

Experiencing God Together

“Experiencing God Through Community” – Acts 1-2
August 17, 2025

Our Sermon Series

40 DAYS OF EXPERIENCING GOD TOGETHER		
<i>A Journey to Encounter the Living God Together</i>		
Date	Message Title	Bible Text
Aug 17	Experiencing God Through Community	Acts 1-2
Aug 24	Experiencing God Through His Word	Psalms 19:7-14
Aug 31	Experiencing God Through Prayer	Acts 12:1-19
Sept 7	Experiencing God Through Worship (Jimmy Needham)	Acts 16:16-34
Sept 14	Experiencing God Through Watching and Obeying	John 5:19-20
Sept 21	Experiencing God Through Faith Sharing	Acts 1:6-11
Sept 28	Experiencing God as a Family	Joshua 24:15

Two of My Experiences with God

- July 2025 – With my son Smith and whole family.
- October 1987 – Twila Paris concert in Hughes Auditorium at Asbury

Lessons From Perhaps the Greatest Experience of God by a Community in All of History (Acts 1-2)

1. Experiencing God at Pentecost was preceded by 120 people praying together in the Upper Room (1:13-15)

- The greatest outpouring of God’s Presence in history was preceded by a sustained, 10-day straight prayer meeting of 120 believers.
- Math: 50 days (Day of Pentecost 2:1) minus 40 days (1:3) = 10 days
- Peter Wagner: “The whole world has been ultimately blessed because the disciples in Jerusalem decided to be obedient to their Lord and give themselves to prayer. And they were unified. Verse 14 says they were in ‘one accord.’ One reason that corporate prayer is often more effective than solitary prayer is the principle of agreement. Jesus said, ‘If two of you agree on earth concerning anything that they ask, it will be done for them by My Father in heaven’ (Matt. 18:19). The prayer of one person alone is certainly not wasted, but the prayer of two in agreement is better, and presumably the prayer of 120 in agreement is better yet.”
- A.T. Pierson: “There has never been a spiritual awakening in any country or locality that did not begin in united prayer.”
- J. Edwin Orr: “Whenever God is about to send revival, He always sets His people praying first.”
- The 1857 Businessman’s Noon Prayer Revival started with a prayer meeting in New York City.

- Application #1 – Grace Fellowship, let’s create Upper Room prayer meetings all over our city to pray together including...
 - Families praying together for revival at every meal together for revival and spiritual awakening.
 - Small groups dedicating time to pray for revival and spiritual awakening.
 - Over 20 different time slots each week where live prayer and worship is happening in our prayer room called the “Community Prayer Center.” Info at communityprayercenter.com/calendar
 - Night of Worship on Sunday, September 7, at 6:00pm in the Cinco Ranch Worship Center.
 - Consider how you and your family can participate in two special prayer opportunities during our 40 Days of Experiencing God Together: Global Week of Prayer (Sept 1-7) and Ten Days of Unified Prayer (Sept 22-Oct 2). Info at WhatsGrace.org/Prayer

2. Experiencing God at Pentecost happened as God poured out His Holy Spirit on praying believers (2:1-4)

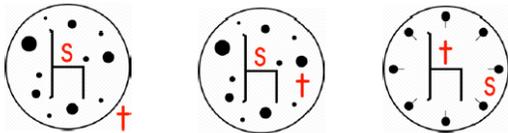
- Warren Wiersbe: “Pentecost means ‘fiftieth’ because this feast was held fifty days after the festival of First Harvest (First Fruits; Leviticus 23:15-22). The calendar of Jewish festivals in Leviticus 23 is an outline of the work of Jesus Christ. Passover pictures His death as the Lamb of God (John 1:29; 1 Cor. 5:7), and the festival of First Harvest pictures His resurrection from the dead (1 Cor. 15:20-23). Fifty days after First Harvest is the festival of Pentecost, which pictures the formation of the church. At Pentecost, the Jews celebrated the giving of the law, but Christians celebrate this day because of the giving of the Holy Spirit to the church.”
- Who is the Holy Spirit? The Holy Spirit is the Third Person of the Trinity – one God who exists eternally in 3 Persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit (Exodus 20:3; Deuteronomy 6:4; Genesis 1:26; 3:22; 11:7; Isaiah 6:8; Matthew 28:19). The Holy Spirit is God’s Spirit.
- Three pictures of the Holy Spirit in today’s passage:
 - (1) The Holy Spirit as wind (v.2)
 - (2) The Holy Spirit as fire (v.3)
 - (3) The Holy Spirit as intoxication (v.13)
- **Ephesians 5:18** – *Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery. Instead, be filled with the Spirit.*

Drunk on Wine	Filled with God’s Spirit
Intoxicated/controlled by alcohol	Intoxicated/controlled by God’s Spirit
Do what alcohol influences you to do	Do what the Spirit influences you to do
Alcohol in the driver’s seat of your life	The Spirit in the driver’s seat of your life

