

The Holy Spirit - Book of Acts

Pastor Ken

June 22, 2025

Welcome to Bethel Life Center, Where All People Matter to God.

Danice and I want to tell you, "We love you."

You are not here by chance; God wants to make himself known and offer you a personal relationship with Jesus Christ, who died an atoning death to forgive your sins and offer you the gift of eternal life. And the gift of the Holy Spirit to empower you daily. **Welcome!**

If you are new to Bethel Life Center in the sanctuary or on-line, we are studying the book of Acts and learning how you (1) can stop walking alone, (2) how to let go of the problems and pain you were never intended to carry and (3) discover how to access fresh strength and power from the Holy Spirit.

Here are a couple additional readings to provide study material about the Holy Spirit-*The Familiar Stranger* and *Help is Here* by Max Lucado.

So, let's read our scripture and then I will pray.

The Holy Spirit

⁷ Taking him by the right hand, he helped him up, and instantly the man's feet and ankles became strong. ⁸ He jumped to his feet and began to walk. Then he went with them into the temple courts, walking and jumping, and praising God. ⁹ When all the people saw him walking and praising God. (Acts 3-NIV)

Who doesn't love the story of someone who makes a complete 180° change in their life.

Brad Gold of Los Angeles made a 180° change: at the age of fifty-three, he was laid off from senior management, he was a slave to the corporate world.

His 180° dream? Open a café. He borrowed money from family and friends and 18 years later opened **Black Dog Coffee**. Brad says, "I am eternally grateful for the layoff and the opportunity to pursue my dream."

Scott Schmaren, fifty-four of St Charles, Illinois made a 180° change: At the age of 40 I was 5'6" and weighed 360 pounds. I don't want to spend my life being depressed and obese,

His 180° dream? To change the way, he thought about himself and so he went on a journey to lose 180° pounds. A real 180° tangible change, don't you think? 15 years later I still weigh 175 pounds, and I am in the best physical, mental and spiritual condition of my life.

Candice Kilpatrick, 40, New York, New York made a 180° change: After living in Asia for over 9 years as a teacher, I decided to leave a dead marriage and cheating husband.

Her 180° dream? I wanted to start over in a new city, make some new friends, so with two duffel bags in tow, off I went on my New York 180° journey that changed my life. I worked in social media brands like Yahoo, and yahoo I met Mr. Right, who is an amazing man.

The Bible is filled from Genesis to Revelation with 180° turn-around stories.

***Abraham** is an idol worshipper who becomes the Father of faith and the Spiritual Father of the nation of Israel.

***Moses** kills an Egyptian at the age of 40 and at the age of 80, he delivers God's people from the Egyptian slavery.

***David** takes down the leader Goliath then later is taken down by lust. In the end, God still calls him **a man after my own heart**.

***Saul** becomes Paul. A religious zealot who does more to show us how to go from legalism to love, from slavery to the flesh to freedom of the Holy Spirit.

Today we look at the work of the Holy Spirit in the life of Peter and John. Peter and John have been with Jesus from the beginning. They are perfect illustrations of what it means to dream of making a 180° change.

These disciples' names, Peter and John together are found 7 times in Acts 3 & 4 (including one time as them). Just as the book of Luke and Acts are twin literary writings by the good Dr Luke. Acts 3 and 4 is one complete story about how the Holy Spirit activates and operates in Jesus disciples and **how he wants to operate in you**.

Let me debunk the theological lye, that only the original apostles did miracles in the book of Acts. And once the book of Acts closed, the need for the supernatural work of the Holy Spirit ceased in the church. Having been in the ministry now over 40 years, I am more convinced than ever; we do not have what it takes to heal a hurting world. Outreaches won't do it.

Fancy buildings and amazing worship won't do it.

The best trained leadership and even great mission statements like-All People Matter to God, won't do it.

I would exchange all of that for one drop from Heaven of the Holy Spirit's power to transform a life.

And this power which arrived at Pentecost, in the form of an Acts 1:8, promise, a promise that was talked about in the OT by the prophet Joel, I declare to you today,

Acts 1:8 has not been rescinded.

Acts 1:8, has not been repealed.

Acts 1:8, has not been revoked.

Acts 1:8, has not run out of power.

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. (Acts 1:8-NIV)

God's will for the church has not changed. You can do the work of Jesus Christ in the power of the Holy Spirit. The initial supernatural work in Acts 2, was to empower Christ followers to tell the story of Jesus atoning death in languages other than their first language. It is called, speaking in other tongues. What is that all about?

Thomas told of Jesus miracles (healings, feedings, walking on water) to those of Cappadocia. Thomas did not speak Cappadocian. I'll have a tall cappadocia please, with an extra shot. Hold the whip please.

Andrew recalled the preaching of Jesus as the good news that set the captives free in the native tongue to the Egyptians. Andrew did not speak Egyptian.

Mathew announced to the Cretans and Arabs in their Arabic tongue, my sins were forgiven, and I restored what I stole, and you can do the same. Matthew was Galilean, not Arabic.

The tower of Babel for a moment was reversed. Yes, don't miss this, since God is about making all things new, on Pentecost he started what he will be completed at the end of the age, beginning with what happened at the Tower of Babel.

Don't get me distracted, you can read about it in Genesis 11.

Supernatural Holy Spirit communication was the first fruit of Pentecost. Pentecost soon added other gifts of the Holy Spirit as we see in Acts 3 and 4, as the Holy Spirit empowers Peter and John to **heal the sick**. Again, these powers have not disappeared at the end of the apostolic age. They are still available today to all Christ followers who want to receive from the Holy Spirit the "gifts of the Spirit."

The Holy Spirit not only gives power, but He also gives spiritual gifts to all who ask.

Ephesians 4:8b-NCV – When he (Jesus) went up to the heights, he led a parade of captives, and he gave gifts to people.

¹¹ All these are the work of one and the same Spirit, and he distributes them to each one, just as he determines. (1 Corinthians 12-NIV)

Today and later in the week, two Bethel missions' teams are heading to Wyoming and St Louis and will require that its team members be available daily to use their spiritual gifts. Spiritual gifts have a human reality and a heavenly reality.

Someone walking down the street (**human reality**) in St. Louis sees a tarot card store and announces prophetically (**heavenly reality**), store of witchcraft I command you in the name of Jesus to cease to exist from operations. Close up in the Jesus name.

Someone on the Wyoming team is in a worship service, worshipping Jesus by lifting their hands (**human reality**) and is given a word of knowledge (**heavenly reality**) for a person they are praying for.

Like Jesus who asks for water from a woman at the well- **human reality** (John 4), you are living with a man (**heavenly reality**),

...the student tells the other student, you have been thinking about taking your life with suicide. (**heavenly reality**) Don't. Stop it.

Let Jesus have control of your life. You can come out of your depression and find healing from your sexual abuse. **In the Name of Jesus Christ.**

It is critical that as you minister you invoke the name of Jesus. As we will see, that was the power by which John and Peter healed. The name of Jesus is like power of attorney. You have been given that power of attorney to invite Christ's power to be present.

The Holy Spirit is the ultimate gift giver. He offers to Jesus disciples' supernatural abilities that heal the sick, deliver the oppressed, and build up the discouraged.

It would be spiritual malpractice of the highest order if I failed to tell those leaving this week for Wyoming and St Louis, don't miss your unique-to-you Holy Spirit assignment using Holy Spirit gifts to release and do the supernatural in the name of Jesus.

Now, I told you, some distorted and limiting theology only lets church leaders activate gifts. Offer gifts. Here is a story that should dispel that untruth. I will let the bible text do the convincing!

*Then **Ananias** went to the house and entered it. Placing his hands on Saul, he said, "Brother Saul, the Lord—Jesus, who appeared to you on the road as you were coming here—has sent me so that you may see again and be filled with the Holy Spirit." (Acts 9:17-NIV)*

Do you see what I see? Paul got healing and the Holy Spirit. And it was a lay person, someone in the pew who God used. It wasn't just the rock stars that got the Holy Spirit at Pentecost or operated in the Holy Spirit in the book of Acts, it is You and Me, too!

Ok, I think these insights should be enough to convince you of this truth: The book of Acts is about the power of the Holy Spirit being released into Christ followers. Then and now!

With the few minutes remaining, let me do a 30,000-foot fly over of Acts 3&4. Look closely as you see the 180-degree turn-around of Peter and John.

John was one of the sons of thunder, and when Jesus could not get any housing in Samaria, he recommended to Jesus we call down fire from heaven. When the disciples James and John saw this, they asked, "Lord, do you want us to call fire down from heaven to destroy them?" (Luke 9:54-NIV)

When Peter realized that Jesus was about to be arrested, Peter grabbed a sword and cut off the ear of a would-be captor.

Then Simon Peter, who had a sword, drew it and struck the high priest's servant, cutting off his right ear. (The servant's name was Malchus.) (John 18:10-NIV)

Here is brief biblical glimpse of how Peter went from coward to courageous.

It was a servant girl who spooked Peter by the fire, not the Sanhedrin when Jesus was arrested. *"You aren't one of this man's disciples too, are you?" she asked Peter. He replied, "I am not." (John 18:17-NIV)*

On one occasion, Jesus said to Peter, you are full of the devil, now Jesus is telling Peter, become full of the Holy Spirit. *Jesus turned and said to Peter, "Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to me; you do not have in mind the concerns of God, but merely human concerns." (Matthew 16:23-NIV)*

What has gotten into Peter you might say. One minute he is hiding because of Jesus, sometime later he is proclaiming, there is salvation in no other. *Peter declares in Acts 4:12, Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to mankind by which we must be saved.*

At Passover Peter is a pushover, at Pentecost Peter is a Holy Spirit empowered preacher. A powerhouse preacher. With no preaching training, we observe in the first chapters of Acts, Peter preaches two powerful and convincing sermons where 3000 and 5000 people come to Christ. Two sermons. Adding moms and children the church has exploded to over 15,000 believers. Supernatural.

Peter was a coward at Jesus crucifixion. He panics. He melts down. Peter not only denies the Lord he announces a curse on himself.

*Then Peter began to place a curse on himself and swear, "I don't know the man."
(Matthew 26:74a-NCV)*

Again, let me ask the question: What **has gotten into Peter?**

But look at Peter on the day of Pentecost declaring to 1000's, *God has made Jesus – the man you nailed to the cross – both Lord and Christ. (Acts 2:36b-NCV)*

Peter has guts or his guts are going to be skewered by the same people that crucified Jesus. The same crowd that shouted crucify him, could crucify him.

From wimp to warrior in 50 days. From cowardice to courageous in 50 days.

Let me ask you a challenging question, "Are you the Peter of Passover or are you Peter of Pentecost?"

We want to live for God, but we shrink back when called up. We know God's promises, but we fail to live up to them. We look around and wonder, why am I wandering. Drifting. Disappearing.

*I can't even listen to a sermon without getting on my cell phone.

* I should go to the altar, but all I want to do is go to my car.

*Jesus said he will forgive my sins, but I keep forgetting to ask him to do so, and I keep falling into the same addictive habits not every other day, or once in-a-while, **but daily.**

Why are the disciples in Acts so supernatural, and I am so powerless? Don't I have the same scriptures? Don't I worship the same Savior? Am I not told to carry Jesus cross daily?

Ok, stop Pastor. Yes, I want to be the Peter of Pentecost. Then do what Peter did. Jesus told Peter and the others,

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." (Acts 1-NIV)

In Acts 3, Peter and John are going up or ascending to the temple in Jerusalem to offer their worship to the God of Abraham, Issac and Jacob. (see Acts 3:13)

While Peter and John are moving into a faith and worship experience with of Christ which is greater than their historical Jewish faith, they still practice worship and giving to the poor.

In the ministry of Jesus someone was always getting redeemed, reconciled, healed or elevated. And Peter and John are now operating in proxy for Jesus.

As they entered the outer courts of the temple, the disabled and broken bodies cluster beside gates called Beautiful. This is a beautifully crafted bronze gate standing between the court of the gentiles and the court of the women.

Throngs of people move in and out for evening prayer, but on this divinely appointed occasion, Peter and John are moved with compassion for a cripple, a disabled man who had not walked his entire life.

This man was hoping for a tangible gift of shekels for food, clothing or shelter. Daily the man was dropped off by friends, and daily those friends would return to retrieve the invalid with whatever alms giving he had received that day.

Peter speaks for he and John and announces what the man has heard many times all day, we don't have any money." Then the supernatural prompting and power of the Holy Spirit takes over.

Peter and John had already become accustomed to the Spirit's prompting, so the text tells us that *Peter staired straight at the man....(Acts 3:4)*

Peter invited the beggar to look at him. Suddenly with great eagerness, the man looked at Peter and John expecting to receive something. The beggar took Peter's invitation as the opportunity to receive an enormous financial gift.

⁶ Then Peter said, "Silver or gold I do not have, but what I do have I give you. In the **name** of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, walk." (Acts 3-NIV)

Peter reaches down and invites the cripple to rise. The disabled, the down and out, the diseased rose for the first time in forty years. This miracle happened instantly. Peter said, "rise and walk."

On nine different occasions, the word "name" or "in the name of" is used in Acts 3 & 4, declaring by what power Peter and John had access to. This same authority is given to you also. It was as though Jesus was up to his old self again. Even the enemies of Jesus were forced to admit this man who is walking and jumping is the same man who used to sit begging.

A crowd now gathers as Peter and John move into the temple with the beggar clinging onto to Peter, *and they were filled with wonder and amazement at what had happened to him. (Acts 3:10b-NIV)*

As the crowd grows, Peter says, this is DeJa'Vu,' this calls for another sermon about who really did this miracle. Peter knows that the crowd needs to know Jesus is present as He was present and alive just over 50 days ago. Today he is no longer limited to a human body, one location, one voice or one set of supernatural actions.

