




**Sermon Series: *Embracing the Spirit***

**Why Do I Need The Spirit?  
Acts 3:6-12; Romans 12:1-2**



And do not be conformed to this world,  
but be transformed by the renewing of your mind,  
that you may prove what is that good  
and acceptable and perfect will of God.

**ROMANS 12:2** ■

# Introduction

- The original disciples were a handful of unlikely misfits.
- But the remarkable fact is that they were the same ones who later *“turned the world upside down”* (Acts 17:6 KJV) according to the testimony of people in the 1<sup>st</sup> century.



## Introduction (cont'd)

- How can anyone explain the transformation?
- There is only one intelligent answer: it was the arrival and the empowerment of the Holy Spirit.

# I. A Brief Glance at the “Orphaned” Disciples

- To appreciate this transformation as fully as we should, we need before and after portraits of the men who walked with Christ. Let’s start with the Last Supper.
- They were troubled, even though He urged them, “*Do not let your heart be troubled*” (John 14:1).

## A Brief Glance (cont'd)

- They were confused, as Thomas' question reveals: *“Lord, we do not know where You are going, how do we know the way?”* (John 14:5).
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- Another in the group was bothered about the change in plans as he asked, *“Lord, what then has happened that You are going to disclose Yourself to us and not to the world?”* (John 14:22).

## A Brief Glance (cont'd)

- Later, Peter denied Him, and he was the leader of the group (Mark 14:66-72). Ultimately, when push came to shove, *“all the disciples left [Jesus] and fled”* (Matt 26:56).
- Every last one of them deserted their Master.

## A Brief Glance (cont'd)

- They were hiding *“for fear of the Jews”* (John 20:19).
- If that wasn't enough, even after He came among some of them, Thomas firmly resisted, declaring he had to witness everything firsthand or (in his own words) *“I will not believe”* (John 20:25).



## II. An Enlightening Discovery of Personal Transformation

- Jesus knew His men much better than they knew themselves.
- Therefore, when He promised “*another Helper,*” He meant One who would transform them from the inside out.

# An Enlightening Discovery (cont'd)

- Little did the disciples realize how much they lacked. Most of them thought they had more going for them than was the case.
- Peter, remembered, assured his Lord, “*I will lay down my life for You,*” and “*Even though all may fall away, yet I will not*” (John 13:37; Mark 14:29).

# An Enlightening Discovery (cont'd)

- When the Spirit of God bored His way into the lives of those awaiting His arrival in that upstairs room somewhere in Jerusalem, His transforming presence was immediately evident.
- When we look at the events that transpired in the early part of the book of Acts, we can see at least four changes among those who received the Spirit.

# An Enlightening Discovery (cont'd)

- *1. Their human frailties were transformed into supernatural gifts and abilities.*
- *When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. <sup>2</sup> Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting.*

# An Enlightening Discovery (cont'd)

- *3 They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. 4 All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them. (Acts 2:1-4 NIV)*

# An Enlightening Discovery (cont'd)

- *When they heard this sound, a crowd came together in bewilderment, because each one heard their own language being spoken. <sup>7</sup> Utterly amazed, they asked: “Aren’t all these who are speaking Galileans? <sup>8</sup> Then how is it that each of us hears them in our native language?... We hear them declaring the wonders of God in our own tongues!” (Acts 2:6-11 NIV)*

# An Enlightening Discovery (cont'd)

- It is noteworthy that the original term used for language in verses 6 and 8 is the Greek work dialektos, from which we get dialect.
- Those untrained, uneducated Galileans were suddenly able to communicate in the native dialects of individuals from regions far removed from Galilee

# An Enlightening Discovery (cont'd)

- *Then Peter said, “Silver or gold I do not have, but what I do have I give you. In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, walk.”<sup>7</sup> Taking him by the right hand, he helped him up, and instantly the man’s feet and ankles became strong.<sup>8</sup> He jumped to his feet and began to walk. Then he went with them into the temple courts, walking and jumping, and praising God. (Acts 3:6-8 NIV)*

# An Enlightening Discovery (cont'd)

- *While the man held on to Peter and John, all the people were astonished and came running to them in the place called Solomon's Colonnade. <sup>12</sup> When Peter saw this, he said to them: "Fellow Israelites, why does this surprise you? Why do you stare at us as if by our own power or godliness we had made this man walk? (Acts 3:11-12 NIV)*

# An Enlightening Discovery (cont'd)

- *When we embrace the Holy Spirit, God turns our weakness into power for His glory.*
- *2. Their fearful reluctance was transformed into bold confidence.*

# An Enlightening Discovery (cont'd)

- According to Acts 2:40, they poured into the public streets of Jerusalem preaching Christ and urging total strangers to repent and to believe in the name of Jesus.
- Later, when Peter and John had been arrested and were being questioned, their quiet confidence did not go unnoticed.

# An Enlightening Discovery (cont'd)

- Their interrogators knew they were uneducated and untrained men, but *“they were amazed, and began to recognize them as having been with Jesus”* (Acts 4:13).
- *When we embrace the Holy Spirit, God turns our fears into bold confidence.*

# An Enlightening Discovery (cont'd)

- *3. Their fears and intimidation were transformed into a sense of invincibility.*
- Webster states that intimidation means *timidity, being afraid, overawed, deterred with threats.*
- These men, having been invaded by God's Spirit, were none of the above.

# An Enlightening Discovery (cont'd)

- Instead of running from the public, they ran toward them.
- Instead of hoping not to be seen, they exhorted total strangers to repent.
- Instead of being frightened by insults, warnings, and threats, they stood face to face with their accusers and did not blink.

# An Enlightening Discovery (cont'd)

- *When we embrace the Holy Spirit, God turns our timidity into invincibility.*
- *4. Their feelings of abandonment were transformed into joyful perseverance.*

# An Enlightening Discovery (cont'd)

- *The apostles left the Sanhedrin, rejoicing because they had been counted worthy of suffering disgrace for the Name. <sup>42</sup> Day after day, in the temple courts and from house to house, they never stopped teaching and proclaiming the good news that Jesus is the Messiah. (Acts 5:41-42 NIV)*
- *The Amplified Bible says they were “dignified by the indignity” (v.41).*

# An Enlightening Discovery (cont'd)

- *Dear friends, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal that has come on you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. <sup>13</sup> But rejoice inasmuch as you participate in the sufferings of Christ, so that you may be overjoyed when his glory is revealed. (1 Peter 4:12-13 NIV)*

# An Enlightening Discovery (cont'd)

- *When we embrace the Holy Spirit, God turns our resentment and bitterness into joyful perseverance.*

### III. A Probing Question

- *Therefore I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship. <sup>2</sup> And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect. (Romans 12:1-2 NASB)*

# A Probing Question (cont'd)

- Don't miss the two-fold command: “Do not be conformed...but be transformed.”
- Are you honest enough with yourself to answer my question? Are you allowing the Holy Spirit to transform your life?

# Invitation

