

Simple22  
Sermon for June 9, 2019

BMZ Regional Church

Series: "Doctor's Orders"  
Text: Acts 2:1-13  
Title: "Rx: Fill Up!"

Introduction: GOOD MORNING, BMZ! Glad you're here as we KICK OFF our Summer Series called: "DOCTOR'S ORDERS"! We are going to do A BIBLE STUDY through SOME of the WRITINGS of DR. LUKE! Luke is the AUTHOR of ONE of the FOUR GOSPELS / HISTORY of Jesus (Matthew, Mark, LUKE, John) in the New Testament.

So, who is LUKE? We KNOW he was a PHYSICIAN / Doctor. He was a GREEK GENTILE CHRISTIAN who was a close FRIEND and TRAVELING companion with PAUL. His MAIN AUDIENCE was the GENTILES ... people who were NOT JEWISH who were INVITED to follow the GOD of the HEBREW / JEWISH people. Now, as FAR as we KNOW, LUKE is the ONLY GENTILE Author in the New Testament.

Here was LUKE'S PLAN: He wanted to WRITE an ACCOUNT of JESUS that could NOT be DISPROVEN! He made SURE he had NOTHING but FACTS in his ACCOUNT of Jesus' life. He double-checked his FACTS to make SURE NO ONE could find a LIE or an EXAGGERATION in his WRITING. AND, his writing has HELD UP throughout HISTORY and has been EFFECTIVE for NON-JEWS / GENTILES for CENTURIES.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> PART of LUKE'S PLAN: He WROTE ANOTHER Book to give an ACCOUNT of the BIRTH and EARLY YEARS of the CHURCH. This is the HISTORY of the CHURCH, mostly AFTER Jesus ASCENDED to Heaven.

THOSE are LUKE'S PLANS ... Here is OUR PLAN: We want to TAKE the FACTS of JESUS and the EARLY CHURCH and DISCOVER what WE need to LEARN to APPLY to our LIVES and our CHURCH TODAY. I BELIEVE that if we LISTEN to LUKE'S FACTS, they will SPEAK to US GENTILES in 2019.

Here's the GAME PLAN for Today: Today is a SPECIAL DAY on the CALENDAR, so we are going to START in Luke's SECOND BOOK / ACTS. Then, over the next FEW WEEKS we will go BACK to Luke's FIRST BOOK / LUKE and LEARN from JESUS. Then, at the END of this SERIES we will get BACK to the Book of ACTS to WRAP UP.

BUT, for TODAY ... Happy Birthday to you / Happy Birthday to you / Happy Birthday dear Church / Happy Birthday to you ... Come on ... Join Me! Happy Birthday to you ...

GRAB your MESSAGE NOTES ... *If you haven't already, I invite you to take out your MESSAGE NOTES and CONNECTION card. You will see that there are blanks to fill in ... Please take the time to do so. Grab a PEN and write down whatever else you think is important to you and your faith journey. After worship, drop off your CONNECTION CARD and take your MESSAGE NOTES home. Please Re-read the Scripture and the notes to keep growing and learning. **For those of you joining on-line, you can go to our website, [www.bmzchurch.org](http://www.bmzchurch.org) ... find the NOTES and follow along ... LET'S PRAY (turn off marked lights during prayer)!***

TODAY, is PENTECOST! Today is the day we celebrate the BIRTH of what we call the CHURCH! Okay, wait ... let's back up a little bit first. MAYBE you've HEARD me say this, but we need to READ our BIBLES with JESUS in mind on EVERY VERSE! BECAUSE ... The Old Testament POINTS to the COMING of JESUS as MESSIAH / The CHRIST (Promised One of God) ... the Son of God / SAVIOR of the WORLD / LORD over the UNIVERSE!

And, the NEW TESTAMENT is about GOD INTERSECTING our WORLD in the PERSON of JESUS and what HAPPENED as a RESULT of JESUS COMING ... AND, what we need to KNOW TODAY as FOLLOWERS of JESUS!

Let's get at our SCRIPTURE for TODAY. Here is the BACK STORY. According to Luke (at the END of his 1<sup>st</sup> Book), Jesus has DIED on a CROSS for our SINS on a FRIDAY ... on the THIRD DAY, SUNDAY, Jesus comes BACK to LIFE in a BODILY RESURRECTION. For the next APPROXIMATELY 40 DAYS, Jesus APPEARS to his DISCIPLES and many of his other FOLLWERS (Bible = Over 500 Witnesses to Jesus in Resurrected Body!).

