

Recap of 3/14/21 message (Joe Ricchuiti – Acts 2:1-4):

1. *“The early church had none of the things that we think are so essential for success today—buildings, money, political influence, social status—and yet the church won multitudes to Christ and saw many churches established throughout the Roman world. Why? Because the church had the power of the Holy Spirit energizing its ministry.”* (Wiersbe)
2. *“...in all successful witnessing the power is that of the Spirit”* (Erdman). We have made witnessing/evangelism a matter of methods, strategies, or campaigns, forgetting the spiritual component; that it is a spiritual transaction.
3. Acts 2, the day of Pentecost, marks a momentous change in God’s dealing with mankind. On that day the church was born and *“the age of grace inaugurated.”*
  - God’s people would no longer have a national identity.
  - God’s people would be united not by blood and national identity but by faith and the indwelling Spirit.
  - The age of the Spirit was inaugurated; no longer would He indwell certain individuals temporarily but all believers permanently.
  - No longer will the focus be in a building (the Temple) but in the ecclesia, the church, not a building but a called out people.
  - The focus would no longer be the Law but Grace.
  - Jew and Gentile together, on an equal footing, would make up the Church, illustrated by the two loaves of leavened bread which the priests offered on the Day of Pentecost. The Spirit’s baptizing ministry would unite them into one Body. *“Presence of leaven (yeast) in the loaves indicates that “the church is not made up of perfect people. It is made up of saints, but they are sinful saints.”* (Stedman)
4. The Spirit’s coming on the Day of Pentecost was accompanied by unusual signs; the sound of wind, tongues of fire, and tongues-speaking. The wind symbolized the creative power of the Spirit. The fire, as in numerous Old Testament passages (Genesis 15:7; Exodus 3:2-6; 13:21-22; 19:18), symbolized the presence of God, as well as purity and passion.