

Filled and Sent: *The Power of the Holy Spirit.*

The Spirit fills ordinary believers so they walk boldly into the world, and He keeps refilling us day by day.

ABOUT THIS PASSAGE

Acts 2 is the hinge of the book. Disciples locked in an upper room are suddenly sent into the streets. The filling of the Spirit isn't an end in itself, but equipment for witness. God lines up the feasts on purpose: Passover pointed to Christ's sacrifice, the first-fruits harvest to His resurrection, and Pentecost to the first great harvest of souls, about three thousand that very day.

OPEN THE ROOM

Think of a time you felt unprepared for something and what finally gave you confidence to step in.

READ THE PASSAGE

Read the passage aloud together before any questions. Have two or three people split the verses.

Acts 2:1-4



*The Spirit
doesn't fill us so
we can feel
something, but
so we can be
sent.*

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OBSERVE — WHAT DOES IT SAY?

- 1 What details do you notice about how the Spirit arrives: what's heard, what's seen, and who receives it?
- 2 Verse 1 says they were "all with one accord in one place." What does that tell us about the group's condition?
- 3 In verse 2, the disciples were sitting, not kneeling in prayer. What does it tell us that the Spirit came when He did?

INTERPRET — WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

- 1 Acts 1:8 ties power directly to witness. How does that change what we think the Spirit's filling is for?
- 2 The disciples go from locked in an upper room to out among crowds. How does Pentecost fit God's larger promise?

INTERPRETATION

APPLY — HEAD, HEART, HANDS

HEAD

What belief about the Holy Spirit, maybe from your background, does this passage challenge or reshape for you today?

HEART

Verse 2 says sound filled the whole house. Where do you tend to stay quiet and cautious when God might want you bold? What are you afraid of?

HANDS

Name one specific place this week: Thursday's call with your brother, the team meeting Tuesday, or the drive home when anger rises. Where will you pause and ask Him to fill you?

THE GOSPEL TURN

If you've held back or relied on your own strength lately, what does it mean that the Spirit's filling is a gift He keeps giving, not a standard you have to meet?

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BIG IDEA

The Holy Spirit fills ordinary, timid believers so they walk boldly in the world, and He keeps filling us.

CROSS-REFERENCES

- 01 Acts 1:8 — Power comes so we'll be witnesses. The filling's purpose is always witness, not personal experience.
- 02 Ephesians 5:18 — "Be filled" is an ongoing command. This isn't a one-time event to look back on but a daily reality.

CULTURAL / HISTORICAL

Pentecost means "fiftieth," a harvest festival fifty days after Passover. God lined up the feasts on purpose: Passover to Christ's sacrifice, first-fruits to His resurrection, Pentecost to the first great harvest of souls. Wind and fire are signs of God's arrival, not meteorology or accident.

IF THE GROUP GOES OFF-TEXT

Tongues and church background debates will surface fast. Acknowledge them, then ask: "What does the passage say the filling is for?"

Plan thirty seconds of silence after each question. Five questions that go deep beats ten that go fast. Your job is to draw out, not deposit. Speak less than ten percent of the meeting.

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PER-QUESTION NOTES

• OBSERVE 1

Strong answers notice: sound from heaven, divided tongues like fire, resting on each one individually. If quiet, try: "Who got filled, and who didn't?" Watch out for jumping to debate tongues. Stay on what the text describes.

• OBSERVE 2

Strong answers catch unity: one mind, one heart, one purpose, no bickering. If quiet, try: "What would have been different if they were divided?" Watch out for critiquing other churches. Aim at the room's own hearts.

• OBSERVE 3

Strong answers note surprise and timing: they didn't cause this, and it wasn't on their schedule. If quiet, try: "Did they do something to make this happen?" Watch out for implying passivity. They obeyed by waiting.

• INTERPRET 1

Strong answers move from "experience for me" to "power to send me out." If surface, try: "What would a Spirit-filled person look like on a Monday?" Watch out for setting witness against spiritual experience. The point is purpose.

• INTERPRET 2

Strong answers connect Jesus' promise in Acts 1 to fulfillment here, and old feast to new reality. If quiet, try: "What had they been told to do, and what happened?" Watch out for end-times tangents. Stay on promise and fulfillment.

• APPLY HEAD

Strong answers admit backgrounds that either ignored the Spirit or leaned on tradition. If quiet, try: "What did you hear about the Spirit growing up?" Go first with a short, honest example. Watch out for denominational debate.

• APPLY HEART

Strong answers name fear of saying the wrong thing or being pushy. Model vulnerability first. If quiet, ask: "Where do you hold back from speaking up about faith?" Wait thirty seconds before rescuing. Watch for "I'm just shy." Gently ask what the shyness protects.

• APPLY HANDS

Strong answers are specific: "Thursday's call with my brother" or "the drive home when I'm angry." If vague, push: "Which conversation? By when?" If quiet, try: "Where will you be tempted to react instead of praying this week?" Watch out for spiritualized non-answers like "be more Spirit-led."

• GOSPEL TURN

Strong answers land on grace: "I don't have to earn it, I can just ask." If quiet, try: "What would it be like to ask for filling today without apologizing first?" NEVER answer this for the group. Watch out for people hearing demand instead of gift.

PRAY AND SEND

Invite each person to pray specifically for the place they named in the HANDS question, asking the Spirit to fill and lead them there this week. Send them remembering: the same Spirit who emptied that upper room is able to send you.