THEN, Jesus GIVES his Disciples FINAL INSTRUCTIONS and ASCENDS to Heaven. We'll come back to that in a moment. HERE we GO ... Acts 2:1 = *On the day of Pentecost all the believers were meeting together in one place.*<sup>1</sup> Okay, WHY were they ALL in ONE PLACE?

### **WAIT for IT**

Have you ever been to the mall when they have a new car or boat sitting right in the middle of the mall with a big sign on it that says, "Win Me!"? I'm usually all for signing up for those things, until I read in the small print, "***Must be present at drawing to claim prize***" or something like that. Well, there's no way I'm going to be able to be in Dubuque or Madison on that day, so I usually throw away my name, address and phone number. BUT, that's kind of like what's about to happen.

Remember, I said BEFORE Jesus ASCENDS to HEAVEN, he gives some FINAL INSTRUCTIONS? He gives the Disciples/ Apostles these instructions ... "***Go to Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria and to the ends of the earth.***" Then, Jesus tells them to WAIT! "***Don't you dare start this mission on your own! Stay in Jerusalem until I send you a gift...***" "***You must be PRESENT to WIN!***" Therefore, the BELIEVERS in Jesus are MEETING TOGETHER in JERUSALEM ... and the DAY they are MEETING Together is the Festival of PENTECOST!

Okay, back to PENTECOST ... In the Book of Leviticus, we learn about THREE (3) FESTIVALS that were very IMPORTANT to the Jewish people. Old Testament Festivals God USED as New Covenant PILLARS!

### **THREE JEWISH FESTIVALS:**

**#1 = PASSOVER** – The celebration of God SPARING the Hebrew children (Blood of a LAMB over their DOOR FRAME), who were SLAVES in Egypt, while God killed the first-born of the Egyptians.

**#2 = FIRST FRUITS** – The celebration of the Hebrew people ENTERING the Promised Land (Israel / The Land of Milk and Honey) ... after their first harvest of grain, the people were to bring some of that grain to the priest on the DAY AFTER the SABBATH. BTW – this is celebrated TWO DAYS AFTER the END of PASSOVER ... on SUNDAY!

**#3 = PENTECOST** – 50 DAYS (Pente-) AFTER the Festival of the First Fruits (or the day after the Sabbath seven weeks later), the Jewish people CELEBRATED this FESTIVAL to bring an OFFERING of NEW GRAIN to the TEMPLE.

WHY do we need these? Again, GOD USED these FESTIVALS to set PILLARS in place for BELIEVING in JESUS as the MESSIAH / Promised One of God! These FESTIVALS go right along with the EVENTS around Jesus' DEATH and RESURRECTION. Last Day of PASSOVER = Jesus was CRUCIFIED. FIRST FRUITS = Jesus RESURRECTION. And PENTECOST = the coming of the HOLY SPIRIT.

<sup>1</sup> Tyndale House Publishers. (2013). [Holy Bible, New Living Translation](#) (Ac 2:1). Carol Stream, IL: Tyndale House Publishers.

Here's HOW it HAPPENS ... Acts 2:2-3 = <sup>2</sup> *Suddenly, there was a sound from heaven like the roaring of a mighty windstorm, and it filled the house where they were sitting.* <sup>3</sup> *Then, what looked like flames or tongues of fire appeared and settled on each of them.* <sup>2</sup>

### **The Spirit CAME**

The Followers of JESUS followed Jesus' INSTRUCTIONS and WAITED ... and Jesus KEPT His PROMISE. The Spirit CAME! And, SUDDENLY = TWO THINGS!

1. Sound of a ROARING WINDSTORM = In the Greek and Hebrew, the word SPIRIT is the same as "WIND". So, that makes sense.
2. TONGUES of FIRE settling on each of them = This is SYMBOLIC that EACH PERSON will be a powerful WITNESS to other people! EACH is FILLED with the Spirit, not just one or two special ones. EVERYONE has a job to do!

Here's what we know ... We KNOW the Holy Spirit has been active in the Old Testament (Creation, etc.), and we know the Spirit was active in the life and ministry of Jesus (Luke 1, 4, 14). SO, WHY IS THIS DAY SO SPECIAL!?! I'm so glad you asked!

Have you ever known somebody that would be hard to replace? Maybe a co-worker or someone in the community that does SOOO MUCH, that you know it would take two or three people to cover what that one did?! Maybe that person is a fast worker or strong or they just know so much about everyone's job...

Remember that guy named, JESUS? Remember all the good things He did? Healing and Teaching and Preaching and getting people to know His Heavenly Father? Remember how he trained His Disciples to take over for Him? Can you imagine them trying to fill Jesus' shoes by themselves?