It is just as Jesus said, the Holy Spirit will come and do the activity of Jesus in each of his disciples. ¹² *When Peter saw this, he said to them: "Fellow Israelites, why does this surprise you? Why do you stare at us as if by our own power or godliness we had made this man walk?" (Acts 3-NIV)*

Like in Acts 2, Peter once again tells the crowd, *your sins could be forgiven or blotted out or wiped out. (Acts 3:19)*

When this happens, you will receive times of refreshing, God's favor, healings, miracles and this revival is real, and it starts with sins forgiven. Even better Jesus himself will come to you, *(20) and that he may send the Messiah, who has been appointed for you – even Jesus. (Acts 3-NIV)*

And then Peter's sermon ends with these words Acts 3, ²⁶ *When God raised up his servant, he sent him first to you to bless you by turning each of you from your wicked ways. (Acts 3-NIV)*

Ouch! And right into jail Peter and John go. A riot was about to break out because the apostles were declaring that Jesus rose from the dead.

While Peter and John were in prison, Peter's sermon was already landing in the hearts of 1000's. *Many who heard the message believed; the number of men who believed grew to about five thousand. (Acts 4)*

The next day, there is going to be theological fireworks. Peter and John were put into prison to protect the Jewish religious system that had been operation for 1000's of years. The religious leaders who tried to terminate Jesus now had Peter and John in their sites.

As the sun arose, the same godless leaders of Israel, sat in judgment of Peter and John that sat in judgment of Jesus. Peter is fired up, with fire from above and ready to give his opening statements.

He also has his first witness ready to testify, a former cripple at the beautiful gate near the entrance to the temple. The prosecution fires off the first question.

⁷ They had Peter and John brought before them and began to question them: “By what power or what name did you do this?” (Acts 4-NIV)

Peter and John had been brought before a joint session of Congress, Supreme Court and the Mafia. What we see is what happens when power operates in the absence of truth. People in power who have no concern for the truth use intimidation, coercion and are unwilling to listen to the truth.

Peter did not have to rely on his own wisdom; the Holy Spirit spoke for him. Peter boldly turned the inquisitions accusations of insurrection around to show they-not Peter and John were the treasonous one-because they crucified the giver of life-Jesus Christ.

⁸ Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them: “Rulers and elders of the people! ⁹ If we are being called to account today for an act of kindness shown to a man who was lame and are being asked how he was healed,

¹⁰ then know this, you and all the people of Israel: It is by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified but whom God raised from the dead, that this man stands before you healed.” (Acts 4-NIV)

It shocked the tribunal to discover their intimidation had no effect on Peter and John. Bullying did not work. It was 74 in the Sanhedrin against 2-and two uneducated and untrained fishermen from rural Galilee facing off against the educated and religious elite. That day, heaven’s power in the Holy Spirit met hell’s power in the halls of religious bondage.

Mention the name of Jesus and power is released.

In the end Peter and John’s closing argument came down to this statement about Jesus. *¹² Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to mankind by which we must be saved. (Acts 4-NIV)*

Salvation is not found in Buddha, Mohammed, Joseph Smith, Agnosticism, Hinduism, Scientology and Tom Cruise, all is simply demonic efforts to take your soul into a Christless eternity.

To say there is another way of salvation is simply NOT true, and it diminishes Jesus’ atoning death on the cross.

What separates Christianity from all other religions is that at the core we have a Savior-Jesus Christ who extends a personal relationship of friendship to you and me. It is an unconditional relationship based on grace and love.

Do you have faith in Jesus Christ? Is that how you experience a relationship with God? Do you talk with him on a daily basis? On a personal basis? God wants to be your friend. It is really powerful and personal when you have that kind of relationship with the God of the Universe. It changes everything. I hope this is true of you.

Without this friendship with Jesus, the Holy Spirit the Christiann life is like every other religion. It is dogmas, dos and don'ts, drills and formulas eventually leave people exhausted and alone.

*No one in their corner.

*No one who truly cares.

*No one with heavens resources or a desire to help.

Spiritual speaking without Christ, life is being friendless in the world, a functional orphan looking for someone to take you in. To pick you up. Jesus crashed through the barrier of your sin and mine and he invites you to his salvation plan.

Like Peter and John, willing to be imprisoned and even die, their declaration was, "I present to you the God of the Universe, a friend who sticks closer than a brother-the good shepherd who gives up his life for his sheep."

For there is no other name in heaven, by which anyone can be saved.

Peter and John went back to their friends and told them all that had happened to the Sanhedrin, and they closed their gathering with this prayer, and I want to close this service with the same prayer:

²⁹ Now, Lord, consider their threats and enable your servants to speak your word with great boldness.

³⁰ "Stretch out your hand to heal and perform signs and wonders through the name of your holy servant Jesus."

³¹ After they prayed, the place where they were meeting was shaken. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the word of God boldly. (Acts 4-NIV)

The book of Acts repeats many times the historical fact that signs and wonders in the name of Jesus appeared through the disciples.

Acts 2:43 (NIV) - Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles.

Acts 4:30 (NIV) - Stretch out your hand to heal and perform signs and wonders through the name of your holy servant Jesus.

Acts 5:12 (NIV) - The apostles performed many signs and wonders among the people. And all the believers used to meet together in Solomon's Colonnade.

Acts 6:8 (NIV) - Now Stephen, a man full of God's grace and power, performed great wonders and signs among the people.

Acts 7:36 (NIV) - He led them out of Egypt and performed wonders and signs in Egypt, at the Red Sea and for forty years in the wilderness.

Acts 14:3 (NIV) - So Paul and Barnabas spent considerable time there, speaking boldly for the Lord, who confirmed the message of his grace by enabling them to perform signs and wonders.

Acts 15:12 (NIV) - The whole assembly became silent as they listened to Barnabas and Paul telling about the signs and wonders God had done among the Gentiles through them.

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Peter has guts or his guts are going to be skewered by the same people that crucified Jesus. The same crowd that shouted crucify him, could crucify him.

From wimp to warrior in 50 days. From cowardice to courageous in 50 days.

Let me ask you a challenging question, "Are you the Peter of Passover or are you Peter of Pentecost?"

We want to live for God, but we shrink back when called up. We know God's promises, but we fail to live up to them. We look around and wonder, why am I wandering. Drifting. Disappearing.

*I can't even listen to a sermon without getting on my cell phone.

* I should go to the altar, but all I want to do is go to my car.

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Why are the disciples in Acts so supernatural, and I am so powerless? Don't I have the same scriptures? Don't I worship the same Savior? Am I not told to carry Jesus cross daily?

Ok, stop Pastor. Yes, I want to be the Peter of Pentecost. Then do what Peter did. Jesus told Peter and the others,

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¹⁰ then know this, you and all the people of Israel: It is by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified but whom God raised from the dead, that this man stands before you healed.” (Acts 4-NIV)

It shocked the tribunal to discover their intimidation had no effect on Peter and John. Bullying did not work. It was 74 in the Sanhedrin against 2-and two uneducated and untrained fishermen from rural Galilee facing off against the educated and religious elite. That day, heaven’s power in the Holy Spirit met hell’s power in the halls of religious bondage.

Mention the name of Jesus and power is released.

In the end Peter and John’s closing argument came down to this statement about Jesus. *¹² Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to mankind by which we must be saved. (Acts 4-NIV)*

Salvation is not found in Buddha, Mohammed, Joseph Smith, Agnosticism, Hinduism, Scientology and Tom Cruise, all is simply demonic efforts to take your soul into a Christless eternity.

To say there is another way of salvation is simply NOT true, and it diminishes Jesus’ atoning death on the cross.

What separates Christianity from all other religions is that at the core we have a Savior-Jesus Christ who extends a personal relationship of friendship to you and me. It is an unconditional relationship based on grace and love.

Do you have faith in Jesus Christ? Is that how you experience a relationship with God? Do you talk with him on a daily basis? On a personal basis? God wants to be your friend. It is really powerful and personal when you have that kind of relationship with the God of the Universe. It changes everything. I hope this is true of you.

Without this friendship with Jesus, the Holy Spirit the Christiann life is like every other religion. It is dogmas, dos and don'ts, drills and formulas eventually leave people exhausted and alone.

*No one in their corner.

*No one who truly cares.

*No one with heavens resources or a desire to help.

Spiritual speaking without Christ, life is being friendless in the world, a functional orphan looking for someone to take you in. To pick you up. Jesus crashed through the barrier of your sin and mine and he invites you to his salvation plan.

Like Peter and John, willing to be imprisoned and even die, their declaration was, "I present to you the God of the Universe, a friend who sticks closer than a brother-the good shepherd who gives up his life for his sheep."

For there is no other name in heaven, by which anyone can be saved.

Peter and John went back to their friends and told them all that had happened to the Sanhedrin, and they closed their gathering with this prayer, and I want to close this service with the same prayer:

²⁹ Now, Lord, consider their threats and enable your servants to speak your word with great boldness.

³⁰ "Stretch out your hand to heal and perform signs and wonders through the name of your holy servant Jesus."

³¹ After they prayed, the place where they were meeting was shaken. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the word of God boldly. (Acts 4-NIV)

The book of Acts repeats many times the historical fact that signs and wonders in the name of Jesus appeared through the disciples.

Acts 2:43 (NIV) - Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles.

Acts 4:30 (NIV) - Stretch out your hand to heal and perform signs and wonders through the name of your holy servant Jesus.

Acts 5:12 (NIV) - The apostles performed many signs and wonders among the people. And all the believers used to meet together in Solomon's Colonnade.

Acts 6:8 (NIV) - Now Stephen, a man full of God's grace and power, performed great wonders and signs among the people.

Acts 7:36 (NIV) - He led them out of Egypt and performed wonders and signs in Egypt, at the Red Sea and for forty years in the wilderness.

Acts 14:3 (NIV) - So Paul and Barnabas spent considerable time there, speaking boldly for the Lord, who confirmed the message of his grace by enabling them to perform signs and wonders.

Acts 15:12 (NIV) - The whole assembly became silent as they listened to Barnabas and Paul telling about the signs and wonders God had done among the Gentiles through them.

The Holy Spirit - Book of Acts

Pastor Ken

June 22, 2025

Welcome to Bethel Life Center, Where All People Matter to God.

Danice and I want to tell you, "We love you."

You are not here by chance; God wants to make himself known and offer you a personal relationship with Jesus Christ, who died an atoning death to forgive your sins and offer you the gift of eternal life. And the gift of the Holy Spirit to empower you daily. **Welcome!**

If you are new to Bethel Life Center in the sanctuary or on-line, we are studying the book of Acts and learning how you (1) can stop walking alone, (2) how to let go of the problems and pain you were never intended to carry and (3) discover how to access fresh strength and power from the Holy Spirit.

Here are a couple additional readings to provide study material about the Holy Spirit-*The Familiar Stranger* and *Help is Here* by Max Lucado.

So, let's read our scripture and then I will pray.

The Holy Spirit

⁷ Taking him by the right hand, he helped him up, and instantly the man's feet and ankles became strong. ⁸ He jumped to his feet and began to walk. Then he went with them into the temple courts, walking and jumping, and praising God. ⁹ When all the people saw him walking and praising God. (Acts 3-NIV)

Who doesn't love the story of someone who makes a complete 180° change in their life.

Brad Gold of Los Angeles made a 180° change: at the age of fifty-three, he was laid off from senior management, he was a slave to the corporate world.

His 180° dream? Open a café. He borrowed money from family and friends and 18 years later opened **Black Dog Coffee**. Brad says, "I am eternally grateful for the layoff and the opportunity to pursue my dream."

Scott Schmaren, fifty-four of St Charles, Illinois made a 180° change: At the age of 40 I was 5'6" and weighed 360 pounds. I don't want to spend my life being depressed and obese,

His 180° dream? To change the way, he thought about himself and so he went on a journey to lose 180° pounds. A real 180° tangible change, don't you think? 15 years later I still weigh 175 pounds, and I am in the best physical, mental and spiritual condition of my life.

Candice Kilpatrick, 40, New York, New York made a 180° change: After living in Asia for over 9 years as a teacher, I decided to leave a dead marriage and cheating husband.

Her 180° dream? I wanted to start over in a new city, make some new friends, so with two duffel bags in tow, off I went on my New York 180° journey that changed my life. I worked in social media brands like Yahoo, and yahoo I met Mr. Right, who is an amazing man.

The Bible is filled from Genesis to Revelation with 180° turn-around stories.

***Abraham** is an idol worshipper who becomes the Father of faith and the Spiritual Father of the nation of Israel.

***Moses** kills an Egyptian at the age of 40 and at the age of 80, he delivers God's people from the Egyptian slavery.

***David** takes down the leader Goliath then later is taken down by lust. In the end, God still calls him **a man after my own heart**.

***Saul** becomes Paul. A religious zealot who does more to show us how to go from legalism to love, from slavery to the flesh to freedom of the Holy Spirit.

Today we look at the work of the Holy Spirit in the life of Peter and John. Peter and John have been with Jesus from the beginning. They are perfect illustrations of what it means to dream of making a 180° change.

These disciples' names, Peter and John together are found 7 times in Acts 3 & 4 (including one time as them). Just as the book of Luke and Acts are twin literary writings by the good Dr Luke. Acts 3 and 4 is one complete story about how the Holy Spirit activates and operates in Jesus disciples and **how he wants to operate in you**.

Let me debunk the theological lye, that only the original apostles did miracles in the book of Acts. And once the book of Acts closed, the need for the supernatural work of the Holy Spirit ceased in the church. Having been in the ministry now over 40 years, I am more convinced than ever; we do not have what it takes to heal a hurting world. Outreaches won't do it.