- Experiencing God happens as we surrender the driver’s seat of our lives to God’s Spirit to direct, control, and empower our lives.
- Jim’s take on two terms about the Holy Spirit:

Baptism of the Holy Spirit	Filling of the Holy Spirit
Happens once at conversion when a person is indwelt by God's Spirit	Happens repeatedly whenever a believer surrenders full control to God's Spirit
Acts 2:38; 1 Cor 12:13; Eph 4:5; Titus 3:5-6	Acts 4:8,31; 13:9,52; Eph. 5:18
All believers in Christ	Believers who yield and surrender to the Spirit's control

- Application #2a – Pray: “Spirit of Jesus, I repent of my sin, and I take myself out of the driver’s seat of my life. Holy Spirit, please baptize me and fill me today. Sit in the driver’s seat of my life. Direct, control, empower my life today and always”



- Application #2b – When you invite Jesus Christ into your life, the Bible says your next step is to go public and to get water baptized as a picture of your being indwelt by (baptized in) God’s Spirit. Our next immersion baptism is Sunday, September 7, at 12:45pm. Info and sign up at WhatIsGrace.org/Baptisms
- Revival happens as a whole group of people begin to surrender their lives to God’s Spirit and are filled with the Holy Spirit (Acts 19).
- Sidenote:** Some people use Acts 2 to teach that if you have not spoken in tongues, then you have not been filled with the Holy Spirit. Although Grace Fellowship absolutely believes that speaking in tongues in believer’s settings is a valid and positive gift for the church today (1 Corinthians 14:39-40), I do not believe Acts 2 is teaching that Spirit filling is exclusively tied to speaking in tongues.

TEXT	DESCRIPTION OF WHAT HAPPENED	TONGUES?
Acts 2:4	Conversion and Spirit filling	Yes
Acts 2:41	Conversion of 3000	No
Acts 4:4	Conversion of 2000 more	No
Acts 4:31	Filled with the Holy Spirit	No
Acts 8:14-17	Conversion and Spirit filling	No
Acts 8:36-39	Conversion of Ethiopian eunuch	No
Acts 9:17-19	Paul’s conversion and Spirit filling	No
Acts 10:44-48	Conversion and Spirit filling of Cornelius-plus	Yes
Acts 16:14-34	Lydia and Jailer’s conversions	No
Acts 19:1-7	Conversion and Spirit filling of Ephesians	Yes

3. Experiencing God at Pentecost did not happen just for the 120 – they **shared** their experience with others (2:5-11,37-41)

- When the Holy Spirit fell on the 120 believers, they proclaimed the Good News about Jesus to all the people who had shown up for the Pentecost festival in Jerusalem (2:11). Peter then preached the first sermon of the church ever (2:14-36), and 3000 people repented of their sins, received Christ’s Spirit, and were baptized (2:37-41).

- Bill Bright: “There is no higher calling or greater privilege known to humans than being involved in helping fulfill the Great Commission. And yet only 2% of Christ-followers share their faith. Successful witnessing is taking the initiative to share the Good News of Jesus in the power of the Holy Spirit and leaving the results to God. I am more concerned about the salvation of souls than I am in promoting a particular political party.”
- Application #3 – With God’s help and power, I am going to share my faith with so-n-so by...
 - Praying for their salvation daily.
 - Loving them well through word and deed and building a genuine relationship with them.
 - Inviting them over to my house for dinner just to build relationship.
 - Sharing my personal story and testimony with them.
 - Sharing the Romans Road with them (Rom 3:23; 6:23; 5:8; 10:9)
 - Inviting them to church or my small group.

4. Experiencing God at Pentecost was sustained through ongoing, healthy **spiritual practices** (2:42-27)

- John Stott: “The Book of Acts shows us the effects of Pentecost by giving us a beautiful cameo of the Spirit-filled church – it is a learning, loving, worshipping, and faith-sharing church.”
- Application #4a – A healthy spiritual habit that I want to become more devoted to in the power of God’s Spirit is...
 - Reading and obeying God’s Word
 - Fellowshiping with other believers
 - Breaking bread with other believers
 - Praying
 - Meeting the needs of others
 - Sharing my faith with others
- Application #4b – Grow in these practices by experiencing God together in a group with other people. Scan this QR Code to learn more or to sign up for Alpha, iBloom, Marriage Matters, Financial Peace University, Grief Share, Divorce Care, Parenting with Grace, Women’s Bible Study, Men’s Bible Study, Emotionally Healthy Relationships, True and Good Worldview Class, discipleship mentoring, or a “50 Days of Experiencing God Together” group.
- Application #4c – Next Sunday is “Say Yes” Sunday – an opportunity to explore groups and serving on the porch.
- Application #4d – I commit to come to church every Sunday during our “40 Days of Experiencing God Together” series (or to attend online if I have to be out of town).