Jesus said, IF we BELIEVED IN and FOLLOWED Him, we would ACCOMPLISH MORE than He did! How could that happen? Here's HOW ... Jesus SAID it to the Apostles, according to DR. LUKE, right before he ASCENDED to HEAVEN ... Acts 1:5 = <sup>5</sup> *John baptized with water, but in just a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.* <sup>3</sup>

### **The Spirit BAPTIZED**

How could we possibly ACCOMPLISH MORE than JESUS? Well, it has to DO WITH WHAT HAPPENED on PENTECOST: Those people were BAPTIZED by the Holy Spirit ... they were "IDENTIFIED" with Jesus Christ! Jesus is the HEAD of the BODY of CHRIST! Each of us is a living PLACE for the Spirit of Jesus Christ / The Holy Spirit, to RESIDE. And, WE get to be a REMINDER to the WORLD that Jesus DIED, CAME ALIVE again, and now WE CARRY ON the WORK Jesus STARTED...

Quick clarification = The "BAPTISM" of the Holy Spirit comes ONCE ... for those people, it was on Pentecost. For US, it happens WHEN we GIVE our LIVES to Christ ... When we BELIEVE Jesus IS WHO He says HE IS; When we BELIEVE He can SAVE US from our SINS for ETERNITY by HIS DEATH on a CROSS ... At THAT MOMENT, we are "IDENTIFIED" with JESUS and we become PART of the BODY of CHRIST (The CHURCH). And TOGETHER as the CHURCH we have a JOB to do ...

The BAPTISM of the Holy Spirit is a ONE TIME EVENT when we are HID in CHRIST. Our SINS HIDDEN / FORGIVEN by our SAVIOR! God SEES Jesus' PERFECTION and NOT OUR SINFULNESS! Let's press on ... Acts 2:4 = <sup>4</sup> *And everyone present was filled with the Holy Spirit and began speaking in other languages, as the Holy Spirit gave them this ability.* <sup>4</sup>

### **The Spirit FILLED**

<sup>2</sup> Tyndale House Publishers. (2013). [Holy Bible: New Living Translation](#) (Ac 2:2-3). Carol Stream, IL: Tyndale House Publishers.

<sup>3</sup> Tyndale House Publishers. (2013). [Holy Bible: New Living Translation](#) (Ac 1:5). Carol Stream, IL: Tyndale House Publishers.

<sup>4</sup> Tyndale House Publishers. (2013). [Holy Bible: New Living Translation](#) (Ac 2:4). Carol Stream, IL: Tyndale House Publishers.

The Followers of Jesus ALL began speaking and PRAISING God in other languages = Wow! That's just WEIRD! BUT, There's a REASON! JESUS had GIVEN the DISCIPLES / APOSTLES INSTRUCTIONS for their LIFE PURPOSE. They had a VERY LARGE, WORLD-WIDE, JOB to DO! And THEN, Jesus MADE it POSSIBLE to ACCOMPLISH. Remember? We will ACCOMPLISH much MORE than JESUS?

Jesus LIFE was spent in a GEOGRAPHIC AREA less than a 10<sup>th</sup> the SIZE of WISCONSIN. Grant, Crawford, Richland, Vernon and Iowa Counties together is MORE than HALF the Square Miles Jesus would have MINISTERED TO in his LIFETIME!

He had a MUCH BIGGER PLAN for his FOLLOWERS ... Acts 1:8 = <sup>8</sup> *But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you. And you will be my witnesses, telling people about me everywhere—in Jerusalem, throughout Judea, in Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.*" <sup>5</sup>

Can you IMAGINE being in those Disciple's SANDALS? HOW would YOU REACT if Jesus DEMANDED of YOU, "      , ***I want you to GO and MAKE DISCIPLES for me! Start in YOUR TOWN, go to all Grant, Richland, Vernon, Iowa and Crawford Counties, the rest of Wisconsin and to the whole world!***" Would you be NERVOUS? BUT, Jesus says, "***Don't even start until you hear back from me! Stay in Jerusalem until the right time.***" Jesus PROMISES to send a HELPER (Holy Spirit) to MAKE THOSE DEMANDS POSSIBLE for the Disciples.

BTW – Jesus DOES DEMAND that of US! And, we can ASK EVERY DAY for the FILLING of God's HOLY SPIRIT to we have the Strength, POWER, Unconditional LOVE, Wisdom and COURAGE we NEED to ACCOMPLISH what JESUS DEMANDS!