Fancy buildings and amazing worship won't do it.

The best trained leadership and even great mission statements like-All People Matter to God, won't do it.

I would exchange all of that for one drop from Heaven of the Holy Spirit's power to transform a life.

And this power which arrived at Pentecost, in the form of an Acts 1:8, promise, a promise that was talked about in the OT by the prophet Joel, I declare to you today,

Acts 1:8 has not been rescinded.

Acts 1:8, has not been repealed.

Acts 1:8, has not been revoked.

Acts 1:8, has not run out of power.

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. (Acts 1:8-NIV)

God's will for the church has not changed. You can do the work of Jesus Christ in the power of the Holy Spirit. The initial supernatural work in Acts 2, was to empower Christ followers to tell the story of Jesus atoning death in languages other than their first language. It is called, speaking in other tongues. What is that all about?

Thomas told of Jesus miracles (healings, feedings, walking on water) to those of Cappadocia. Thomas did not speak Cappadocian. I'll have a tall cappadocia please, with an extra shot. Hold the whip please.

Andrew recalled the preaching of Jesus as the good news that set the captives free in the native tongue to the Egyptians. Andrew did not speak Egyptian.

Mathew announced to the Cretans and Arabs in their Arabic tongue, my sins were forgiven, and I restored what I stole, and you can do the same. Matthew was Galilean, not Arabic.

The tower of Babel for a moment was reversed. Yes, don't miss this, since God is about making all things new, on Pentecost he started what he will be completed at the end of the age, beginning with what happened at the Tower of Babel.

Don't get me distracted, you can read about it in Genesis 11.

Supernatural Holy Spirit communication was the first fruit of Pentecost. Pentecost soon added other gifts of the Holy Spirit as we see in Acts 3 and 4, as the Holy Spirit empowers Peter and John to **heal the sick**. Again, these powers have not disappeared at the end of the apostolic age. They are still available today to all Christ followers who want to receive from the Holy Spirit the "gifts of the Spirit."

The Holy Spirit not only gives power, but He also gives spiritual gifts to all who ask.

Ephesians 4:8b-NCV – When he (Jesus) went up to the heights, he led a parade of captives, and he gave gifts to people.

¹¹ All these are the work of one and the same Spirit, and he distributes them to each one, just as he determines. (1 Corinthians 12-NIV)

Today and later in the week, two Bethel missions' teams are heading to Wyoming and St Louis and will require that its team members be available daily to use their spiritual gifts. Spiritual gifts have a human reality and a heavenly reality.

Someone walking down the street (**human reality**) in St. Louis sees a tarot card store and announces prophetically (**heavenly reality**), store of witchcraft I command you in the name of Jesus to cease to exist from operations. Close up in the Jesus name.

Someone on the Wyoming team is in a worship service, worshipping Jesus by lifting their hands (**human reality**) and is given a word of knowledge (**heavenly reality**) for a person they are praying for.

Like Jesus who asks for water from a woman at the well- **human reality** (John 4), you are living with a man (**heavenly reality**),

...the student tells the other student, you have been thinking about taking your life with suicide. (**heavenly reality**) Don't. Stop it.

Let Jesus have control of your life. You can come out of your depression and find healing from your sexual abuse. **In the Name of Jesus Christ.**

It is critical that as you minister you invoke the name of Jesus. As we will see, that was the power by which John and Peter healed. The name of Jesus is like power of attorney. You have been given that power of attorney to invite Christ's power to be present.

The Holy Spirit is the ultimate gift giver. He offers to Jesus disciples' supernatural abilities that heal the sick, deliver the oppressed, and build up the discouraged.

It would be spiritual malpractice of the highest order if I failed to tell those leaving this week for Wyoming and St Louis, don't miss your unique-to-you Holy Spirit assignment using Holy Spirit gifts to release and do the supernatural in the name of Jesus.

Now, I told you, some distorted and limiting theology only lets church leaders activate gifts. Offer gifts. Here is a story that should dispel that untruth. I will let the bible text do the convincing!

*Then **Ananias** went to the house and entered it. Placing his hands on Saul, he said, "Brother Saul, the Lord—Jesus, who appeared to you on the road as you were coming here—has sent me so that you may see again and be filled with the Holy Spirit." (Acts 9:17-NIV)*

Do you see what I see? Paul got healing and the Holy Spirit. And it was a lay person, someone in the pew who God used. It wasn't just the rock stars that got the Holy Spirit at Pentecost or operated in the Holy Spirit in the book of Acts, it is You and Me, too!

Ok, I think these insights should be enough to convince you of this truth: The book of Acts is about the power of the Holy Spirit being released into Christ followers. Then and now!

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Mention the name of Jesus and power is released.

In the end Peter and John’s closing argument came down to this statement about Jesus. *¹² Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to mankind by which we must be saved. (Acts 4-NIV)*

Salvation is not found in Buddha, Mohammed, Joseph Smith, Agnosticism, Hinduism, Scientology and Tom Cruise, all is simply demonic efforts to take your soul into a Christless eternity.

To say there is another way of salvation is simply NOT true, and it diminishes Jesus’ atoning death on the cross.

What separates Christianity from all other religions is that at the core we have a Savior-Jesus Christ who extends a personal relationship of friendship to you and me. It is an unconditional relationship based on grace and love.

Do you have faith in Jesus Christ? Is that how you experience a relationship with God? Do you talk with him on a daily basis? On a personal basis? God wants to be your friend. It is really powerful and personal when you have that kind of relationship with the God of the Universe. It changes everything. I hope this is true of you.

Without this friendship with Jesus, the Holy Spirit the Christiann life is like every other religion. It is dogmas, dos and don'ts, drills and formulas eventually leave people exhausted and alone.

*No one in their corner.

*No one who truly cares.

*No one with heavens resources or a desire to help.

Spiritual speaking without Christ, life is being friendless in the world, a functional orphan looking for someone to take you in. To pick you up. Jesus crashed through the barrier of your sin and mine and he invites you to his salvation plan.

Like Peter and John, willing to be imprisoned and even die, their declaration was, "I present to you the God of the Universe, a friend who sticks closer than a brother-the good shepherd who gives up his life for his sheep."

For there is no other name in heaven, by which anyone can be saved.

Peter and John went back to their friends and told them all that had happened to the Sanhedrin, and they closed their gathering with this prayer, and I want to close this service with the same prayer:

²⁹ Now, Lord, consider their threats and enable your servants to speak your word with great boldness.

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The Holy Spirit - Book of Acts

Pastor Ken

June 22, 2025

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Danice and I want to tell you, "We love you."

You are not here by chance; God wants to make himself known and offer you a personal relationship with Jesus Christ, who died an atoning death to forgive your sins and offer you the gift of eternal life. And the gift of the Holy Spirit to empower you daily. **Welcome!**

If you are new to Bethel Life Center in the sanctuary or on-line, we are studying the book of Acts and learning how you (1) can stop walking alone, (2) how to let go of the problems and pain you were never intended to carry and (3) discover how to access fresh strength and power from the Holy Spirit.

Here are a couple additional readings to provide study material about the Holy Spirit-*The Familiar Stranger* and *Help is Here* by Max Lucado.

So, let's read our scripture and then I will pray.

The Holy Spirit

⁷ Taking him by the right hand, he helped him up, and instantly the man's feet and ankles became strong. ⁸ He jumped to his feet and began to walk. Then he went with them into the temple courts, walking and jumping, and praising God. ⁹ When all the people saw him walking and praising God. (Acts 3-NIV)

Who doesn't love the story of someone who makes a complete 180° change in their life.

Brad Gold of Los Angeles made a 180° change: at the age of fifty-three, he was laid off from senior management, he was a slave to the corporate world.

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Her 180° dream? I wanted to start over in a new city, make some new friends, so with two duffel bags in tow, off I went on my New York 180° journey that changed my life. I worked in social media brands like Yahoo, and yahoo I met Mr. Right, who is an amazing man.

The Bible is filled from Genesis to Revelation with 180° turn-around stories.

***Abraham** is an idol worshipper who becomes the Father of faith and the Spiritual Father of the nation of Israel.

***Moses** kills an Egyptian at the age of 40 and at the age of 80, he delivers God's people from the Egyptian slavery.

***David** takes down the leader Goliath then later is taken down by lust. In the end, God still calls him **a man after my own heart**.

***Saul** becomes Paul. A religious zealot who does more to show us how to go from legalism to love, from slavery to the flesh to freedom of the Holy Spirit.

Today we look at the work of the Holy Spirit in the life of Peter and John. Peter and John have been with Jesus from the beginning. They are perfect illustrations of what it means to dream of making a 180° change.

These disciples' names, Peter and John together are found 7 times in Acts 3 & 4 (including one time as them). Just as the book of Luke and Acts are twin literary writings by the good Dr Luke. Acts 3 and 4 is one complete story about how the Holy Spirit activates and operates in Jesus disciples and **how he wants to operate in you**.

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And this power which arrived at Pentecost, in the form of an Acts 1:8, promise, a promise that was talked about in the OT by the prophet Joel, I declare to you today,

Acts 1:8 has not been rescinded.

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Acts 1:8, has not been revoked.

Acts 1:8, has not run out of power.

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. (Acts 1:8-NIV)

God's will for the church has not changed. You can do the work of Jesus Christ in the power of the Holy Spirit. The initial supernatural work in Acts 2, was to empower Christ followers to tell the story of Jesus atoning death in languages other than their first language. It is called, speaking in other tongues. What is that all about?

Thomas told of Jesus miracles (healings, feedings, walking on water) to those of Cappadocia. Thomas did not speak Cappadocian. I'll have a tall cappadocia please, with an extra shot. Hold the whip please.

Andrew recalled the preaching of Jesus as the good news that set the captives free in the native tongue to the Egyptians. Andrew did not speak Egyptian.

Mathew announced to the Cretans and Arabs in their Arabic tongue, my sins were forgiven, and I restored what I stole, and you can do the same. Matthew was Galilean, not Arabic.

The tower of Babel for a moment was reversed. Yes, don't miss this, since God is about making all things new, on Pentecost he started what he will be completed at the end of the age, beginning with what happened at the Tower of Babel.

Don't get me distracted, you can read about it in Genesis 11.

Supernatural Holy Spirit communication was the first fruit of Pentecost. Pentecost soon added other gifts of the Holy Spirit as we see in Acts 3 and 4, as the Holy Spirit empowers Peter and John to **heal the sick**. Again, these powers have not disappeared at the end of the apostolic age. They are still available today to all Christ followers who want to receive from the Holy Spirit the "gifts of the Spirit."

The Holy Spirit not only gives power, but He also gives spiritual gifts to all who ask.

Ephesians 4:8b-NCV – When he (Jesus) went up to the heights, he led a parade of captives, and he gave gifts to people.

¹¹ All these are the work of one and the same Spirit, and he distributes them to each one, just as he determines. (1 Corinthians 12-NIV)

Today and later in the week, two Bethel missions' teams are heading to Wyoming and St Louis and will require that its team members be available daily to use their spiritual gifts. Spiritual gifts have a human reality and a heavenly reality.

Someone walking down the street (**human reality**) in St. Louis sees a tarot card store and announces prophetically (**heavenly reality**), store of witchcraft I command you in the name of Jesus to cease to exist from operations. Close up in the Jesus name.

Someone on the Wyoming team is in a worship service, worshipping Jesus by lifting their hands (**human reality**) and is given a word of knowledge (**heavenly reality**) for a person they are praying for.

Like Jesus who asks for water from a woman at the well- **human reality** (John 4), you are living with a man (**heavenly reality**),

...the student tells the other student, you have been thinking about taking your life with suicide. (**heavenly reality**) Don't. Stop it.

Let Jesus have control of your life. You can come out of your depression and find healing from your sexual abuse. **In the Name of Jesus Christ.**

It is critical that as you minister you invoke the name of Jesus. As we will see, that was the power by which John and Peter healed. The name of Jesus is like power of attorney. You have been given that power of attorney to invite Christ's power to be present.

The Holy Spirit is the ultimate gift giver. He offers to Jesus disciples' supernatural abilities that heal the sick, deliver the oppressed, and build up the discouraged.

It would be spiritual malpractice of the highest order if I failed to tell those leaving this week for Wyoming and St Louis, don't miss your unique-to-you Holy Spirit assignment using Holy Spirit gifts to release and do the supernatural in the name of Jesus.

Now, I told you, some distorted and limiting theology only lets church leaders activate gifts. Offer gifts. Here is a story that should dispel that untruth. I will let the bible text do the convincing!

*Then **Ananias** went to the house and entered it. Placing his hands on Saul, he said, "Brother Saul, the Lord—Jesus, who appeared to you on the road as you were coming here—has sent me so that you may see again and be filled with the Holy Spirit." (Acts 9:17-NIV)*

Do you see what I see? Paul got healing and the Holy Spirit. And it was a lay person, someone in the pew who God used. It wasn't just the rock stars that got the Holy Spirit at Pentecost or operated in the Holy Spirit in the book of Acts, it is You and Me, too!

Ok, I think these insights should be enough to convince you of this truth: The book of Acts is about the power of the Holy Spirit being released into Christ followers. Then and now!

With the few minutes remaining, let me do a 30,000-foot fly over of Acts 3&4. Look closely as you see the 180-degree turn-around of Peter and John.

John was one of the sons of thunder, and when Jesus could not get any housing in Samaria, he recommended to Jesus we call down fire from heaven. When the disciples James and John saw this, they asked, "Lord, do you want us to call fire down from heaven to destroy them?" (Luke 9:54-NIV)

When Peter realized that Jesus was about to be arrested, Peter grabbed a sword and cut off the ear of a would-be captor.

