

170219 Acts Still Happen, Wanna Dance?

Tim Franklin

(This is a continuation of last week's message. Resuming at II. Acts In Motion, Restoration Begins)

"Even as Peter was saying these things, the Holy Spirit fell upon all who were listening to the message. The Jewish believers who came with Peter were amazed that the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out on the Gentiles, too. For they heard them speaking in other tongues and praising God. Then Peter asked, "Can anyone object to their being baptized, now that they have received the Holy Spirit just as we did?" So he gave orders for them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Afterward Cornelius asked him to stay with them for several days." (Acts 10:44-48, NLT)

Introduction:

- One thing that is common to Michael Jordan, Robin Williams and Louis Armstrong is this: They were all great at improvisation.
- Phil Jackson coach of the Chicago Bulls would create plans for the team and Michael Jordan to execute on the floor but it was Michael's ability to improvise on the floor that gave the Bulls the edge to win.
- Robin Williams when he started with the sit com Mork and Mindy was handed a script for the show but they eventually left places in the scripture blank for him because of his ability to improvise 'on the fly' while filming.
- Louis Armstrong recognized as one of the founding fathers of Jazz, was able to adapt quickly to his audiences and any given musicians who played with him.
- The ability to improvise made these men great men in their field of entertainment. They were able to move seamlessly through their occupations!
- As a believer today I want to ask you, "How great are you at improvisation?" In your walk with God, do you have the ability to plan and improvise as you live out your faith? I want to show us from the Word today that God loves both to plan and to improvise!
- When we walk with the Holy Spirit in this life we have to be able to improvise! Because He is always interrupting our plans for the **Greater Good!** Another way of saying it is this: If you are going to dance with the Holy Spirit you have to let Him lead. His creativity is amazing! His rhythm is unmatched! And His movement is so seamless!

I. Acts Still Happen, Wanna Dance!

- A. This is the question/exhortation that is posed to all who have believed on the Lord Jesus Christ. "Wanna Dance?" Do you want to step into My creativity, My rhythm, and My seamless motion?
 1. Perhaps a better translation of this question would be found in Acts 19:2. The apostle Paul finds some believers in Ephesus: *"Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?" he asked them. "No," they replied, "we haven't even heard that there is a Holy Spirit."* (Acts 19:2, NLT)
 2. Did you receive the Holy Spirit? This is question I am asking this morning. It is an urgency on the Father's heart that we receive His gift! (He planned it.) It is an urgency on

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the Son's heart. (He told His followers to wait for it.) It is an urgency on the Holy Spirit's part because He wants us to partner with Him in this dance called the ministry of reconciliation. Did you receive the Holy Spirit?

- B. The Holy Spirit - Let's look at the third person of the Trinity. God wants us to have the gift of Holy Spirit!
1. The Holy Spirit is first mentioned in the Book of Beginnings/Genesis. He hovered over the waters. Please note He was moving 'in step' with God.
 2. He is last mentioned in Revelation 22:17 *"The Spirit and the Bride say "Come!"* He is moving 'in step' with the Bride...the church.
 3. And in between: we see the Holy Spirit 'in step' with the plan of God. His creativity is amazing! His rhythm is unmatched! And His movement is so seamless! He too, like Jesus only does what the Father is doing and speaks what the Father is speaking.
 - a) We see Him all through the OT but He most certainly stands out in Joel 2. *"Then, after doing all those things, I will pour out my Spirit upon all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy. Your old men will dream dreams, and your young men will see visions. In those days I will pour out my Spirit even on servants—men and women alike."* (Joel 2:28-29, NLT)
 - b) This verse stands out because what is promised here in Joel is radically fulfilled in Acts 2. It was the Apostle Peter who declared, *"This is that which was spoken by the prophet Joe."* Acts 2:16
- C. Choosing the Holy Spirit as a partner in life is vital for the Christian's life. Let's look at the urgency of receiving the Holy Spirit that we see in scripture.
1. Through the prophet Ezekiel: *"And I will put my Spirit in you so that you will follow my decrees and be careful to obey my regulations."* (Ezekiel 36:27, NLT)
 2. From Jesus:
 - a) Before the crucifixion: *"But in fact, it is best for you that I go away, because if I don't, the Advocate won't come. If I do go away, then I will send him to you."* (John 16:7, NLT)
 - b) After the resurrection: *"Once when he was eating with them, he commanded them, "Do not leave Jerusalem until the Father sends you the gift he promised, as I told you before."* (Acts 1:4, NLT)
 3. Peter in his first message: *"Peter replied, "Each of you must repent of your sins and turn to God, and be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. Then you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit."* (Acts 2:38, NLT)
 4. Peter and John in Samaria after Philip lead so many to Christ: *"As soon as they arrived, they prayed for these new believers to receive the Holy Spirit."* (Acts 8:15, NLT)
 5. Peter again in Acts 10:47: *"Can anyone object to their being baptized, now that **they have received the Holy Spirit just as we did?**"* (Acts 10:47, NLT) God is reversing the order of things here. Repent, baptize, receive...repent, receive, baptize. He changed the dance step.

