

Being a 1st Century Church in 2009:

Serve in the Spirit's Power
Wylie United Methodist Church
Pastor Jeff Hatcher – Sept 27, 2009

Acts 1:1-9

1 In my former book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus began to do and to teach 2 until the day he was taken up to heaven, after **giving instructions through the Holy Spirit** to the apostles he had chosen. 3 After his suffering, he showed himself to these men and gave many convincing proofs that he was alive. He appeared to them over a period of forty days and spoke about the kingdom of God. 4 On one occasion, while he was eating with them, he gave them this command: "Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised, which you have heard me speak about. 5 For John baptized with water, but in a few days **you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.**" 6 So when they met together, they asked him, "Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?" 7 He said to them: "It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority. 8 But **you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you;** and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." 9 After he said this, he was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid him from their sight.

Acts 2:1-4

1 When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. 2 Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. 3 They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. 4 **All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit AND BEGAN** to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them.

To be a 1st Century Church today, we must...

1. **ENTER GOD'S KINGDOM THROUGH THE SPIRIT**

John 3:5

Jesus answered, "I tell you the truth, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless he is born of water and the Spirit. 6 Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit.

To be a 1st Century Church today, we must...

2. **WORSHIP GOD IN SPIRIT**

John 4:24

"God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship in spirit and in truth."

To be a 1st Century Church today, we must...

3. **BE EMPOWERED TO SERVE GOD BY THE SPIRIT**

Acts 1:8

But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you.

Luke 24:49

I am going to send you what my Father has promised; but stay in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high."

1 Cor 2:4-5

4 My message and my preaching were not with wise and persuasive words, but with a demonstration of the Spirit's power, 5 so that your faith might not rest on men's wisdom, but on God's power.

What does that look like for us today? We must...

- 1) **BELIEVE IN SPIRITUAL THINGS**
- 2) **SURRENDER OUR MIND AND WILL TO THE SPIRIT**
- 3) **ASK AND BELIEVE**

Rom 8:26-27

26 ... the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groans that words cannot express. 27 And he who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints in accordance with God's will.

- 4) **BEGIN!**

Acts 2:4

All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit AND BEGAN.