Then Simon Peter, who had a sword, drew it and struck the high priest's servant, cutting off his right ear. (The servant's name was Malchus.) (John 18:10-NIV)

Here is brief biblical glimpse of how Peter went from coward to courageous.

It was a servant girl who spooked Peter by the fire, not the Sanhedrin when Jesus was arrested. *"You aren't one of this man's disciples too, are you?" she asked Peter. He replied, "I am not." (John 18:17-NIV)*

On one occasion, Jesus said to Peter, you are full of the devil, now Jesus is telling Peter, become full of the Holy Spirit. *Jesus turned and said to Peter, "Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to me; you do not have in mind the concerns of God, but merely human concerns." (Matthew 16:23-NIV)*

What has gotten into Peter you might say. One minute he is hiding because of Jesus, sometime later he is proclaiming, there is salvation in no other. *Peter declares in Acts 4:12, Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to mankind by which we must be saved.*

At Passover Peter is a pushover, at Pentecost Peter is a Holy Spirit empowered preacher. A powerhouse preacher. With no preaching training, we observe in the first chapters of Acts, Peter preaches two powerful and convincing sermons where 3000 and 5000 people come to Christ. Two sermons. Adding moms and children the church has exploded to over 15,000 believers. Supernatural.

Peter was a coward at Jesus crucifixion. He panics. He melts down. Peter not only denies the Lord he announces a curse on himself.

*Then Peter began to place a curse on himself and swear, "I don't know the man."
(Matthew 26:74a-NCV)*

Again, let me ask the question: What **has gotten into Peter?**

But look at Peter on the day of Pentecost declaring to 1000's, *God has made Jesus – the man you nailed to the cross – both Lord and Christ. (Acts 2:36b-NCV)*

Peter has guts or his guts are going to be skewered by the same people that crucified Jesus. The same crowd that shouted crucify him, could crucify him.

From wimp to warrior in 50 days. From cowardice to courageous in 50 days.

Let me ask you a challenging question, "Are you the Peter of Passover or are you Peter of Pentecost?"

We want to live for God, but we shrink back when called up. We know God's promises, but we fail to live up to them. We look around and wonder, why am I wandering. Drifting. Disappearing.

*I can't even listen to a sermon without getting on my cell phone.

* I should go to the altar, but all I want to do is go to my car.

*Jesus said he will forgive my sins, but I keep forgetting to ask him to do so, and I keep falling into the same addictive habits not every other day, or once in-a-while, **but daily.**

Why are the disciples in Acts so supernatural, and I am so powerless? Don't I have the same scriptures? Don't I worship the same Savior? Am I not told to carry Jesus cross daily?

Ok, stop Pastor. Yes, I want to be the Peter of Pentecost. Then do what Peter did. Jesus told Peter and the others,

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." (Acts 1-NIV)

In Acts 3, Peter and John are going up or ascending to the temple in Jerusalem to offer their worship to the God of Abraham, Issac and Jacob. (see Acts 3:13)

While Peter and John are moving into a faith and worship experience with of Christ which is greater than their historical Jewish faith, they still practice worship and giving to the poor.

In the ministry of Jesus someone was always getting redeemed, reconciled, healed or elevated. And Peter and John are now operating in proxy for Jesus.

As they entered the outer courts of the temple, the disabled and broken bodies cluster beside gates called Beautiful. This is a beautifully crafted bronze gate standing between the court of the gentiles and the court of the women.

Throngs of people move in and out for evening prayer, but on this divinely appointed occasion, Peter and John are moved with compassion for a cripple, a disabled man who had not walked his entire life.

This man was hoping for a tangible gift of shekels for food, clothing or shelter. Daily the man was dropped off by friends, and daily those friends would return to retrieve the invalid with whatever alms giving he had received that day.

Peter speaks for he and John and announces what the man has heard many times all day, we don't have any money." Then the supernatural prompting and power of the Holy Spirit takes over.

Peter and John had already become accustomed to the Spirit's prompting, so the text tells us that *Peter staired straight at the man....(Acts 3:4)*

Peter invited the beggar to look at him. Suddenly with great eagerness, the man looked at Peter and John expecting to receive something. The beggar took Peter's invitation as the opportunity to receive an enormous financial gift.

⁶ Then Peter said, "Silver or gold I do not have, but what I do have I give you. In the **name** of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, walk." (Acts 3-NIV)

Peter reaches down and invites the cripple to rise. The disabled, the down and out, the diseased rose for the first time in forty years. This miracle happened instantly. Peter said, "rise and walk."

On nine different occasions, the word "name" or "in the name of" is used in Acts 3 & 4, declaring by what power Peter and John had access to. This same authority is given to you also. It was as though Jesus was up to his old self again. Even the enemies of Jesus were forced to admit this man who is walking and jumping is the same man who used to sit begging.

A crowd now gathers as Peter and John move into the temple with the beggar clinging onto to Peter, *and they were filled with wonder and amazement at what had happened to him. (Acts 3:10b-NIV)*

As the crowd grows, Peter says, this is DeJa'Vu,' this calls for another sermon about who really did this miracle. Peter knows that the crowd needs to know Jesus is present as He was present and alive just over 50 days ago. Today he is no longer limited to a human body, one location, one voice or one set of supernatural actions.

It is just as Jesus said, the Holy Spirit will come and do the activity of Jesus in each of his disciples. ¹² *When Peter saw this, he said to them: "Fellow Israelites, why does this surprise you? Why do you stare at us as if by our own power or godliness we had made this man walk?" (Acts 3-NIV)*

Like in Acts 2, Peter once again tells the crowd, *your sins could be forgiven or blotted out or wiped out. (Acts 3:19)*

When this happens, you will receive times of refreshing, God's favor, healings, miracles and this revival is real, and it starts with sins forgiven. Even better Jesus himself will come to you, (20) *and that he may send the Messiah, who has been appointed for you – even Jesus. (Acts 3-NIV)*

And then Peter's sermon ends with these words Acts 3, ²⁶ *When God raised up his servant, he sent him first to you to bless you by turning each of you from your wicked ways. (Acts 3-NIV)*

Ouch! And right into jail Peter and John go. A riot was about to break out because the apostles were declaring that Jesus rose from the dead.

While Peter and John were in prison, Peter's sermon was already landing in the hearts of 1000's. *Many who heard the message believed; the number of men who believed grew to about five thousand. (Acts 4)*

The next day, there is going to be theological fireworks. Peter and John were put into prison to protect the Jewish religious system that had been operation for 1000's of years. The religious leaders who tried to terminate Jesus now had Peter and John in their sites.

As the sun arose, the same godless leaders of Israel, sat in judgment of Peter and John that sat in judgment of Jesus. Peter is fired up, with fire from above and ready to give his opening statements.

He also has his first witness ready to testify, a former cripple at the beautiful gate near the entrance to the temple. The prosecution fires off the first question.

⁷ They had Peter and John brought before them and began to question them: “By what power or what name did you do this?” (Acts 4-NIV)

Peter and John had been brought before a joint session of Congress, Supreme Court and the Mafia. What we see is what happens when power operates in the absence of truth. People in power who have no concern for the truth use intimidation, coercion and are unwilling to listen to the truth.

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God's will for the church has not changed. You can do the work of Jesus Christ in the power of the Holy Spirit. The initial supernatural work in Acts 2, was to empower Christ followers to tell the story of Jesus atoning death in languages other than their first language. It is called, speaking in other tongues. What is that all about?

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Mathew announced to the Cretans and Arabs in their Arabic tongue, my sins were forgiven, and I restored what I stole, and you can do the same. Matthew was Galilean, not Arabic.

The tower of Babel for a moment was reversed. Yes, don't miss this, since God is about making all things new, on Pentecost he started what he will be completed at the end of the age, beginning with what happened at the Tower of Babel.

Don't get me distracted, you can read about it in Genesis 11.

Supernatural Holy Spirit communication was the first fruit of Pentecost. Pentecost soon added other gifts of the Holy Spirit as we see in Acts 3 and 4, as the Holy Spirit empowers Peter and John to **heal the sick**. Again, these powers have not disappeared at the end of the apostolic age. They are still available today to all Christ followers who want to receive from the Holy Spirit the "gifts of the Spirit."

The Holy Spirit not only gives power, but He also gives spiritual gifts to all who ask.

Ephesians 4:8b-NCV – When he (Jesus) went up to the heights, he led a parade of captives, and he gave gifts to people.

¹¹ All these are the work of one and the same Spirit, and he distributes them to each one, just as he determines. (1 Corinthians 12-NIV)

Today and later in the week, two Bethel missions' teams are heading to Wyoming and St Louis and will require that its team members be available daily to use their spiritual gifts. Spiritual gifts have a human reality and a heavenly reality.

Someone walking down the street (**human reality**) in St. Louis sees a tarot card store and announces prophetically (**heavenly reality**), store of witchcraft I command you in the name of Jesus to cease to exist from operations. Close up in the Jesus name.

Someone on the Wyoming team is in a worship service, worshipping Jesus by lifting their hands (**human reality**) and is given a word of knowledge (**heavenly reality**) for a person they are praying for.

Like Jesus who asks for water from a woman at the well- **human reality** (John 4), you are living with a man (**heavenly reality**),

...the student tells the other student, you have been thinking about taking your life with suicide. (**heavenly reality**) Don't. Stop it.

Let Jesus have control of your life. You can come out of your depression and find healing from your sexual abuse. **In the Name of Jesus Christ.**

It is critical that as you minister you invoke the name of Jesus. As we will see, that was the power by which John and Peter healed. The name of Jesus is like power of attorney. You have been given that power of attorney to invite Christ's power to be present.

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Here is brief biblical glimpse of how Peter went from coward to courageous.

It was a servant girl who spooked Peter by the fire, not the Sanhedrin when Jesus was arrested. *"You aren't one of this man's disciples too, are you?" she asked Peter. He replied, "I am not." (John 18:17-NIV)*

On one occasion, Jesus said to Peter, you are full of the devil, now Jesus is telling Peter, become full of the Holy Spirit. *Jesus turned and said to Peter, "Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to me; you do not have in mind the concerns of God, but merely human concerns." (Matthew 16:23-NIV)*

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*Then Peter began to place a curse on himself and swear, "I don't know the man."
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Again, let me ask the question: What **has gotten into Peter?**

But look at Peter on the day of Pentecost declaring to 1000's, *God has made Jesus – the man you nailed to the cross – both Lord and Christ. (Acts 2:36b-NCV)*

Peter has guts or his guts are going to be skewered by the same people that crucified Jesus. The same crowd that shouted crucify him, could crucify him.

From wimp to warrior in 50 days. From cowardice to courageous in 50 days.

Let me ask you a challenging question, "Are you the Peter of Passover or are you Peter of Pentecost?"

We want to live for God, but we shrink back when called up. We know God's promises, but we fail to live up to them. We look around and wonder, why am I wandering. Drifting. Disappearing.

*I can't even listen to a sermon without getting on my cell phone.

* I should go to the altar, but all I want to do is go to my car.

*Jesus said he will forgive my sins, but I keep forgetting to ask him to do so, and I keep falling into the same addictive habits not every other day, or once in-a-while, **but daily.**

Why are the disciples in Acts so supernatural, and I am so powerless? Don't I have the same scriptures? Don't I worship the same Savior? Am I not told to carry Jesus cross daily?

Ok, stop Pastor. Yes, I want to be the Peter of Pentecost. Then do what Peter did. Jesus told Peter and the others,

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." (Acts 1-NIV)

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In the ministry of Jesus someone was always getting redeemed, reconciled, healed or elevated. And Peter and John are now operating in proxy for Jesus.

As they entered the outer courts of the temple, the disabled and broken bodies cluster beside gates called Beautiful. This is a beautifully crafted bronze gate standing between the court of the gentiles and the court of the women.

Throngs of people move in and out for evening prayer, but on this divinely appointed occasion, Peter and John are moved with compassion for a cripple, a disabled man who had not walked his entire life.

This man was hoping for a tangible gift of shekels for food, clothing or shelter. Daily the man was dropped off by friends, and daily those friends would return to retrieve the invalid with whatever alms giving he had received that day.

Peter speaks for he and John and announces what the man has heard many times all day, we don't have any money." Then the supernatural prompting and power of the Holy Spirit takes over.

Peter and John had already become accustomed to the Spirit's prompting, so the text tells us that *Peter staired straight at the man....(Acts 3:4)*

Peter invited the beggar to look at him. Suddenly with great eagerness, the man looked at Peter and John expecting to receive something. The beggar took Peter's invitation as the opportunity to receive an enormous financial gift.

⁶ Then Peter said, "Silver or gold I do not have, but what I do have I give you. In the **name** of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, walk." (Acts 3-NIV)

Peter reaches down and invites the cripple to rise. The disabled, the down and out, the diseased rose for the first time in forty years. This miracle happened instantly. Peter said, "rise and walk."

On nine different occasions, the word "name" or "in the name of" is used in Acts 3 & 4, declaring by what power Peter and John had access to. This same authority is given to you also. It was as though Jesus was up to his old self again. Even the enemies of Jesus were forced to admit this man who is walking and jumping is the same man who used to sit begging.

A crowd now gathers as Peter and John move into the temple with the beggar clinging onto to Peter, *and they were filled with wonder and amazement at what had happened to him. (Acts 3:10b-NIV)*

As the crowd grows, Peter says, this is DeJa'Vu,' this calls for another sermon about who really did this miracle. Peter knows that the crowd needs to know Jesus is present as He was present and alive just over 50 days ago. Today he is no longer limited to a human body, one location, one voice or one set of supernatural actions.

