman world. Why? Because the church had the power of the Holy Spirit energizing its ministry. They were a people who “were ignited by the Spirit of God”

OPEN IT

1. What difference do you think it would make if the Holy Spirit were withdrawn from your life and your Christian community?

8. What did Peter’s conclusion about Jesus as being Lord and Christ mean for his listeners and what does it mean for us? (Acts 2:36)

DIG INTO IT

Read Acts 2:1-41

2. What were the disciples doing when the Holy Spirit came upon them? (Acts 2:1)

9. What changes has Jesus made in your life?

3. What caused the crowd that gathered around the disciples to marvel? (Acts 2:6–8)

10. What does it mean to be filled with the Holy Spirit?

4. See if you can identify on a Bible Map what parts of the Mediterranean world did the ethnic groups of Acts 2:9–11 come? Why did God wait till Pentecost (Deut 16:9-10) to send his Holy Spirit?

11. When have you seen and experienced the empowering work of the Spirit in your life and Christian community?

5. What was the message the Holy Spirit prompted in various foreign languages? (Acts 2:11)

12. Based on the information given in this passage, how would you summarize the message of Jesus?

6. What were the two responses within the onlookers to the phenomenon of all these Galileans speaking in foreign languages? How did the disciples respond to these responses? (Acts 2:12, 13)

APPLY IT

13. To repent and be baptized in Jesus’ name meant to turn away from all other loyalties and affirm allegiance to Jesus. In what ways does that call still present a challenge to you?

GET IT

7. In his defence, Peter quoted Joel 2:28–32 (Acts 2:17–21). What signs of the last days did the prophet Joel predict? What is the significance of us living in the Last Days?

14. What can you do each day in order to be more effectively used to proclaim the truth about Jesus to those who may not know him as the Lord and Christ?

Bibliography: 1) Acts—Seeing the Spirit At Work, John Stott 1998 on Lessonworks. 2) Kingdom Power: Receiving the Power of the Promise (A Study in the Book of Acts) Jack W. Hayford 1993 on Lessonworks. 3) NT Lesson Maker, Navpress 1992. 4) NIV Serendipity Bible, Zondervan 1988. 5) Life Lessons from the Inspired Word of God - Book of Acts, Max Lucado, 1997 on Lessonworks. 6) The Bible Exposition Commentary – Acts, Warren Wiersbe, 1989