



Dig Deeper Study Guide

Stroudsburg United Methodist Church - May 27, 2012

Sermon

“Are You Filled with the Spirit?”

Acts 2:1-13

by Bob Shank

Things I want to remember about this sermon...

Monday 5/28/12

Acts 2:1

“They were all together in one place.” Where is that one place in the world that does it for you? In what place do you find strength and power? I like the mountains and there is one mountain in particular that I enjoy being on to think, contemplate, and just be for a while. I was on that mountain this week and it felt so good! Where is that place for you? Do you ever find being in the sanctuary as a place of power and strength?

Tuesday 5/29/12

Acts 2:2-4

Something amazing happened in this place according to Luke’s telling of the story. A violent wind came from heaven and tongues of fire spread to them and came over them and they were filled with the Holy Spirit. Are you filled with the Holy Spirit? How can you tell? What does it mean to be filled with the Holy Spirit? Have you ever felt the presence of the Spirit in your life? What did it feel like? How would you describe it to others?

Wednesday 5/30/12

Acts 2:5-7

When we do not understand something we are confused. As a matter of fact, I find myself to be confused more and more these days. We live in a very technological and savvy world. Smart phones, iPods, iPads, computers, OnStar, and other devices and components that require knowledge and even constant learning are all around us. The people in the book of Acts did not understand what was happening and Luke records that they were confused and “completely baffled.” Have you ever felt this way? What can we do in our confusion to help us come to understand?



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Things to do this week in response to the sermon...

Do you believe the people who were at the Pentecost experience were filled with the Holy Spirit or were they just filled with new wine? How do you know?

What do you do when you are confused by what is happening in your life?

Are you filled with the Holy Spirit today?

Are you led by the Spirit?

Thursday 5/31/12
Acts 2:8-12

The confusion in this story spread because the people had a difficult time comprehending all that was happening. They were hearing people speaking in their own unique languages, but those who spoke were all Galileans! It simply did not make sense to them! Have you ever experienced something that didn't make sense to you? What did you do with this feeling? Did you try to resolve the conflicted feeling or did you just ignore it. I wonder if God sometimes causes confusion or at least uses it to help us grow in our faith?

Friday 6/1/12
Acts 2:13

From the beginning of time there have always been those who doubted and did not believe. Here, in this story, we see it again. Some who saw and heard what was happening had an easy explanation: "They are drunk." That explains it! Strange and uneasy things were happening so an easy explanation was offered. They weren't filled with the Holy Spirit; no, they were filled with new wine! What are you filled with today? Are you filled with the Holy Spirit?

Saturday 6/2/12
Acts 2:1-13

Read the story of Pentecost again. Read with the insights and knowledge you gained this week. How do you now understand and interpret this story? Is this your story or only a story of other people from a long time ago? How might God reenact this story and make it happen in our own day? Do people ever think we are nuts for our beliefs and how we practice them? How can we be filled with the Holy Spirit today? And how can we explain this to others who might wonder what in the world is happening?