It is just as Jesus said, the Holy Spirit will come and do the activity of Jesus in each of his disciples. ¹² *When Peter saw this, he said to them: "Fellow Israelites, why does this surprise you? Why do you stare at us as if by our own power or godliness we had made this man walk?" (Acts 3-NIV)*

Like in Acts 2, Peter once again tells the crowd, *your sins could be forgiven or blotted out or wiped out. (Acts 3:19)*

When this happens, you will receive times of refreshing, God's favor, healings, miracles and this revival is real, and it starts with sins forgiven. Even better Jesus himself will come to you, *(20) and that he may send the Messiah, who has been appointed for you – even Jesus. (Acts 3-NIV)*

And then Peter's sermon ends with these words Acts 3, ²⁶ *When God raised up his servant, he sent him first to you to bless you by turning each of you from your wicked ways. (Acts 3-NIV)*

Ouch! And right into jail Peter and John go. A riot was about to break out because the apostles were declaring that Jesus rose from the dead.

While Peter and John were in prison, Peter's sermon was already landing in the hearts of 1000's. *Many who heard the message believed; the number of men who believed grew to about five thousand. (Acts 4)*

The next day, there is going to be theological fireworks. Peter and John were put into prison to protect the Jewish religious system that had been operation for 1000's of years. The religious leaders who tried to terminate Jesus now had Peter and John in their sites.

As the sun arose, the same godless leaders of Israel, sat in judgment of Peter and John that sat in judgment of Jesus. Peter is fired up, with fire from above and ready to give his opening statements.

He also has his first witness ready to testify, a former cripple at the beautiful gate near the entrance to the temple. The prosecution fires off the first question.

⁷ They had Peter and John brought before them and began to question them: “By what power or what name did you do this?” (Acts 4-NIV)

Peter and John had been brought before a joint session of Congress, Supreme Court and the Mafia. What we see is what happens when power operates in the absence of truth. People in power who have no concern for the truth use intimidation, coercion and are unwilling to listen to the truth.

Peter did not have to rely on his own wisdom; the Holy Spirit spoke for him. Peter boldly turned the inquisitions accusations of insurrection around to show they-not Peter and John were the treasonous one-because they crucified the giver of life-Jesus Christ.

⁸ Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them: “Rulers and elders of the people! ⁹ If we are being called to account today for an act of kindness shown to a man who was lame and are being asked how he was healed,

¹⁰ then know this, you and all the people of Israel: It is by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified but whom God raised from the dead, that this man stands before you healed.” (Acts 4-NIV)

It shocked the tribunal to discover their intimidation had no effect on Peter and John. Bullying did not work. It was 74 in the Sanhedrin against 2-and two uneducated and untrained fishermen from rural Galilee facing off against the educated and religious elite. That day, heaven’s power in the Holy Spirit met hell’s power in the halls of religious bondage.

Mention the name of Jesus and power is released.

In the end Peter and John’s closing argument came down to this statement about Jesus. *¹² Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to mankind by which we must be saved. (Acts 4-NIV)*

Salvation is not found in Buddha, Mohammed, Joseph Smith, Agnosticism, Hinduism, Scientology and Tom Cruise, all is simply demonic efforts to take your soul into a Christless eternity.

To say there is another way of salvation is simply NOT true, and it diminishes Jesus’ atoning death on the cross.

What separates Christianity from all other religions is that at the core we have a Savior-Jesus Christ who extends a personal relationship of friendship to you and me. It is an unconditional relationship based on grace and love.

Do you have faith in Jesus Christ? Is that how you experience a relationship with God? Do you talk with him on a daily basis? On a personal basis? God wants to be your friend. It is really powerful and personal when you have that kind of relationship with the God of the Universe. It changes everything. I hope this is true of you.

Without this friendship with Jesus, the Holy Spirit the Christiann life is like every other religion. It is dogmas, dos and don'ts, drills and formulas eventually leave people exhausted and alone.

*No one in their corner.

*No one who truly cares.

*No one with heavens resources or a desire to help.

Spiritual speaking without Christ, life is being friendless in the world, a functional orphan looking for someone to take you in. To pick you up. Jesus crashed through the barrier of your sin and mine and he invites you to his salvation plan.

Like Peter and John, willing to be imprisoned and even die, their declaration was, "I present to you the God of the Universe, a friend who sticks closer than a brother-the good shepherd who gives up his life for his sheep."

For there is no other name in heaven, by which anyone can be saved.

Peter and John went back to their friends and told them all that had happened to the Sanhedrin, and they closed their gathering with this prayer, and I want to close this service with the same prayer:

²⁹ Now, Lord, consider their threats and enable your servants to speak your word with great boldness.

³⁰ "Stretch out your hand to heal and perform signs and wonders through the name of your holy servant Jesus."

³¹ After they prayed, the place where they were meeting was shaken. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the word of God boldly. (Acts 4-NIV)

The book of Acts repeats many times the historical fact that signs and wonders in the name of Jesus appeared through the disciples.

Acts 2:43 (NIV) - Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles.

Acts 4:30 (NIV) - Stretch out your hand to heal and perform signs and wonders through the name of your holy servant Jesus.

Acts 5:12 (NIV) - The apostles performed many signs and wonders among the people. And all the believers used to meet together in Solomon's Colonnade.

Acts 6:8 (NIV) - Now Stephen, a man full of God's grace and power, performed great wonders and signs among the people.

Acts 7:36 (NIV) - He led them out of Egypt and performed wonders and signs in Egypt, at the Red Sea and for forty years in the wilderness.

Acts 14:3 (NIV) - So Paul and Barnabas spent considerable time there, speaking boldly for the Lord, who confirmed the message of his grace by enabling them to perform signs and wonders.

Acts 15:12 (NIV) - The whole assembly became silent as they listened to Barnabas and Paul telling about the signs and wonders God had done among the Gentiles through them.

The Holy Spirit - Book of Acts

Pastor Ken

June 22, 2025

Welcome to Bethel Life Center, Where All People Matter to God.

Danice and I want to tell you, "We love you."

You are not here by chance; God wants to make himself known and offer you a personal relationship with Jesus Christ, who died an atoning death to forgive your sins and offer you the gift of eternal life. And the gift of the Holy Spirit to empower you daily. **Welcome!**

If you are new to Bethel Life Center in the sanctuary or on-line, we are studying the book of Acts and learning how you (1) can stop walking alone, (2) how to let go of the problems and pain you were never intended to carry and (3) discover how to access fresh strength and power from the Holy Spirit.

Here are a couple additional readings to provide study material about the Holy Spirit-*The Familiar Stranger* and *Help is Here* by Max Lucado.

So, let's read our scripture and then I will pray.

The Holy Spirit

⁷ Taking him by the right hand, he helped him up, and instantly the man's feet and ankles became strong. ⁸ He jumped to his feet and began to walk. Then he went with them into the temple courts, walking and jumping, and praising God. ⁹ When all the people saw him walking and praising God. (Acts 3-NIV)

Who doesn't love the story of someone who makes a complete 180° change in their life.

Brad Gold of Los Angeles made a 180° change: at the age of fifty-three, he was laid off from senior management, he was a slave to the corporate world.

His 180° dream? Open a café. He borrowed money from family and friends and 18 years later opened **Black Dog Coffee**. Brad says, "I am eternally grateful for the layoff and the opportunity to pursue my dream."

Scott Schmaren, fifty-four of St Charles, Illinois made a 180° change: At the age of 40 I was 5'6" and weighed 360 pounds. I don't want to spend my life being depressed and obese,

His 180° dream? To change the way, he thought about himself and so he went on a journey to lose 180° pounds. A real 180° tangible change, don't you think? 15 years later I still weigh 175 pounds, and I am in the best physical, mental and spiritual condition of my life.

Candice Kilpatrick, 40, New York, New York made a 180° change: After living in Asia for over 9 years as a teacher, I decided to leave a dead marriage and cheating husband.

Her 180° dream? I wanted to start over in a new city, make some new friends, so with two duffel bags in tow, off I went on my New York 180° journey that changed my life. I worked in social media brands like Yahoo, and yahoo I met Mr. Right, who is an amazing man.

The Bible is filled from Genesis to Revelation with 180° turn-around stories.

***Abraham** is an idol worshipper who becomes the Father of faith and the Spiritual Father of the nation of Israel.

***Moses** kills an Egyptian at the age of 40 and at the age of 80, he delivers God's people from the Egyptian slavery.

***David** takes down the leader Goliath then later is taken down by lust. In the end, God still calls him **a man after my own heart**.

***Saul** becomes Paul. A religious zealot who does more to show us how to go from legalism to love, from slavery to the flesh to freedom of the Holy Spirit.

Today we look at the work of the Holy Spirit in the life of Peter and John. Peter and John have been with Jesus from the beginning. They are perfect illustrations of what it means to dream of making a 180° change.

These disciples' names, Peter and John together are found 7 times in Acts 3 & 4 (including one time as them). Just as the book of Luke and Acts are twin literary writings by the good Dr Luke. Acts 3 and 4 is one complete story about how the Holy Spirit activates and operates in Jesus disciples and **how he wants to operate in you**.

Let me debunk the theological lye, that only the original apostles did miracles in the book of Acts. And once the book of Acts closed, the need for the supernatural work of the Holy Spirit ceased in the church. Having been in the ministry now over 40 years, I am more convinced than ever; we do not have what it takes to heal a hurting world. Outreaches won't do it.

Fancy buildings and amazing worship won't do it.

The best trained leadership and even great mission statements like-All People Matter to God, won't do it.

I would exchange all of that for one drop from Heaven of the Holy Spirit's power to transform a life.

And this power which arrived at Pentecost, in the form of an Acts 1:8, promise, a promise that was talked about in the OT by the prophet Joel, I declare to you today,

Acts 1:8 has not been rescinded.

Acts 1:8, has not been repealed.

Acts 1:8, has not been revoked.

Acts 1:8, has not run out of power.

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. (Acts 1:8-NIV)

God's will for the church has not changed. You can do the work of Jesus Christ in the power of the Holy Spirit. The initial supernatural work in Acts 2, was to empower Christ followers to tell the story of Jesus atoning death in languages other than their first language. It is called, speaking in other tongues. What is that all about?

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Peter and John had already become accustomed to the Spirit's prompting, so the text tells us that *Peter staired straight at the man....(Acts 3:4)*

Peter invited the beggar to look at him. Suddenly with great eagerness, the man looked at Peter and John expecting to receive something. The beggar took Peter's invitation as the opportunity to receive an enormous financial gift.

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Peter reaches down and invites the cripple to rise. The disabled, the down and out, the diseased rose for the first time in forty years. This miracle happened instantly. Peter said, "rise and walk."

On nine different occasions, the word "name" or "in the name of" is used in Acts 3 & 4, declaring by what power Peter and John had access to. This same authority is given to you also. It was as though Jesus was up to his old self again. Even the enemies of Jesus were forced to admit this man who is walking and jumping is the same man who used to sit begging.

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Like in Acts 2, Peter once again tells the crowd, *your sins could be forgiven or blotted out or wiped out. (Acts 3:19)*

When this happens, you will receive times of refreshing, God's favor, healings, miracles and this revival is real, and it starts with sins forgiven. Even better Jesus himself will come to you, *(20) and that he may send the Messiah, who has been appointed for you – even Jesus. (Acts 3-NIV)*

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Ouch! And right into jail Peter and John go. A riot was about to break out because the apostles were declaring that Jesus rose from the dead.

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Peter and John had been brought before a joint session of Congress, Supreme Court and the Mafia. What we see is what happens when power operates in the absence of truth. People in power who have no concern for the truth use intimidation, coercion and are unwilling to listen to the truth.

Peter did not have to rely on his own wisdom; the Holy Spirit spoke for him. Peter boldly turned the inquisitions accusations of insurrection around to show they-not Peter and John were the treasonous one-because they crucified the giver of life-Jesus Christ.

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Mention the name of Jesus and power is released.

In the end Peter and John’s closing argument came down to this statement about Jesus. *¹² Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to mankind by which we must be saved. (Acts 4-NIV)*

Salvation is not found in Buddha, Mohammed, Joseph Smith, Agnosticism, Hinduism, Scientology and Tom Cruise, all is simply demonic efforts to take your soul into a Christless eternity.

To say there is another way of salvation is simply NOT true, and it diminishes Jesus’ atoning death on the cross.

What separates Christianity from all other religions is that at the core we have a Savior-Jesus Christ who extends a personal relationship of friendship to you and me. It is an unconditional relationship based on grace and love.

Do you have faith in Jesus Christ? Is that how you experience a relationship with God? Do you talk with him on a daily basis? On a personal basis? God wants to be your friend. It is really powerful and personal when you have that kind of relationship with the God of the Universe. It changes everything. I hope this is true of you.

Without this friendship with Jesus, the Holy Spirit the Christiann life is like every other religion. It is dogmas, dos and don'ts, drills and formulas eventually leave people exhausted and alone.

*No one in their corner.

*No one who truly cares.

*No one with heavens resources or a desire to help.

Spiritual speaking without Christ, life is being friendless in the world, a functional orphan looking for someone to take you in. To pick you up. Jesus crashed through the barrier of your sin and mine and he invites you to his salvation plan.

Like Peter and John, willing to be imprisoned and even die, their declaration was, "I present to you the God of the Universe, a friend who sticks closer than a brother-the good shepherd who gives up his life for his sheep."

For there is no other name in heaven, by which anyone can be saved.

Peter and John went back to their friends and told them all that had happened to the Sanhedrin, and they closed their gathering with this prayer, and I want to close this service with the same prayer:

²⁹ Now, Lord, consider their threats and enable your servants to speak your word with great boldness.

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The Holy Spirit - Book of Acts

Pastor Ken

June 22, 2025

Welcome to Bethel Life Center, Where All People Matter to God.

Danice and I want to tell you, "We love you."

