

The Birth of a Church

Acts 2:1–13

Do you remember how the church began? When it started? How it was born?

Background...

Note two key aspects of this movement

1. There was an inner impact (v. 1-4)

- Acts 1:4 – Jesus instructed his disciples to NOT leave Jerusalem

- What did those disciples experience?

- The scripture foretold this event.

Joel 2:28–29 – *It shall come to pass afterward, that I shall pour out my spirit on all flesh.*

Matthew 3:11; Luke 3:16 – John the Baptist said, “I baptize with water, but He shall baptize with the Holy Spirit”.

Luke 11:13 – Jesus said that the only way to receive the Spirit was by prayer.

John 14:16–17 – Jesus prayed to the Father for the Comforter (the Holy Spirit) to come and abide with the disciples

Acts 1:5 – Jesus said that the disciples would be baptized with the Holy Spirit

- Note – whatever is happening on the inside will always seep out, or in this case gush out!

2. There is an obvious outer impact (v. 5–13)

- How could others tell?
- Ephesians 5:18 – Paul teaches that the result of the Holy Spirit is worship, thankfulness, love, submission, and obedience.
- There were no seminars, instruction books, or coaching to hone their presentation tactics on how to share this good news. They just went and trusted the Holy Spirit!
- Notice the reaction by those who first encountered the disciples
 - v. 6 – bewilderment
 - v. 7 – amazed and astonished
 - v. 12 – amazed and perplexed (they even asked each other “What does this mean?”)
- v. 7 – WHO was sharing the good news and WHERE were they from?

CHALLENGE...As you look at the birth of the church, you can surely see what kind of miracle it was. The fruit was more than obvious! Can you also notice in your personal experience, what a miracle it was for you?!

The same Holy Spirit who brought the church to life in Acts 2, is the same Spirit who is actively at work in you today!

It would be good to evaluate exactly why this Holy Spirit came to you in the first place. What is the mission he has called you to? Where have you experienced Him? How has He led and how is He leading you today?