

The Church Aflame

Acts 2:1-13

In four short verses, Luke describes the miracle of the coming of the Holy Spirit on the Day of Pentecost. This text is remarkable not only for its detail but also for its significant shades of meaning for the reader. It is not by accident that the outpouring of the Holy Spirit occurred on the Day of Pentecost. While Judaism commemorated the giving of the Mosaic Law at Mount Sinai (and its subsequent renewals), the Christian Church celebrates the outpouring of the Holy Spirit and the birthday of the church. On another plane, we see Luke comparing the baptism of Jesus Christ and the Spirit's ascending upon Him for an empowered ministry with this miracle. By making this comparison, Luke is identifying the mission of the church with that of Jesus Christ – one fully dependent upon the power and influence of the Holy Spirit. Luke alone connects John the Baptist's prophecy of a baptism "*with the Holy Spirit and with fire*" with the miracle of Pentecost. Like Jesus Christ, the early church was empowered by the Holy Spirit in its mission to reach the world. Our text describes a people who were "*ignited*" by the Spirit of God for ministry. That same Spirit is present and available for every believer today that desires a Spirit "*ignited*" life and ministry.

Unity...The Impact of the Spirit

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