Let's RECAP the BAPTISM and the FILLING of the HOLY SPIRIT (it can be confusing) ... BAPTISM = ONE TIME event that makes us a PART of the BODY of Christ ... JOINS US with other Christians in the WORK we MUST DO. FILLING = PERSONAL ... between us and God so we can do our part in the Body. Need to CONTINUALLY ASK for God to FILL us with HIS SPIRIT.

The BAPTISM of the SPIRIT means I BELONG to the BODY of CHRIST. The FILLING of the SPIRIT means MY BODY belongs to HIM! BAPTISM is FINAL / ONE TIME. FILLING is REPEATED as we TRUST God for new POWER to WITNESS.

Okay, let's FINISH our SCRIPTURE from Acts 2 ... Acts 2:5-13 = <sup>5</sup> *At that time there were devout Jews from every nation living in Jerusalem. <sup>6</sup> When they heard the loud noise, everyone came running, and they were bewildered to hear their own languages being spoken by the believers. <sup>7</sup> They were completely amazed. "How can this be?" they exclaimed. "These people are all from Galilee, <sup>8</sup> and yet we hear them speaking in our own native languages! <sup>9</sup> Here we are—Parthians, Medes, Elamites, people from Mesopotamia, Judea, Cappadocia, Pontus, the province of Asia, <sup>10</sup> Phrygia, Pamphylia, Egypt, and the areas of Libya around Cyrene, visitors from Rome <sup>11</sup> (both Jews and converts to Judaism), Cretans, and Arabs. And we all hear these people speaking in our own languages about the wonderful things God has done!" <sup>12</sup> They stood there amazed and perplexed. "What can this mean?" they asked each other. <sup>13</sup> But others in the crowd ridiculed them, saying, "They're just drunk, that's all!" <sup>6</sup>*

### **The Spirit SPOKE**

Do you all REMEMBER the STORY of the Tower of Babel? In GENESIS 11, we READ the HEBREW people attempting to build a TOWER to HEAVEN to BRING GLORY to THEMSELVES ... Suddenly, God made it so the people could NOT COMMUNICATE with each other and they couldn't finish building... He made their SPEECH like BABELING!

<sup>5</sup> Tyndale House Publishers. (2013). [Holy Bible: New Living Translation](#) (Ac 1:8). Carol Stream, IL: Tyndale House Publishers.

<sup>6</sup> Tyndale House Publishers. (2013). [Holy Bible: New Living Translation](#) (Ac 2:5-13). Carol Stream, IL: Tyndale House Publishers.

PENTECOST becomes the REVERSE of that CURSE of God. The BELIEVERS on PENTECOST wanted to GLORIFY JESUS, NOT THEMSELVES. And God BLESSED them! On PENTECOST, people who could NOT understand each other could SUDDENLY HEAR PRAISES to GOD in their OWN LANGUAGE!

WHY did this happen? REMEMBER the INSTRUCTIONS Jesus gave? ***“Go and make disciples starting in Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria and to all the corners of the world.”*** JESUS MADE it POSSIBLE through the HOLY SPIRIT for this to HAPPEN!

See why Jesus said, ***“WAIT!”*** Can you picture the Disciples taking off on their own with their own plan, trying to teach people all over the world about Jesus Christ? They were men ... they would have pulled out maps and charts and started divvying up the different countries ...

BY WAITING for the HOLY SPIRIT, they were able to reach much of the Jewish population on one day ... and THOSE PEOPLE took the HISTORY of JESUS back to their OWN COUNTRIES and REGIONS.

We have a JOB to DO. Jesus gives the same orders today he gave His Disciples 2,000 years ago ... Go make Disciples ... start in your home neighborhood or town and work out from there! Get the Word out to the WHOLE WORLD!

BUT, DON'T YOU DARE GO UNTIL YOU HAVE THE HOLY SPIRIT! Don't go telling people about Jesus Christ UNLESS you have experienced GIVING your LIFE to HIM (Baptism of the Holy Spirit) and DON'T you DARE try to TELL OTHERS about the UNCONDITIONAL LOVE of Jesus Christ unless you are FILLED with it!

We have a job to do ... We will START in SOUTHWEST WISCONSIN. HAPPY BIRTHDAY EVERYBODY!

Let's Pray!

Next Steps:    *I will memorize Acts 1:8*  
                   *I will read Acts 1-2*  
                   *I will ask for filling of the power of the Holy Spirit to be a witness to Christ*  
                   *I will invite someone to worship this Summer for “DOCTOR'S ORDERS”*