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6. There is urgency from Jesus, there is urgency in the Book of Acts. You must have the Holy Spirit! Have you received the Holy Spirit?

II. Acts In Motion, Restoration Begins

- A. When the Holy Spirit is moving this is what is happening: restoration is taking place! He is fixing 'fixes' that allow people to come to a place of being fixed. He is refreshing dry land creating pools of abundant life.
 1. *"Anyone who believes in me may come and drink! For the Scriptures declare, 'Rivers of living water will flow from his heart.'"* (When he said "living water," he was speaking of the Spirit, who would be given to everyone believing in him. But the Spirit had not yet been given, because Jesus had not yet entered into his glory.)" (John 7:38-39, NLT)
 2. Where there is a river there is life!
- B. The Father wants us to move with the Holy Spirit because when God is touching people the beauty of the Lord is being released. He will be undoing sorrow, restoring joy, healing disease, strengthening marriages, rebuilding relationships, refreshing the weary, etc.
 1. In Is 35:1-2, a prophetic word of restoration is given! God is into restoration! He is looking for us to get in step with Him! His creativity is amazing! His rhythm is unmatched! And His movement is so seamless!
 2. In Is. 35:1-2, Isaiah speaks of desert wastelands becoming green valleys, filled with beautiful flowers: *"Yes, there will be an abundance of flowers and singing and joy! The deserts will become as green as the mountains of Lebanon, as lovely as Mount Carmel or the plain of Sharon. There the Lord will display his glory, the splendor of our God."* (Isaiah 35:2, NLT)
 3. God desires to reveal His beauty and one of the ways He does that is through making barren things beautiful once again. vs. 6 - springs will gush forth, streams will water the wasteland, pools will form quenching the the thirst of dry ground!

III. Acts of God, To Reach People

- A. God is interested in people. He does not care where you came from just where you are going. He does not care about your brand of bondage, just that you get free from it.
 1. He has went to extreme lengths to save you!
 2. He gave all that we might walk in health, walk in joy, and be crowned with everlasting life.
- B. What what happens when we dance with Holy Spirit. Scriptural examples.
 1. Dandelion Christians: *"But the believers who were scattered preached the Good News about Jesus wherever they went."* (Acts 8:4, NLT) Ie. I remember as a kid picking those white puff flowers of dandelions, holding them up to the gentle breeze and blowing on them. Those seeds would go everywhere! When you dance with the Holy Spirit, where every you go, whenever you go, however you go...you will be proclaiming Jesus. The believer were scattered and they preached under the influence of the Holy Spirit. How do I know that, because only those who are dancing with Holy Spirit will preach in the midst of persecution.

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2. Philip as an example:
 - a) *"As for Philip, an angel of the Lord said to him, "Go south down the desert road that runs from Jerusalem to Gaza."* (Acts 8:26, NLT) Holy Spirit is directing His footsteps. Angel speaking but Holy Spirit leading! *His creativity is amazing! His rhythm is unmatched! And His movement is so seamless!*
 - b) *"**The Holy Spirit said** to Philip, "Go over and walk along beside the carriage."* (Acts 8:29, NLT)
 3. Acts 9:10-20 *"Ananias!"* Holy Spirit spoke. *"The Lord said, "Go over to Straight Street, to the house of Judas. When you get there, ask for a man from Tarsus named Saul. He is praying to me right now."* (Acts 9:11, NLT)
 - a) Go to straight street
 - b) The house of Judas
 - c) Ask for a man
 - d) A man named Saul.
 - e) He is praying now.
 - f) vs 15 "Saul is my chosen instrument!"
 - g) vs 17 *"I am here that you may regain your sight and be filled with Holy Spirit."*
 - h) Immediately Saul went out and began to preach.
- C. God is interested in people and He is interested in filling His church with His Spirit in order that people may be reached and ministered to.
1. Have you received the Holy Spirit?
 2. Being filled with the Holy Spirit is about being filled with His presence.
 3. Filled so that we can be broken open and He can be poured out on others.

Conclusion:

- In our text, Act chapter 10.
 - Peter along with Cornelius and all that were around them had no clue what God was up to in the beginning.
 - They had no clue who God was wanting to reach or what changes He was ready to make in the hearts and lives of people all over the world.
 - They were just Dancing with the Holy Spirit: *His creativity is amazing! His rhythm is unmatched! And His movement is so seamless!*
- How about you? Are you filled with the Holy Spirit?