You are not here by chance; God wants to make himself known and offer you a personal relationship with Jesus Christ, who died an atoning death to forgive your sins and offer you the gift of eternal life. And the gift of the Holy Spirit to empower you daily. **Welcome!**

If you are new to Bethel Life Center in the sanctuary or on-line, we are studying the book of Acts and learning how you (1) can stop walking alone, (2) how to let go of the problems and pain you were never intended to carry and (3) discover how to access fresh strength and power from the Holy Spirit.

Here are a couple additional readings to provide study material about the Holy Spirit-*The Familiar Stranger* and *Help is Here* by Max Lucado.

So, let's read our scripture and then I will pray.

The Holy Spirit

⁷ Taking him by the right hand, he helped him up, and instantly the man's feet and ankles became strong. ⁸ He jumped to his feet and began to walk. Then he went with them into the temple courts, walking and jumping, and praising God. ⁹ When all the people saw him walking and praising God. (Acts 3-NIV)

Who doesn't love the story of someone who makes a complete 180° change in their life.

Brad Gold of Los Angeles made a 180° change: at the age of fifty-three, he was laid off from senior management, he was a slave to the corporate world.

His 180° dream? Open a café. He borrowed money from family and friends and 18 years later opened **Black Dog Coffee**. Brad says, "I am eternally grateful for the layoff and the opportunity to pursue my dream."

Scott Schmaren, fifty-four of St Charles, Illinois made a 180° change: At the age of 40 I was 5'6" and weighed 360 pounds. I don't want to spend my life being depressed and obese,

His 180° dream? To change the way, he thought about himself and so he went on a journey to lose 180° pounds. A real 180° tangible change, don't you think? 15 years later I still weigh 175 pounds, and I am in the best physical, mental and spiritual condition of my life.

Candice Kilpatrick, 40, New York, New York made a 180° change: After living in Asia for over 9 years as a teacher, I decided to leave a dead marriage and cheating husband.

Her 180° dream? I wanted to start over in a new city, make some new friends, so with two duffel bags in tow, off I went on my New York 180° journey that changed my life. I worked in social media brands like Yahoo, and yahoo I met Mr. Right, who is an amazing man.

The Bible is filled from Genesis to Revelation with 180° turn-around stories.

***Abraham** is an idol worshipper who becomes the Father of faith and the Spiritual Father of the nation of Israel.

***Moses** kills an Egyptian at the age of 40 and at the age of 80, he delivers God's people from the Egyptian slavery.

***David** takes down the leader Goliath then later is taken down by lust. In the end, God still calls him **a man after my own heart**.

***Saul** becomes Paul. A religious zealot who does more to show us how to go from legalism to love, from slavery to the flesh to freedom of the Holy Spirit.

Today we look at the work of the Holy Spirit in the life of Peter and John. Peter and John have been with Jesus from the beginning. They are perfect illustrations of what it means to dream of making a 180° change.

These disciples' names, Peter and John together are found 7 times in Acts 3 & 4 (including one time as them). Just as the book of Luke and Acts are twin literary writings by the good Dr Luke. Acts 3 and 4 is one complete story about how the Holy Spirit activates and operates in Jesus disciples and **how he wants to operate in you**.

Let me debunk the theological lye, that only the original apostles did miracles in the book of Acts. And once the book of Acts closed, the need for the supernatural work of the Holy Spirit ceased in the church. Having been in the ministry now over 40 years, I am more convinced than ever; we do not have what it takes to heal a hurting world. Outreaches won't do it.

Fancy buildings and amazing worship won't do it.

The best trained leadership and even great mission statements like-All People Matter to God, won't do it.

I would exchange all of that for one drop from Heaven of the Holy Spirit's power to transform a life.

And this power which arrived at Pentecost, in the form of an Acts 1:8, promise, a promise that was talked about in the OT by the prophet Joel, I declare to you today,

Acts 1:8 has not been rescinded.

Acts 1:8, has not been repealed.

Acts 1:8, has not been revoked.

Acts 1:8, has not run out of power.

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. (Acts 1:8-NIV)

God's will for the church has not changed. You can do the work of Jesus Christ in the power of the Holy Spirit. The initial supernatural work in Acts 2, was to empower Christ followers to tell the story of Jesus atoning death in languages other than their first language. It is called, speaking in other tongues. What is that all about?

Thomas told of Jesus miracles (healings, feedings, walking on water) to those of Cappadocia. Thomas did not speak Cappadocian. I'll have a tall cappadocia please, with an extra shot. Hold the whip please.

Andrew recalled the preaching of Jesus as the good news that set the captives free in the native tongue to the Egyptians. Andrew did not speak Egyptian.

Mathew announced to the Cretans and Arabs in their Arabic tongue, my sins were forgiven, and I restored what I stole, and you can do the same. Matthew was Galilean, not Arabic.

The tower of Babel for a moment was reversed. Yes, don't miss this, since God is about making all things new, on Pentecost he started what he will be completed at the end of the age, beginning with what happened at the Tower of Babel.

Don't get me distracted, you can read about it in Genesis 11.

Supernatural Holy Spirit communication was the first fruit of Pentecost. Pentecost soon added other gifts of the Holy Spirit as we see in Acts 3 and 4, as the Holy Spirit empowers Peter and John to **heal the sick**. Again, these powers have not disappeared at the end of the apostolic age. They are still available today to all Christ followers who want to receive from the Holy Spirit the "gifts of the Spirit."

The Holy Spirit not only gives power, but He also gives spiritual gifts to all who ask.

Ephesians 4:8b-NCV – When he (Jesus) went up to the heights, he led a parade of captives, and he gave gifts to people.

¹¹ All these are the work of one and the same Spirit, and he distributes them to each one, just as he determines. (1 Corinthians 12-NIV)

Today and later in the week, two Bethel missions' teams are heading to Wyoming and St Louis and will require that its team members be available daily to use their spiritual gifts. Spiritual gifts have a human reality and a heavenly reality.

Someone walking down the street (**human reality**) in St. Louis sees a tarot card store and announces prophetically (**heavenly reality**), store of witchcraft I command you in the name of Jesus to cease to exist from operations. Close up in the Jesus name.

Someone on the Wyoming team is in a worship service, worshipping Jesus by lifting their hands (**human reality**) and is given a word of knowledge (**heavenly reality**) for a person they are praying for.

Like Jesus who asks for water from a woman at the well- **human reality** (John 4), you are living with a man (**heavenly reality**),

...the student tells the other student, you have been thinking about taking your life with suicide. (**heavenly reality**) Don't. Stop it.

Let Jesus have control of your life. You can come out of your depression and find healing from your sexual abuse. **In the Name of Jesus Christ.**

It is critical that as you minister you invoke the name of Jesus. As we will see, that was the power by which John and Peter healed. The name of Jesus is like power of attorney. You have been given that power of attorney to invite Christ's power to be present.

The Holy Spirit is the ultimate gift giver. He offers to Jesus disciples' supernatural abilities that heal the sick, deliver the oppressed, and build up the discouraged.

It would be spiritual malpractice of the highest order if I failed to tell those leaving this week for Wyoming and St Louis, don't miss your unique-to-you Holy Spirit assignment using Holy Spirit gifts to release and do the supernatural in the name of Jesus.

Now, I told you, some distorted and limiting theology only lets church leaders activate gifts. Offer gifts. Here is a story that should dispel that untruth. I will let the bible text do the convincing!

*Then **Ananias** went to the house and entered it. Placing his hands on Saul, he said, "Brother Saul, the Lord—Jesus, who appeared to you on the road as you were coming here—has sent me so that you may see again and be filled with the Holy Spirit." (Acts 9:17-NIV)*

Do you see what I see? Paul got healing and the Holy Spirit. And it was a lay person, someone in the pew who God used. It wasn't just the rock stars that got the Holy Spirit at Pentecost or operated in the Holy Spirit in the book of Acts, it is You and Me, too!

Ok, I think these insights should be enough to convince you of this truth: The book of Acts is about the power of the Holy Spirit being released into Christ followers. Then and now!

With the few minutes remaining, let me do a 30,000-foot fly over of Acts 3&4. Look closely as you see the 180-degree turn-around of Peter and John.

John was one of the sons of thunder, and when Jesus could not get any housing in Samaria, he recommended to Jesus we call down fire from heaven. When the disciples James and John saw this, they asked, "Lord, do you want us to call fire down from heaven to destroy them?" (Luke 9:54-NIV)

When Peter realized that Jesus was about to be arrested, Peter grabbed a sword and cut off the ear of a would-be captor.

Then Simon Peter, who had a sword, drew it and struck the high priest's servant, cutting off his right ear. (The servant's name was Malchus.) (John 18:10-NIV)

Here is brief biblical glimpse of how Peter went from coward to courageous.

It was a servant girl who spooked Peter by the fire, not the Sanhedrin when Jesus was arrested. *"You aren't one of this man's disciples too, are you?" she asked Peter. He replied, "I am not." (John 18:17-NIV)*

On one occasion, Jesus said to Peter, you are full of the devil, now Jesus is telling Peter, become full of the Holy Spirit. *Jesus turned and said to Peter, "Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to me; you do not have in mind the concerns of God, but merely human concerns." (Matthew 16:23-NIV)*

What has gotten into Peter you might say. One minute he is hiding because of Jesus, sometime later he is proclaiming, there is salvation in no other. *Peter declares in Acts 4:12, Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to mankind by which we must be saved.*

At Passover Peter is a pushover, at Pentecost Peter is a Holy Spirit empowered preacher. A powerhouse preacher. With no preaching training, we observe in the first chapters of Acts, Peter preaches two powerful and convincing sermons where 3000 and 5000 people come to Christ. Two sermons. Adding moms and children the church has exploded to over 15,000 believers. Supernatural.

Peter was a coward at Jesus crucifixion. He panics. He melts down. Peter not only denies the Lord he announces a curse on himself.

*Then Peter began to place a curse on himself and swear, "I don't know the man."
(Matthew 26:74a-NCV)*

Again, let me ask the question: What **has gotten into Peter?**

But look at Peter on the day of Pentecost declaring to 1000's, *God has made Jesus – the man you nailed to the cross – both Lord and Christ. (Acts 2:36b-NCV)*

Peter has guts or his guts are going to be skewered by the same people that crucified Jesus. The same crowd that shouted crucify him, could crucify him.

From wimp to warrior in 50 days. From cowardice to courageous in 50 days.

Let me ask you a challenging question, "Are you the Peter of Passover or are you Peter of Pentecost?"

We want to live for God, but we shrink back when called up. We know God's promises, but we fail to live up to them. We look around and wonder, why am I wandering. Drifting. Disappearing.

*I can't even listen to a sermon without getting on my cell phone.

* I should go to the altar, but all I want to do is go to my car.

*Jesus said he will forgive my sins, but I keep forgetting to ask him to do so, and I keep falling into the same addictive habits not every other day, or once in-a-while, **but daily.**

Why are the disciples in Acts so supernatural, and I am so powerless? Don't I have the same scriptures? Don't I worship the same Savior? Am I not told to carry Jesus cross daily?

Ok, stop Pastor. Yes, I want to be the Peter of Pentecost. Then do what Peter did. Jesus told Peter and the others,

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." (Acts 1-NIV)

In Acts 3, Peter and John are going up or ascending to the temple in Jerusalem to offer their worship to the God of Abraham, Issac and Jacob. (see Acts 3:13)

While Peter and John are moving into a faith and worship experience with of Christ which is greater than their historical Jewish faith, they still practice worship and giving to the poor.

In the ministry of Jesus someone was always getting redeemed, reconciled, healed or elevated. And Peter and John are now operating in proxy for Jesus.

As they entered the outer courts of the temple, the disabled and broken bodies cluster beside gates called Beautiful. This is a beautifully crafted bronze gate standing between the court of the gentiles and the court of the women.

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Here are a couple additional readings to provide study material about the Holy Spirit-*The Familiar Stranger* and *Help is Here* by Max Lucado.

So, let's read our scripture and then I will pray.

The Holy Spirit

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Who doesn't love the story of someone who makes a complete 180° change in their life.

Brad Gold of Los Angeles made a 180° change: at the age of fifty-three, he was laid off from senior management, he was a slave to the corporate world.

His 180° dream? Open a café. He borrowed money from family and friends and 18 years later opened **Black Dog Coffee**. Brad says, "I am eternally grateful for the layoff and the opportunity to pursue my dream."

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His 180° dream? To change the way, he thought about himself and so he went on a journey to lose 180° pounds. A real 180° tangible change, don't you think? 15 years later I still weigh 175 pounds, and I am in the best physical, mental and spiritual condition of my life.

Candice Kilpatrick, 40, New York, New York made a 180° change: After living in Asia for over 9 years as a teacher, I decided to leave a dead marriage and cheating husband.

Her 180° dream? I wanted to start over in a new city, make some new friends, so with two duffel bags in tow, off I went on my New York 180° journey that changed my life. I worked in social media brands like Yahoo, and yahoo I met Mr. Right, who is an amazing man.

The Bible is filled from Genesis to Revelation with 180° turn-around stories.

***Abraham** is an idol worshipper who becomes the Father of faith and the Spiritual Father of the nation of Israel.

***Moses** kills an Egyptian at the age of 40 and at the age of 80, he delivers God's people from the Egyptian slavery.

***David** takes down the leader Goliath then later is taken down by lust. In the end, God still calls him **a man after my own heart**.

***Saul** becomes Paul. A religious zealot who does more to show us how to go from legalism to love, from slavery to the flesh to freedom of the Holy Spirit.

Today we look at the work of the Holy Spirit in the life of Peter and John. Peter and John have been with Jesus from the beginning. They are perfect illustrations of what it means to dream of making a 180° change.

