

Series: A Spring in the Spirit  
Text: Acts 2:14-21  
Title: Explaining the Unexplainable  
Date/Place: 3.4.18 | Reality Carp

You guys are studying the book of Acts here on Sunday's and you are reading Fresh Wind Fresh Fire as a church community, this past week you read chapters 5,6 (HAVE B DO)

## **ACTS 2:14-21 READ | PRAY**

You are in a series called Summer in the Spirit where you are declaring, claiming an end to winter and the beginning of spring.

So... when I've heard about this I've taken this to be metaphoric and prophetic.

And I'm with you. Thank you for declaring an end to winter!

2017 was the worst year of my life personally.

Going into that year my wife and I have been overcoming some challenges in our marriage and my wife's health. And right when we thought we are seeing the light of day past that, our church staff had a pretty significant leadership blow up that took all last year to walk through and heal from...and just when we think we are healing as a staff from that, at the end of the year my wife's dad was tragically killed in a car accident.

It was the worst year of our lives.

So I receive your Spring in the Spirit, I too with you declare a new season of life and joy and hope in the Spirit.

### ***But how will you know?***

How will you know the Spirit has brought new life to Reality Carp?  
How will you know the Spirit has brought new life to you and to your families?

What will it look like?

As Britt has already outlined:

### The **grand** effects of Pentecost

- The whole church was made vividly aware of God's presence
- There was a boldness to speak the truth about Jesus
- There was a deep conviction of sin
- There was a great harvest

And this is right...this is true whenever the Spirit of God is working through a people in a place.

But what I believe we see in our text today are the **Subtle effects of Pentecost...or at least the more earthy, down the earth, human, effects of Pentecost.**

- No less powerful, but often times more relatable for us common folk.

### BACK GROUND:

The disciples were just doing what Jesus said to do. They were all together in one place praying, waiting for the promised Holy Spirit.

- And then suddenly, the sound of a violent **wind** came and filled the room (and them subsequently) with the Spirit.
  - The word Spirit and Wind and Breath are all interchangeable in both Hebrew and Greek. Even in Hebrew, when you say the word you breath heavily: Ruah
    - So the Spirit connected to wind or breath is nothing new. What is new is the fact that it the Spirit came on so violently...as if there was no escaping what the Spirit was there to do.
- And as a result they saw **fire** that came to rest on all of them.
  - Here's the thing about fire
    - FIRE is energy that is being released from matter. Fire always requires a source to keep burning...but when the scriptures say that God is a consuming fire, it talks about a God who exists as an unbounded, unfounded, everlasting energy, needing nothing to support him.
  - And so when God shows up as self-sustained fire

upon everyone's life we get a clue as to the energy source that will fuel the new Jesus community: GOD HIMSELF.

And then they started speaking in tongues: so they all had different languages and they heard each other in their own language...a clear reversal of the Tower of Babel.

And due to this wind, this fire, and the speech, a **huge crowd** gathered and wondered:

The crowd's bewilderment:

- Are these people drunk?
- What does this mean?

So Peter says, "Let me explain" ...

Acts 2:14

Then Peter stood up with the Eleven, raised his voice and addressed the crowd: "Fellow Jews and all of you who live in Jerusalem, let me explain this to you; listen carefully to what I say.

Peter is about to explain what they all witnessed, the Spirit of God coming upon the church.

However, what I would like to do is to zoom out and get one meta level bigger.

- There are two layers of this story that can be used to explain what is going on in this scene.
  - Layer one: how Peter will explain what's happening (Joel's prophecy)
  - Layer two: how Luke, the author, is telling this whole account and showing not just through Peter's words but what Peter does, the evidence that the Spirit is now alive and well in the young Jesus community

ARE YOU WITH ME?

Question: How do we know this was the Spirit? How do we know that what just happened was genuinely a move of God and not the move of just some good early morning wine?

***First, notice that Peter stood up...***

- The last time Peter was put on the spot like this from a young girl to give an explanation of if Peter had been with Jesus he didn't stand up, he copped out.
  - One of the evidences of the Spirit coming upon the life of a follower of Jesus is a **Christ-like mellow boldness**.

**Christ-like mellow boldness**

Anyone could be bold, wine makes you bold...liquid courage they call it.

