

Acts of the Holy Spirit - 2
The Filling of the Holy Spirit – Week of Sept 25, 2016
Bay Park Life Groups – Participant

We trust you had a good start as a group getting to know each other, studying Acts 1 and praying together. Micah Cobb, a minister, said *I should want to talk about God—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. I have no trouble talking about the Father. And I have no trouble talking about Jesus Christ. But the Spirit is a different story. I grew up in churches that only talked about the Spirit to disprove other churches' teachings about the Spirit. I was trained to be skeptical about any statement about the Spirit.* Digging down deeper Micah confesses that his apprehension really stems from five sources:

1. *I haven't experienced the Spirit like I want. I know the Spirit should be a strong presence in my life . . . but I can only point to a handful of times I felt the work of the Spirit in my life.*
2. *I've never heard the Spirit talked about much.*
3. *I don't see others experiencing the Spirit around me like I see in the Bible.*
4. *The Spirit is a controversial topic.*
5. *There are many misuses of the Spirit.*¹

If you've been around Christians or church for any small amount of time you can probably relate to at least one of Micah's fears, if not all. But here's the deal, without the Spirit our faith is powerless, lifeless and fruitless. So guess what we're going to be talking about again? Welcome aboard!

1. Can you relate to Micah Cobb's trouble in talking about the Holy Spirit? Why or why not?
2. If you had a chance to hear the sermon on Sunday, or to listen to it online, what were some of your main takeaways?

Read Acts 2:1-13

3. Compare Acts 4:8, 31, and 9:17-20 with 2:4. What is the recurring theme?
4. Of all the miracles God could have done on the day of Pentecost, why is the proclamation of the Gospel in various mother tongues so significant?
5. From Acts 1:14-15 and 2:1 we learn that the believers (about 120) were gathered together corporately. Who among them would have imagined that their meeting on the day of Pentecost would lead to each one of them *declaring the wonders of God* (2:11) to strangers! The word *declaring* simply means to speak. So obviously they weren't all preaching their own sermon over and above each other. What can we learn from this about our corporate gatherings?

¹ <http://micahcobb.com/blog/five-reasons-im-scared-to-talk-about-the-holy-spirit-2/>

Read Acts 2:14-36

6. What's so remarkable about the Spirit choosing Peter to speak to the crowd and what personal encouragement can we draw from it?
7. What insights can we glean from Peter's sermon itself that can help us in our proclamation of the Gospel?
8. How has the study of Acts 2 helped you in your understanding of the Holy Spirit? Are you more or less confident?
9. How can we be praying for one another in light of what we've been discovering? How can we pray as a group together?