These disciples' names, Peter and John together are found 7 times in Acts 3 & 4 (including one time as them). Just as the book of Luke and Acts are twin literary writings by the good Dr Luke. Acts 3 and 4 is one complete story about how the Holy Spirit activates and operates in Jesus disciples and **how he wants to operate in you**.

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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. (Acts 1:8-NIV)

God's will for the church has not changed. You can do the work of Jesus Christ in the power of the Holy Spirit. The initial supernatural work in Acts 2, was to empower Christ followers to tell the story of Jesus atoning death in languages other than their first language. It is called, speaking in other tongues. What is that all about?

Thomas told of Jesus miracles (healings, feedings, walking on water) to those of Cappadocia. Thomas did not speak Cappadocian. I'll have a tall cappadocia please, with an extra shot. Hold the whip please.

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The tower of Babel for a moment was reversed. Yes, don't miss this, since God is about making all things new, on Pentecost he started what he will be completed at the end of the age, beginning with what happened at the Tower of Babel.

Don't get me distracted, you can read about it in Genesis 11.

Supernatural Holy Spirit communication was the first fruit of Pentecost. Pentecost soon added other gifts of the Holy Spirit as we see in Acts 3 and 4, as the Holy Spirit empowers Peter and John to **heal the sick**. Again, these powers have not disappeared at the end of the apostolic age. They are still available today to all Christ followers who want to receive from the Holy Spirit the "gifts of the Spirit."

The Holy Spirit not only gives power, but He also gives spiritual gifts to all who ask.

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Someone walking down the street (**human reality**) in St. Louis sees a tarot card store and announces prophetically (**heavenly reality**), store of witchcraft I command you in the name of Jesus to cease to exist from operations. Close up in the Jesus name.

Someone on the Wyoming team is in a worship service, worshipping Jesus by lifting their hands (**human reality**) and is given a word of knowledge (**heavenly reality**) for a person they are praying for.

Like Jesus who asks for water from a woman at the well- **human reality** (John 4), you are living with a man (**heavenly reality**),

...the student tells the other student, you have been thinking about taking your life with suicide. (**heavenly reality**) Don't. Stop it.

Let Jesus have control of your life. You can come out of your depression and find healing from your sexual abuse. **In the Name of Jesus Christ.**

It is critical that as you minister you invoke the name of Jesus. As we will see, that was the power by which John and Peter healed. The name of Jesus is like power of attorney. You have been given that power of attorney to invite Christ's power to be present.

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Do you see what I see? Paul got healing and the Holy Spirit. And it was a lay person, someone in the pew who God used. It wasn't just the rock stars that got the Holy Spirit at Pentecost or operated in the Holy Spirit in the book of Acts, it is You and Me, too!

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John was one of the sons of thunder, and when Jesus could not get any housing in Samaria, he recommended to Jesus we call down fire from heaven. When the disciples James and John saw this, they asked, "Lord, do you want us to call fire down from heaven to destroy them?" (Luke 9:54-NIV)

When Peter realized that Jesus was about to be arrested, Peter grabbed a sword and cut off the ear of a would-be captor.

Then Simon Peter, who had a sword, drew it and struck the high priest's servant, cutting off his right ear. (The servant's name was Malchus.) (John 18:10-NIV)

Here is brief biblical glimpse of how Peter went from coward to courageous.

It was a servant girl who spooked Peter by the fire, not the Sanhedrin when Jesus was arrested. *"You aren't one of this man's disciples too, are you?" she asked Peter. He replied, "I am not." (John 18:17-NIV)*

On one occasion, Jesus said to Peter, you are full of the devil, now Jesus is telling Peter, become full of the Holy Spirit. *Jesus turned and said to Peter, "Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to me; you do not have in mind the concerns of God, but merely human concerns." (Matthew 16:23-NIV)*

What has gotten into Peter you might say. One minute he is hiding because of Jesus, sometime later he is proclaiming, there is salvation in no other. *Peter declares in Acts 4:12, Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to mankind by which we must be saved.*

At Passover Peter is a pushover, at Pentecost Peter is a Holy Spirit empowered preacher. A powerhouse preacher. With no preaching training, we observe in the first chapters of Acts, Peter preaches two powerful and convincing sermons where 3000 and 5000 people come to Christ. Two sermons. Adding moms and children the church has exploded to over 15,000 believers. Supernatural.

Peter was a coward at Jesus crucifixion. He panics. He melts down. Peter not only denies the Lord he announces a curse on himself.

*Then Peter began to place a curse on himself and swear, "I don't know the man."
(Matthew 26:74a-NCV)*

Again, let me ask the question: What **has gotten into Peter?**

But look at Peter on the day of Pentecost declaring to 1000's, *God has made Jesus – the man you nailed to the cross – both Lord and Christ. (Acts 2:36b-NCV)*

Peter has guts or his guts are going to be skewered by the same people that crucified Jesus. The same crowd that shouted crucify him, could crucify him.

From wimp to warrior in 50 days. From cowardice to courageous in 50 days.

Let me ask you a challenging question, "Are you the Peter of Passover or are you Peter of Pentecost?"

We want to live for God, but we shrink back when called up. We know God's promises, but we fail to live up to them. We look around and wonder, why am I wandering. Drifting. Disappearing.

*I can't even listen to a sermon without getting on my cell phone.

* I should go to the altar, but all I want to do is go to my car.

*Jesus said he will forgive my sins, but I keep forgetting to ask him to do so, and I keep falling into the same addictive habits not every other day, or once in-a-while, **but daily.**

Why are the disciples in Acts so supernatural, and I am so powerless? Don't I have the same scriptures? Don't I worship the same Savior? Am I not told to carry Jesus cross daily?

Ok, stop Pastor. Yes, I want to be the Peter of Pentecost. Then do what Peter did. Jesus told Peter and the others,

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." (Acts 1-NIV)

In Acts 3, Peter and John are going up or ascending to the temple in Jerusalem to offer their worship to the God of Abraham, Issac and Jacob. (see Acts 3:13)

While Peter and John are moving into a faith and worship experience with of Christ which is greater than their historical Jewish faith, they still practice worship and giving to the poor.

In the ministry of Jesus someone was always getting redeemed, reconciled, healed or elevated. And Peter and John are now operating in proxy for Jesus.

As they entered the outer courts of the temple, the disabled and broken bodies cluster beside gates called Beautiful. This is a beautifully crafted bronze gate standing between the court of the gentiles and the court of the women.

Throngs of people move in and out for evening prayer, but on this divinely appointed occasion, Peter and John are moved with compassion for a cripple, a disabled man who had not walked his entire life.

This man was hoping for a tangible gift of shekels for food, clothing or shelter. Daily the man was dropped off by friends, and daily those friends would return to retrieve the invalid with whatever alms giving he had received that day.

Peter speaks for he and John and announces what the man has heard many times all day, we don't have any money." Then the supernatural prompting and power of the Holy Spirit takes over.

Peter and John had already become accustomed to the Spirit's prompting, so the text tells us that *Peter staired straight at the man....(Acts 3:4)*

Peter invited the beggar to look at him. Suddenly with great eagerness, the man looked at Peter and John expecting to receive something. The beggar took Peter's invitation as the opportunity to receive an enormous financial gift.

⁶ Then Peter said, "Silver or gold I do not have, but what I do have I give you. In the **name** of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, walk." (Acts 3-NIV)

Peter reaches down and invites the cripple to rise. The disabled, the down and out, the diseased rose for the first time in forty years. This miracle happened instantly. Peter said, "rise and walk."

On nine different occasions, the word "name" or "in the name of" is used in Acts 3 & 4, declaring by what power Peter and John had access to. This same authority is given to you also. It was as though Jesus was up to his old self again. Even the enemies of Jesus were forced to admit this man who is walking and jumping is the same man who used to sit begging.

A crowd now gathers as Peter and John move into the temple with the beggar clinging onto to Peter, *and they were filled with wonder and amazement at what had happened to him. (Acts 3:10b-NIV)*

As the crowd grows, Peter says, this is DeJa'Vu,' this calls for another sermon about who really did this miracle. Peter knows that the crowd needs to know Jesus is present as He was present and alive just over 50 days ago. Today he is no longer limited to a human body, one location, one voice or one set of supernatural actions.

It is just as Jesus said, the Holy Spirit will come and do the activity of Jesus in each of his disciples. ¹² *When Peter saw this, he said to them: "Fellow Israelites, why does this surprise you? Why do you stare at us as if by our own power or godliness we had made this man walk?" (Acts 3-NIV)*

Like in Acts 2, Peter once again tells the crowd, *your sins could be forgiven or blotted out or wiped out. (Acts 3:19)*

When this happens, you will receive times of refreshing, God's favor, healings, miracles and this revival is real, and it starts with sins forgiven. Even better Jesus himself will come to you, *(20) and that he may send the Messiah, who has been appointed for you – even Jesus. (Acts 3-NIV)*

And then Peter's sermon ends with these words Acts 3, ²⁶ *When God raised up his servant, he sent him first to you to bless you by turning each of you from your wicked ways. (Acts 3-NIV)*

Ouch! And right into jail Peter and John go. A riot was about to break out because the apostles were declaring that Jesus rose from the dead.

While Peter and John were in prison, Peter's sermon was already landing in the hearts of 1000's. *Many who heard the message believed; the number of men who believed grew to about five thousand. (Acts 4)*

The next day, there is going to be theological fireworks. Peter and John were put into prison to protect the Jewish religious system that had been operation for 1000's of years. The religious leaders who tried to terminate Jesus now had Peter and John in their sites.

As the sun arose, the same godless leaders of Israel, sat in judgment of Peter and John that sat in judgment of Jesus. Peter is fired up, with fire from above and ready to give his opening statements.

He also has his first witness ready to testify, a former cripple at the beautiful gate near the entrance to the temple. The prosecution fires off the first question.

⁷ They had Peter and John brought before them and began to question them: “By what power or what name did you do this?” (Acts 4-NIV)

Peter and John had been brought before a joint session of Congress, Supreme Court and the Mafia. What we see is what happens when power operates in the absence of truth. People in power who have no concern for the truth use intimidation, coercion and are unwilling to listen to the truth.

Peter did not have to rely on his own wisdom; the Holy Spirit spoke for him. Peter boldly turned the inquisitions accusations of insurrection around to show they-not Peter and John were the treasonous one-because they crucified the giver of life-Jesus Christ.

⁸ Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them: “Rulers and elders of the people! ⁹ If we are being called to account today for an act of kindness shown to a man who was lame and are being asked how he was healed,

¹⁰ then know this, you and all the people of Israel: It is by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified but whom God raised from the dead, that this man stands before you healed.” (Acts 4-NIV)

It shocked the tribunal to discover their intimidation had no effect on Peter and John. Bullying did not work. It was 74 in the Sanhedrin against 2-and two uneducated and untrained fishermen from rural Galilee facing off against the educated and religious elite. That day, heaven’s power in the Holy Spirit met hell’s power in the halls of religious bondage.

Mention the name of Jesus and power is released.

In the end Peter and John’s closing argument came down to this statement about Jesus. *¹² Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to mankind by which we must be saved. (Acts 4-NIV)*

Salvation is not found in Buddha, Mohammed, Joseph Smith, Agnosticism, Hinduism, Scientology and Tom Cruise, all is simply demonic efforts to take your soul into a Christless eternity.

To say there is another way of salvation is simply NOT true, and it diminishes Jesus’ atoning death on the cross.

What separates Christianity from all other religions is that at the core we have a Savior-Jesus Christ who extends a personal relationship of friendship to you and me. It is an unconditional relationship based on grace and love.

Do you have faith in Jesus Christ? Is that how you experience a relationship with God? Do you talk with him on a daily basis? On a personal basis? God wants to be your friend. It is really powerful and personal when you have that kind of relationship with the God of the Universe. It changes everything. I hope this is true of you.

Without this friendship with Jesus, the Holy Spirit the Christiann life is like every other religion. It is dogmas, dos and don'ts, drills and formulas eventually leave people exhausted and alone.

*No one in their corner.

*No one who truly cares.

*No one with heavens resources or a desire to help.

Spiritual speaking without Christ, life is being friendless in the world, a functional orphan looking for someone to take you in. To pick you up. Jesus crashed through the barrier of your sin and mine and he invites you to his salvation plan.

Like Peter and John, willing to be imprisoned and even die, their declaration was, "I present to you the God of the Universe, a friend who sticks closer than a brother-the good shepherd who gives up his life for his sheep."

For there is no other name in heaven, by which anyone can be saved.

Peter and John went back to their friends and told them all that had happened to the Sanhedrin, and they closed their gathering with this prayer, and I want to close this service with the same prayer:

²⁹ Now, Lord, consider their threats and enable your servants to speak your word with great boldness.

³⁰ "Stretch out your hand to heal and perform signs and wonders through the name of your holy servant Jesus."

³¹ After they prayed, the place where they were meeting was shaken. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the word of God boldly. (Acts 4-NIV)

The book of Acts repeats many times the historical fact that signs and wonders in the name of Jesus appeared through the disciples.

Acts 2:43 (NIV) - Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles.

Acts 4:30 (NIV) - Stretch out your hand to heal and perform signs and wonders through the name of your holy servant Jesus.

Acts 5:12 (NIV) - The apostles performed many signs and wonders among the people. And all the believers used to meet together in Solomon's Colonnade.

Acts 6:8 (NIV) - Now Stephen, a man full of God's grace and power, performed great wonders and signs among the people.

Acts 7:36 (NIV) - He led them out of Egypt and performed wonders and signs in Egypt, at the Red Sea and for forty years in the wilderness.

Acts 14:3 (NIV) - So Paul and Barnabas spent considerable time there, speaking boldly for the Lord, who confirmed the message of his grace by enabling them to perform signs and wonders.