But the Spirit give you a different kind of boldness.

Peter was no stranger of speaking up, he was no stranger to boldness.

- He spoke up to Jesus when Jesus tried to wash his feet. He told Jesus no. Bold move...bold but ignorant.
- He stood up for Jesus in the garden of gethsemane when he was being arrested, he pulled out his sword to defend Jesus, he cut of someone's ear for Jesus (strange)...that was bold...bold but harsh and rash.
  - In both (and many other instances) Jesus had to rebuke Peter because of his boldness. And eventually Peter gave up. He didn't defend Jesus when he went to the cross. He denied Jesus, just like Jesus said he was going to.
    - And he saw his Lord go quietly to the cross, forgiving people along the way.

See there's a boldness that comes from trying to defend God and there's a boldness that tries to explain God.

Peter spent the early part of his life with Jesus trying to defend him. As if God needs defending.

After the Spirit there was a mellowing, Peter no longer felt the need to defend, only to explain.

- There's a confidence in that. A mellow confidence.
  - We are told that Peter carried this mellow confidence to the grave with him. He was crucified like his Lord was at the end of his life, but was asked to be crucified upside-down since he was not worthy to be murdered like his Savior. But right before that, legend has it that they were about to kill Peter's wife right in front of him if he didn't renounce Jesus as Lord, he took one look at his wife and said, "Woman, remember Christ."
- Confidence, boldness, but mellowed by the Spirit.

That's what we see in Peter's life as evidence of the Spirit coming upon him.

***Second thing we see as evidence of the Spirit genuinely coming upon the Church, Peter has jokes...***

Acts 2:15

These people are not drunk, as you suppose. It's only nine in the morning!

- He wasn't being literal, like they get drunk after noon (you guys know we don't turn this thing up until noon!).
  - This was actually a great joke. I can imagine a few chuckles in the audience.

Here's the point, and I sincerely believe this to be true: the sign that the Holy Spirit has filled someone's life is **JOY that is evidenced in the fact you don't take yourself too seriously.**

Joy that is evidenced in the fact that you don't take yourself too seriously

- Last night at dinner with Britt and family, his birthday on Wed/Thurs (great friend that I have two days to wish him a happy birthday), going around saying what we love about him.
  - Isaiah said, "I love that my dad can take a joke."
  - This, is evidence of the Holy Spirit.

- This is the secret sauce of the Holy Spirit, if you don't have this, look out, you might not have the genuine article.
- However, wine can do this too.
  - Ps 104:15 "Wine makes the heart glad."

The joy the Spirit brings comes from the knowledge of where we've come from and what the Lord has done to redeem us.

Only John records it, and I'm so glad he did. After Peter denied Jesus, after his crucifixion, after the resurrection, Peter went fishing.

- It was early in the morning. Jesus, starts a fire by the Sea of Galilee. The same body of water where Jesus first called Peter to drop his nets and follow him.
- When Peter realizes it's the Lord he jumps into the water and swims to him. It's a cold morning and Peter hugs Jesus and warms himself by the fire.
  - Just like the fire he warmed himself by when he would deny Jesus three times.
  - Jesus asks Peter three times, Do you love me.
    - See the parallelism?

The first time:

"Simon son of John, do you love me more than these?"

### **Than these?**

- Could have been the disciples, who he said, "If they all abandon you, I never will...I love you more!"
- Could have been the fish and his nets.

"Simon son of John, do you love me more than these?"

"Yes, Lord," he said, "you know that I love you."

Jesus uses the word Agape, an unconditional love.

Peter responds with Philo, a friendship love. **Not a lesser love, a different love.**

- Peter is much more humble now, much more wise.

Peter: "I know that you unconditionally love me, you've proven that. I can't say that I will never deny you. I can say I don't want to, but I know I'm flesh, but I know that with everything in me, I love you."

- Before Peter denied Jesus he took himself too seriously.
  - When Jesus said, I tell you when they strike the shepherd the sheep will be scattered... "Uh excuse me Jesus, I won't...I'll never leave you...don't talk about me like that."

But this Peter that we meet in Acts knows his proclivities, knows he just flesh, knows that he shouldn't take himself so seriously.

