

September 17/18, 2005

Study Questions
The Unstoppable Church
God's Presence and Power in Me
Acts 2:1-13
Pastor Mark Kremer

Opening Discussion

1. Have you ever felt isolated and alone at an important point in your life? How did you deal with it, and what did you take from that experience?
2. Have you ever felt powerless to accomplish an assigned task or to deal with a challenging situation? How do you respond in such cases?
3. What are the unique characteristics of each of the following kinds of power that we can possess: physical power, political power, economic power, spiritual power? How do they differ? What is the source of each? Which would you most like to possess and why?

Bible Study

1. Read John 14:12-26 and John 16:5-15. What did Jesus teach His followers about His departure and the coming of "another Helper"? What specifically did Jesus promise the Holy Spirit would do?
2. In Acts 1:4 Jesus told His followers to wait in Jerusalem for the Holy Spirit to come. Did they obey this command, and how did they occupy themselves while they waited? What were they doing in Acts 2:1 when the Holy Spirit came?
3. What was celebrated during the feast of Pentecost? Why might God have chosen this celebration as the occasion to send the Holy Spirit?
4. Compare the account of God's giving of the law on Mt. Sinai in Exodus 19 with the giving of the Holy Spirit in Acts 2:2-3. How are they similar? How are they different?
5. The biblical record shows that God's presence and power were often demonstrated through both wind (sound) and fire. Discuss some of those other occasions and the similarities or differences with the coming of the Holy Spirit.
6. What is the significance of the tongues of fire coming to rest on each one of Jesus' followers who were in the house?
7. What is the connection between the mission given to the church in Acts 1:8 and the first supernatural ability God gave to His followers to speak in the native languages of those present in Jerusalem for the feast of Pentecost (Acts 2:4-6)?

8. Why was hearing Galileans speaking perfectly in these various languages so amazing to those who heard it (Acts 2:7-8)?
9. Why did Luke go to the trouble of listing the names of the people groups who were there to hear the “mighty deeds of God” in their own native language at Pentecost?
10. How did the crowd respond to what they were seeing and hearing according to Acts 2:12? What does the question they were asking indicate about their heart condition? Have you ever experienced this kind of reaction from people you have talked with about Jesus?
11. What does the response of those in Acts 2:13 indicate they were thinking? Have you seen this kind of response from some you have talked to about Jesus?

Application

1. How has the coming of the Holy Spirit as recorded in Acts 2:1-13 affected your daily life as a follower of Jesus?
2. Do you live in the constant awareness of the presence of God the Holy Spirit in your life? What enhances or detracts from your awareness of His presence?
3. What does it mean to be filled with the Holy Spirit? Why does God want us to be filled with the Holy Spirit? What are the characteristics of those who are filled? What must I do to be filled with the Holy Spirit?
4. What has God asked you to do that you most definitely need the power of the Holy Spirit to carry out? What happens when you try to carry out your assignment in your own human strength?
5. Share some examples of what you have seen God do through you when you have been completely dependent on the Holy Spirit.
6. How will the truths of this passage change the way you think and act this week?