



May 24, 2026
The Spirit Unites
Acts 2:1-8 and Ephesians 4:1-4



1. **Sermon Outline:**

- a. The Holy Spirit Began Uniting Believers at Pentecost
 - i. The Spirit's first work at Pentecost brought people together from many nations
 - ii. Pentecost began to reverse the scattering of Babel
- b. The Spirit Enables Believers to Be United
 - i. While we naturally divide, the Spirit supernaturally unites
 - ii. The Spirit gives us all we need to be united with ALL other believers
- c. Work Hard for Unity In the Spirit, Don't Undermine It In the Flesh
 - i. Actively work for unity in the Spirit!
 - ii. Disunity is the work of the flesh and the devil
 - iii. Which will you choose?

2. **Sunday** – As soon as possible after the sermon, consider:

- a. What stood out to you the most in this sermon?
- b. What new truth did you learn, or what truth were you reminded of?
- c. Is there a particular Scripture passage you feel God is leading you to meditate on or commit to memory?
- d. What is one thing God is leading you to do after hearing this message?
- e. Did God convict you of a need to make any changes in your life and walk with Him?

3. **Monday:**

- a. Read Acts 2:1-8, meditating particularly on verse 1.
- b. When did the events in this passage take place?
 - i. What is the significance of Pentecost and when does it occur (see Leviticus 23:15-22, Exodus 34:22, Numbers 28:26-31, and Deuteronomy 16:9-12)? What other names was this festival given? On what day of the week does it take place?
 - ii. How long had the disciples been waiting for the event that takes place on this Pentecost (compare Acts 1:3)?
 - iii. During the Passover, great emphasis is placed on eliminating all yeast. What is remarkably different about Passover (Leviticus 23:17)? What significance do you think that may have?
- c. Who do you think the “they” in verse 1 refers to, and how many do you think were present (consider Acts 1:12-15)?

- d. We are not told why “they” were all together on Pentecost, but what does Acts 1:14 suggest was probably going on?
- e. Where do you think “they” were gathered together? What does Acts 1:13 suggest as a location? What do Luke 24:53 and Acts 2:14 suggest as an alternative location? How does Jesus’ use of “house” in Matthew 21:13 and John 2:16 apply?

4. *Tuesday:*

- a. Read Acts 2:1-8, meditating on verses 2-3.
- b. What do the words at the beginning of verse two tell us about this event? Does it seem that those gathered together may have been surprised by the timing?
- c. What was the first indication that something special and important was happening?
 - i. Reading verse 2 very carefully, what does it say filled the house? What does it not say filled it?
 - ii. Both the Hebrew and the Greek words for Spirit can also mean “wind” or “breath”. Read Ezekiel 37:1-14. How might this have been a prophecy about what is happening in Acts 2?
 - iii. How did Jesus describe the Spirit in John 3:8?
 - iv. Where did the sound come from? Why is this important? Where was Jesus (Acts 1:11) and what had He promised to do (John 15:26 & 16:7)?
- d. What was the second indication that something special and important was happening?
 - i. What is symbolized or portrayed by fire in these verses: Genesis 15:17, Exodus 3:2-6, 19:16-18, 24:17, & 40:38?
 - ii. What might “tongues” symbolize or represent (consider James 3:5-9)?
 - iii. What is significant about the fact that the tongues rested on each of those who were present (see 1 Corinthians 12:7)?

5. *Wednesday:*

- a. Read Acts 2:1-8 again, this time meditating on verses 4-8.
- b. What two things happened to all those present?
 - i. How did John the Baptist prophecy about the first thing (Matthew 3:11 and Luke 3:16)?
 - ii. What did Jesus say this event was in Acts 1:5?
 - 1. What do Acts 11:15-16, Romans 6:3, 1 Corinthians 12:13, and Colossians 2:12 teach about how often this can occur?
 - 2. How does Acts 2:4a describe the event? What do Acts 4:8, 31; 6:3, 5; 7:55; 9:17; 13:9, 52; Galatians 5:16; and Ephesians 4:30; 5:18 tell us about how often the Spirit’s filling can occur?
 - iii. In what sense did the second thing represent a partial reversal of the judgment at the Tower of Babel (Genesis 11:1-9)?
 - 1. Who heard and understood those speaking in other tongues?

2. What does verse 5 suggest about the nature/character of those who heard in their own language?
3. In what significant way is the speaking in tongues in these verses different from the speaking in tongues Paul addresses in 1 Corinthians 12-14 (see especially 14:2 & 10-11)?
4. What amazed the hearers most? What does it tell us about how Galileans were viewed?