So I think the Peter we meet when failure and the Spirit do its work in his life there is a quiet confidence that shows up as the Fruit of the Spirit: JOY.

### **Third thing ...**

This is that...

Say that with me, "This is that..."

This is what Peter says, this is how PETER explains what is going on.

When the people ask, "Are you drunk?" "What does this mean?"

Peter says, **this is that** which we see in the Bible.

**So, the third thing we see as evidence of the Spirit coming upon the Church...**

You start seeing the Bible come true around you

...

"what is happening here?"

Peter: **"This is that** which the Bible said would happen! This is what the Prophet Joel said..."

By The Way... This is exactly **the way** John the Baptist and Jesus described their ministry too:

- John: who are you? What's happening? "I am a voice of one crying out in the wilderness, Prepare the way for the Lord!" (Is 40)
- Jesus: "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me for he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind to set the oppressed free, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor." (Is 61)
  - How do they explain what's happening? THIS IS THAT

When I think of Reality Carp, and what you have done through this little quaint beach town all over the world and your church planting efforts and missional endeavors I think, this is that which came true for David when he stood before Goliath. He was smaller and the underdog but stood before that giant and said, "It is not by sword or spear that the Lord saves; for the battle is the Lord's and he will give you into our hands."

- I've seen you look at cities like LA, SF, Boston, London, Honolulu...cities that people said are impossible to see thriving works of God in when you planted there...and you said, The Battle is the Lord's.

This is that.

With the Missionaries you've sent all over the world.

This is that which we read in

Romans 10:13-15

"Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved."

How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them? And how can anyone preach unless they are sent? As it is written: "How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!"



*This is that.*

And this is also true of our lives personally.

When we start to see the bible come true around us, this is evidence of the Spirit's work in our life.

- When you are going through a crushing trial with your kids or your marriage or work...when your home is under evac... and though it's crushing and painful... you still have joy.
  - How? Why?
    - And you say, **this is that** which Paul talks about how I don't consider my present sufferings worthy to be compared to the glory that will be revealed in me.
    - **This is that** which Job proclaimed, though he slay me, yet I will hope in him. (13:15)
    - **This is that** which Habakkuk writes:
      - Habakkuk 3:17-18  
Though the fig-tree does not bud and there are no grapes on the vines, though the olive crop fails and the fields produce no food, though there are no sheep in the sheepfold and no cattle in the stalls, yet I will rejoice in the Lord, I will be joyful in God my Savior.

When the Spirit is at work the Bible, God's word, becomes true all around you.

You read this in your reading this week: Cymbala quoting JB Philips

*"It is impossible to spend several months in close study of the remarkable short book . . . without being profoundly stirred and, to be honest, disturbed. The reader is stirred because he is seeing Christianity, the real thing, in action for the first time in human history. The newborn Church, as vulnerable as any human child, having neither money, influence nor power in the ordinary sense, is setting forth joyfully and courageously to win the pagan world for God through Christ. . . . Yet we cannot help feeling disturbed as well as moved, for*

*this surely is the Church as it was meant to be. It is vigorous and flexible, for these are the days before it ever became fat and short of breath through prosperity, or muscle-bound by over organization. These men did not make "acts of faith," they believed; they did not "say their prayers," they really prayed. They did not hold conferences on psychosomatic medicine, they simply healed the sick. But if they were uncomplicated and naive by modern standards, we have ruefully to admit that they were open on the God-ward side in a way that is almost unknown today."*

-JB Phillips quoted in Fresh Wind, Fresh Fire

When Joel talks about the last days and Peter and Luke connect that to the Presence of the Holy Spirit...it's talking about the God-ward side

Acts 2:17-21 (Joel 2:28-32)

"In the last days, God says,  
I will pour out my Spirit on all people.  
Your sons and daughters will prophesy,  
your young men will see visions,  
your old men will dream dreams.  
Even on my servants, both men and women,  
I will pour out my Spirit in those days,  
and they will prophesy.  
I will show wonders in the heavens above  
and signs on the earth below,  
blood and fire and billows of smoke.  
The sun will be turned to darkness  
and the moon to blood  
before the coming of the great and glorious day of the Lord.  
And everyone who calls  
on the name of the Lord will be saved."