

Peter's Proclamation

Acts 2:14-41

PART TWO

Introduction

The Spirit of the living God has arrived so the revelation and the communication of God could continue through the proclamation of His Servant Jesus and after His Ascension, through His Spirit-filled saints.

"Proclamation" "An official announcement, especially one dealing with a matter of great importance."

God speaks. God speaking is His communication to His people and His Self-revelation to the world.

Deuteronomy 18:15-19

The *Son of God* is sent for the continuing communication of God's Word and His Self-revelation.

"And a voice came out of the cloud, saying, 'This is my Son, my Chosen One; listen to him!'" (Luke 9:35).

"but I have called you friends, for all that I have heard from my Father I have made known to you" (John 15:16).

"I have manifested your name to the people whom you gave me out of the world. Yours they were, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. Now they know that everything that you have given me is from you. For I have given them the words that you gave me, and they have received them and have come to know in truth that I came from you; and they have believed that you sent me" (John 17:6-8).

"I must preach the good news of the kingdom of God ... for I was sent for this purpose" (Luke 4:43).

The *Holy Spirit* is sent for the continuing communication of God's Word and His Self-revelation.

John 16:12-15

"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth" (Acts 1:8).

"And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance" (Acts 2:4).

2 Timothy 4:1-4

Jesus gave Peter one simple, but powerful message at his restoration: *"Feed my sheep!"* (John 21:15-17).

"preach" is Gk verb kerusso, to proclaim.

“The Spirit is given through the Word, through proclamation of the gospel.... Where the Word is, the Spirit is at work. The Spirit does [His] work on earth through the church” (Lutheran Book of Concord).

“If you do not join in what the church is doing, you have no share in this Spirit. For where the church is, there is the Spirit of God, and where the Spirit of God is, there is the church and every kind of grace” (Irenaeus).

I. The Scriptural Explanation for the Spirit-Filled Believers (vv14-21)

“But Peter, standing with the eleven, lifted up his voice and addressed them, ‘Men of Judea and all who dwell in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and give ear to my words’” (Acts 2:14).

“addressed” “to speak seriously, with gravity, a word often used for prophetic, inspired utterance” (Polhill).

“give ear to my words” “listen carefully to what I say” (NIV).

An urgent need for ‘expository listening’

“When we come to the Word preached, we come to a matter of the highest importance; therefore, we should stir up ourselves and hear with the greatest devotion” (Thomas Watson).

“not as the word of men, but for what it really is, the Word of God” (1 Thessalonians 2:13).

The Words of Christ, His teachings, are for those “*who have ears to hear.*” But what does that mean?

James 1:21-25

“receive” “To take to oneself what is presented or brought by another.... To receive, admit with the mind and heart, i.e., by implication to approve, embrace, follow.”

“meekness” “an inwrought grace of the soul, and the expressions of it are primarily toward God. It is that attitude of spirit we accept God’s dealings with us as good and do not dispute or resist” (Zodhiates).

“implanted” “to implant, to germinate, to grow or spring up, produce” (ibid.).

“doers” “To make, do, expressing action...to produce, bring about, cause, spoken of something tangible, corporeal, obvious to the senses, completed action” (ibid.).

“doing” ‘action, performance.’ “The act of making, doing or keeping as of the Law” (ibid.)

Proverbs 2:1-6

Preachers have a solemn responsibility to proclaim the Word from the King. They are His ‘heralds.’

‘Listen, O heavens, and hear, O earth; for the LORD speaks’ (Isaiah 1:2).

“But this is what was uttered through the prophet Joel:” (v16).

“And in the last days it shall be, God declares, that I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh, and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams; even on my male servants and female servants in those days I will pour out my Spirit, and they shall prophesy. (vv17-18).

3 prominent items to note:

- 1) "last days"
- 2) "I will pour out my Spirit"
- 3) "they shall prophesy"

The *Last Days* began when Jesus arrived, they continue now, and will be complete when He returns.

"Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son" (Hebrews 1:1-2).

The goal of Joel's last days prophecy and Peter's proclamation: *repent and receive forgiveness from God.*

"Yet even now," declares the Lord, "return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning; and rend your hearts and not your garments." Return to the Lord, your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love" (Joel 2:12-13).

"Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls" (Matt. 11:28-30).

"Then I called on the name of the Lord: 'O Lord, I pray, deliver my soul!'" (Psalm 116:4).

"And it shall come to pass that everyone who calls upon the name of the Lord shall be saved" (v21).