6. **Thursday:**

- a. Read Acts 2:1-8, this time stepping back to see the big picture.
- b. How do the three phenomena evident in the Pentecost event – sound, fire, and speech relate this event to that which the Israelites experienced at Mt Sinai (Exodus 19:16-19)?
- c. According to verse 4, how many were filled with the Holy Spirit?
 - i. Grammatically, what does the “all” relate just to filling or also to speaking in tongues?
 - ii. What controlled who spoke in which language?
 - iii. From these verses, is there any reason to believe that any of those filled had any choice in the language they spoke? Is there any reason to believe anyone complained about how insignificant their new language was? Or did anyone boast about how important the language they were speaking was? How does Paul capture this attitude in 1 Corinthians 12:14-30?
 - iv. Although the word is not used, how is unity demonstrated in these verses?

7. **Friday:**

- a. Read and meditate on Ephesians 4:1-4.
- b. What is the first step Paul describes that is necessary for unity?
 - i. What does “walk in a manner worthy of the calling” (“live a life worthy of the calling” in the NIV) mean to you?
 1. As we read verse 1, why is it important that we understand that Paul is writing to Christians (consider Romans 3:28)?
 2. What do Philippians 1:27; Colossians 1:10; and 1 Thessalonians 2:12 add to our understanding of living a worthy life?
 - ii. What word would you use to collectively describe what Paul is describing in the list in verse 2-3?
 1. How does the conduct described in verses 2-3 compare to the fruit of the Spirit in Galatians 5:22-23?
 2. What do you understand the “bond of peace” to be? What insight does Colossians 3:12-15 provide?
 - iii. The NIV and CSB begin verse 3 saying “Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit” (ESV says “eager to maintain”). What does this suggest about what is necessary for there to be unity in the church?

1. Is unity just a “passive” result, or does it require us to work at it?
 2. How might the work necessary for maintaining unity fit into the “good works” Paul mentions in Ephesians 2:10?
- c. How would the “calling to which you have been called” have been demonstrated in the Pentecost event?
- i. If those who received the Spirit at Pentecost had tried to walk in someone else's calling, what do you think the results would have been?
 - ii. How did the way they responded to the gift of tongues demonstrate unity?
 - iii. What practical applications do you see for Christians today?

8. **Saturday:**

- a. This concludes Pastor Brian’s series on the Holy Spirit. Use your time today to read each of the focal passages from the past seven weeks: Ephesians 1:13-14, Galatians 5:16-25, 1 Peter 4:10-11 & Romans 12:4-8, Acts 1:8, Romans 8:11-17, 1 Corinthians 2:6-16, and ending with Acts 2:1-8 & Ephesians 4:1-4.
 - b. What have you learned about the Holy Spirit that is changing your life?
9. **Application:** One of the most insightful passages in the Bible is found in John 17 as Jesus pours out His heart to His Father, especially as He prays for us (verses 20-26). He specifically prays that we, as Christians, would be united as one, just as He is with the Father. He goes on to say that such unity is necessary “so that the world may know that you sent me and loved them even as you loved me,” suggesting that our best efforts at evangelism will not be fully successful unless they are backed by a unified church. The Holy Spirit provides unity – but like every gift of the Spirit, we have to act for it to be useful (the gift of tongues would not have been useful if the disciples had not opened their mouths). Unity is achieved when we live in humility, gentleness, patience, love and peace (Ephesians 4:2-3) – exactly the opposite of what our society promotes. It is only possible when we surrender to the Holy Spirit.
10. **Pray:** The outbreak of a new strain of Ebola that is resistant to known drugs has been reported in central Africa (Democratic Republic of Congo, Uganda and South Sudan). This week pray for these unreached people groups in that region:
- a. Nyangatom: The Nyangatom are pastoralists, but some who live along the Omo River are now engaged in farming. Their diet consists of meat, milk, and some grain, and wild fruits. There is a single tribal language, Nyangatom, spoken by the whole tribe. Young men between the ages of 16 and 20 undergo an initiation ceremony, which involves an animal sacrifice. This is a prerequisite for later taking of human life. The status of a warrior is determined once a man has killed his first enemy, an event he will mark by notching a scar on his right shoulder or chest. After his first killing, he begins carrying a weapon. His clan sponsor gives him a spear and other weapons, a stool that serves as a headrest, and a pair of sandals. The Nyangatom are followers of ethnic religion. Only a small number have accepted Christ.
 - b. Deaf: Unlike most Western nations, there is little compassion and few accommodations for the deaf, especially schools for deaf students (South Sudan has none at all) in central Africa. Consequently, the over half million deaf individuals in these three countries are much less likely ever to hear the Gospel. Pray that efforts to minister to the deaf will not be curtailed because of the new Ebola outbreak.