



Acts 1-11 Sermon Series  
To Be Used: Session 2: Empowered  
Potential Sermon Title: The Empowered Mission  
Passage: Acts 2:1-15

## Connection to Passage

The promise of the Spirit was fulfilled at the feast of Pentecost. The event unfolded in two parts: the coming of the Spirit to the church, and the reaction of the church to their empowerment and God's providential opportunity.

## Introduction/Opening

Too often we are preoccupied with our own lives and ambitions to see how God is at work around us. Perhaps you have realized in retrospect when God presented an opportunity for mission and you were not paying attention. Perhaps you have recognized God's work in a providential moment and cowered in fear or insecurity. In this passage, we are presented with several principles to understand how God prepares us for mission and presents the mission to us. In all of this, we must have faith to obey.

## Outline

### 1. The Spirit Enables the Mission (2:1-4)

- a. Christians gathered for Pentecost, the second of the annual harvest festivals, coming 50 days after Passover. God filled them with His power as promised. With the Spirit, the church was prepared and launched for mission.
- b. The manifestation of tongues displayed the purity and the power of Jesus through these disciples as they prepared to proclaim the mighty works of God for salvation. Spiritual gifts are not given for self-fulfillment, but in the service of mission.

### 2. The Spirit Advances the Mission (2:5-13)

- a. Since the time of Babel (Gen. 11:1-9), the nations of the earth were spread out and divided by language, unable to gather in unity as a result of their rebellion against God. But the Spirit enabled the reverse of Babel: all nations coming together under the gospel.
- b. With the nations gathered in Jerusalem, the church was given the gift of tongues in order to proclaim the gospel and inaugurate the mission of God to the ends of the earth. By the power of the Spirit, the gospel is available to all people.

### 3. The Spirit Occasions the Mission (2:14-15)

- a. Recognizing God's working in the moment, Peter used the opportunity to proclaim the gospel of Jesus Christ to the nations gathered in Jerusalem. Oftentimes, we must be sensitive to God's work in the moment and join in.
- b. Not only did Peter proclaim the gospel, he also called the people to "give ear" to his words. When we recognize God's movement in a moment, we must use that opportunity to call people to respond.

### **Conclusion**

Recognizing God's work in God's time calls us to be sensitive to the Spirit's work around us. We can be bold in those moments, knowing that God is working around us, through us, and in those who are before us. God has not only empowered us for mission, He has also placed opportunity for mission before us in everyday life.

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