Acts 15:12 (NIV) - The whole assembly became silent as they listened to Barnabas and Paul telling about the signs and wonders God had done among the Gentiles through them.

The Holy Spirit - Book of Acts

Pastor Ken

June 22, 2025

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Here is brief biblical glimpse of how Peter went from coward to courageous.

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Again, let me ask the question: What **has gotten into Peter?**

But look at Peter on the day of Pentecost declaring to 1000's, *God has made Jesus – the man you nailed to the cross – both Lord and Christ. (Acts 2:36b-NCV)*

Peter has guts or his guts are going to be skewered by the same people that crucified Jesus. The same crowd that shouted crucify him, could crucify him.

From wimp to warrior in 50 days. From cowardice to courageous in 50 days.

Let me ask you a challenging question, "Are you the Peter of Passover or are you Peter of Pentecost?"

We want to live for God, but we shrink back when called up. We know God's promises, but we fail to live up to them. We look around and wonder, why am I wandering. Drifting. Disappearing.

*I can't even listen to a sermon without getting on my cell phone.

* I should go to the altar, but all I want to do is go to my car.

*Jesus said he will forgive my sins, but I keep forgetting to ask him to do so, and I keep falling into the same addictive habits not every other day, or once in-a-while, **but daily.**

Why are the disciples in Acts so supernatural, and I am so powerless? Don't I have the same scriptures? Don't I worship the same Savior? Am I not told to carry Jesus cross daily?

Ok, stop Pastor. Yes, I want to be the Peter of Pentecost. Then do what Peter did. Jesus told Peter and the others,

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." (Acts 1-NIV)

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¹⁰ then know this, you and all the people of Israel: It is by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified but whom God raised from the dead, that this man stands before you healed.” (Acts 4-NIV)

It shocked the tribunal to discover their intimidation had no effect on Peter and John. Bullying did not work. It was 74 in the Sanhedrin against 2-and two uneducated and untrained fishermen from rural Galilee facing off against the educated and religious elite. That day, heaven’s power in the Holy Spirit met hell’s power in the halls of religious bondage.

Mention the name of Jesus and power is released.

In the end Peter and John’s closing argument came down to this statement about Jesus. *¹² Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to mankind by which we must be saved. (Acts 4-NIV)*

Salvation is not found in Buddha, Mohammed, Joseph Smith, Agnosticism, Hinduism, Scientology and Tom Cruise, all is simply demonic efforts to take your soul into a Christless eternity.

To say there is another way of salvation is simply NOT true, and it diminishes Jesus’ atoning death on the cross.

What separates Christianity from all other religions is that at the core we have a Savior-Jesus Christ who extends a personal relationship of friendship to you and me. It is an unconditional relationship based on grace and love.

Do you have faith in Jesus Christ? Is that how you experience a relationship with God? Do you talk with him on a daily basis? On a personal basis? God wants to be your friend. It is really powerful and personal when you have that kind of relationship with the God of the Universe. It changes everything. I hope this is true of you.

Without this friendship with Jesus, the Holy Spirit the Christiann life is like every other religion. It is dogmas, dos and don'ts, drills and formulas eventually leave people exhausted and alone.

*No one in their corner.

*No one who truly cares.

*No one with heavens resources or a desire to help.

Spiritual speaking without Christ, life is being friendless in the world, a functional orphan looking for someone to take you in. To pick you up. Jesus crashed through the barrier of your sin and mine and he invites you to his salvation plan.

Like Peter and John, willing to be imprisoned and even die, their declaration was, "I present to you the God of the Universe, a friend who sticks closer than a brother-the good shepherd who gives up his life for his sheep."

For there is no other name in heaven, by which anyone can be saved.

Peter and John went back to their friends and told them all that had happened to the Sanhedrin, and they closed their gathering with this prayer, and I want to close this service with the same prayer:

²⁹ Now, Lord, consider their threats and enable your servants to speak your word with great boldness.

³⁰ "Stretch out your hand to heal and perform signs and wonders through the name of your holy servant Jesus."

³¹ After they prayed, the place where they were meeting was shaken. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the word of God boldly. (Acts 4-NIV)

The book of Acts repeats many times the historical fact that signs and wonders in the name of Jesus appeared through the disciples.

Acts 2:43 (NIV) - Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles.

Acts 4:30 (NIV) - Stretch out your hand to heal and perform signs and wonders through the name of your holy servant Jesus.

Acts 5:12 (NIV) - The apostles performed many signs and wonders among the people. And all the believers used to meet together in Solomon's Colonnade.

Acts 6:8 (NIV) - Now Stephen, a man full of God's grace and power, performed great wonders and signs among the people.

Acts 7:36 (NIV) - He led them out of Egypt and performed wonders and signs in Egypt, at the Red Sea and for forty years in the wilderness.

Acts 14:3 (NIV) - So Paul and Barnabas spent considerable time there, speaking boldly for the Lord, who confirmed the message of his grace by enabling them to perform signs and wonders.

Acts 15:12 (NIV) - The whole assembly became silent as they listened to Barnabas and Paul telling about the signs and wonders God had done among the Gentiles through them.

The Holy Spirit - Book of Acts

Pastor Ken

June 22, 2025

Welcome to Bethel Life Center, Where All People Matter to God.

Danice and I want to tell you, "We love you."

You are not here by chance; God wants to make himself known and offer you a personal relationship with Jesus Christ, who died an atoning death to forgive your sins and offer you the gift of eternal life. And the gift of the Holy Spirit to empower you daily. **Welcome!**

If you are new to Bethel Life Center in the sanctuary or on-line, we are studying the book of Acts and learning how you (1) can stop walking alone, (2) how to let go of the problems and pain you were never intended to carry and (3) discover how to access fresh strength and power from the Holy Spirit.

Here are a couple additional readings to provide study material about the Holy Spirit-*The Familiar Stranger* and *Help is Here* by Max Lucado.

So, let's read our scripture and then I will pray.

The Holy Spirit

⁷ Taking him by the right hand, he helped him up, and instantly the man's feet and ankles became strong. ⁸ He jumped to his feet and began to walk. Then he went with them into the temple courts, walking and jumping, and praising God. ⁹ When all the people saw him walking and praising God. (Acts 3-NIV)

Who doesn't love the story of someone who makes a complete 180° change in their life.

Brad Gold of Los Angeles made a 180° change: at the age of fifty-three, he was laid off from senior management, he was a slave to the corporate world.

His 180° dream? Open a café. He borrowed money from family and friends and 18 years later opened **Black Dog Coffee**. Brad says, "I am eternally grateful for the layoff and the opportunity to pursue my dream."

Scott Schmaren, fifty-four of St Charles, Illinois made a 180° change: At the age of 40 I was 5'6" and weighed 360 pounds. I don't want to spend my life being depressed and obese,

His 180° dream? To change the way, he thought about himself and so he went on a journey to lose 180° pounds. A real 180° tangible change, don't you think? 15 years later I still weigh 175 pounds, and I am in the best physical, mental and spiritual condition of my life.

Candice Kilpatrick, 40, New York, New York made a 180° change: After living in Asia for over 9 years as a teacher, I decided to leave a dead marriage and cheating husband.

Her 180° dream? I wanted to start over in a new city, make some new friends, so with two duffel bags in tow, off I went on my New York 180° journey that changed my life. I worked in social media brands like Yahoo, and yahoo I met Mr. Right, who is an amazing man.

The Bible is filled from Genesis to Revelation with 180° turn-around stories.

***Abraham** is an idol worshipper who becomes the Father of faith and the Spiritual Father of the nation of Israel.

***Moses** kills an Egyptian at the age of 40 and at the age of 80, he delivers God's people from the Egyptian slavery.

***David** takes down the leader Goliath then later is taken down by lust. In the end, God still calls him **a man after my own heart**.

***Saul** becomes Paul. A religious zealot who does more to show us how to go from legalism to love, from slavery to the flesh to freedom of the Holy Spirit.

Today we look at the work of the Holy Spirit in the life of Peter and John. Peter and John have been with Jesus from the beginning. They are perfect illustrations of what it means to dream of making a 180° change.

These disciples' names, Peter and John together are found 7 times in Acts 3 & 4 (including one time as them). Just as the book of Luke and Acts are twin literary writings by the good Dr Luke. Acts 3 and 4 is one complete story about how the Holy Spirit activates and operates in Jesus disciples and **how he wants to operate in you**.

Let me debunk the theological lye, that only the original apostles did miracles in the book of Acts. And once the book of Acts closed, the need for the supernatural work of the Holy Spirit ceased in the church. Having been in the ministry now over 40 years, I am more convinced than ever; we do not have what it takes to heal a hurting world. Outreaches won't do it.

Fancy buildings and amazing worship won't do it.

The best trained leadership and even great mission statements like-All People Matter to God, won't do it.

I would exchange all of that for one drop from Heaven of the Holy Spirit's power to transform a life.

And this power which arrived at Pentecost, in the form of an Acts 1:8, promise, a promise that was talked about in the OT by the prophet Joel, I declare to you today,

Acts 1:8 has not been rescinded.

Acts 1:8, has not been repealed.

Acts 1:8, has not been revoked.

Acts 1:8, has not run out of power.

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. (Acts 1:8-NIV)

God's will for the church has not changed. You can do the work of Jesus Christ in the power of the Holy Spirit. The initial supernatural work in Acts 2, was to empower Christ followers to tell the story of Jesus atoning death in languages other than their first language. It is called, speaking in other tongues. What is that all about?

Thomas told of Jesus miracles (healings, feedings, walking on water) to those of Cappadocia. Thomas did not speak Cappadocian. I'll have a tall cappadocia please, with an extra shot. Hold the whip please.

Andrew recalled the preaching of Jesus as the good news that set the captives free in the native tongue to the Egyptians. Andrew did not speak Egyptian.

Mathew announced to the Cretans and Arabs in their Arabic tongue, my sins were forgiven, and I restored what I stole, and you can do the same. Matthew was Galilean, not Arabic.

The tower of Babel for a moment was reversed. Yes, don't miss this, since God is about making all things new, on Pentecost he started what he will be completed at the end of the age, beginning with what happened at the Tower of Babel.

Don't get me distracted, you can read about it in Genesis 11.

Supernatural Holy Spirit communication was the first fruit of Pentecost. Pentecost soon added other gifts of the Holy Spirit as we see in Acts 3 and 4, as the Holy Spirit empowers Peter and John to **heal the sick**. Again, these powers have not disappeared at the end of the apostolic age. They are still available today to all Christ followers who want to receive from the Holy Spirit the "gifts of the Spirit."

The Holy Spirit not only gives power, but He also gives spiritual gifts to all who ask.

Ephesians 4:8b-NCV – When he (Jesus) went up to the heights, he led a parade of captives, and he gave gifts to people.

¹¹ All these are the work of one and the same Spirit, and he distributes them to each one, just as he determines. (1 Corinthians 12-NIV)

Today and later in the week, two Bethel missions' teams are heading to Wyoming and St Louis and will require that its team members be available daily to use their spiritual gifts. Spiritual gifts have a human reality and a heavenly reality.

Someone walking down the street (**human reality**) in St. Louis sees a tarot card store and announces prophetically (**heavenly reality**), store of witchcraft I command you in the name of Jesus to cease to exist from operations. Close up in the Jesus name.

Someone on the Wyoming team is in a worship service, worshipping Jesus by lifting their hands (**human reality**) and is given a word of knowledge (**heavenly reality**) for a person they are praying for.

Like Jesus who asks for water from a woman at the well- **human reality** (John 4), you are living with a man (**heavenly reality**),

...the student tells the other student, you have been thinking about taking your life with suicide. (**heavenly reality**) Don't. Stop it.

Let Jesus have control of your life. You can come out of your depression and find healing from your sexual abuse. **In the Name of Jesus Christ.**

It is critical that as you minister you invoke the name of Jesus. As we will see, that was the power by which John and Peter healed. The name of Jesus is like power of attorney. You have been given that power of attorney to invite Christ's power to be present.

The Holy Spirit is the ultimate gift giver. He offers to Jesus disciples' supernatural abilities that heal the sick, deliver the oppressed, and build up the discouraged.

It would be spiritual malpractice of the highest order if I failed to tell those leaving this week for Wyoming and St Louis, don't miss your unique-to-you Holy Spirit assignment using Holy Spirit gifts to release and do the supernatural in the name of Jesus.

Now, I told you, some distorted and limiting theology only lets church leaders activate gifts. Offer gifts. Here is a story that should dispel that untruth. I will let the bible text do the convincing!

*Then **Ananias** went to the house and entered it. Placing his hands on Saul, he said, "Brother Saul, the Lord—Jesus, who appeared to you on the road as you were coming here—has sent me so that you may see again and be filled with the Holy Spirit." (Acts 9:17-NIV)*

Do you see what I see? Paul got healing and the Holy Spirit. And it was a lay person, someone in the pew who God used. It wasn't just the rock stars that got the Holy Spirit at Pentecost or operated in the Holy Spirit in the book of Acts, it is You and Me, too!

Ok, I think these insights should be enough to convince you of this truth: The book of Acts is about the power of the Holy Spirit being released into Christ followers. Then and now!

With the few minutes remaining, let me do a 30,000-foot fly over of Acts 3&4. Look closely as you see the 180-degree turn-around of Peter and John.

John was one of the sons of thunder, and when Jesus could not get any housing in Samaria, he recommended to Jesus we call down fire from heaven. When the disciples James and John saw this, they asked, "Lord, do you want us to call fire down from heaven to destroy them?" (Luke 9:54-NIV)

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⁸ Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them: “Rulers and elders of the people! ⁹ If we are being called to account today for an act of kindness shown to a man who was lame and are being asked how he was healed,

¹⁰ then know this, you and all the people of Israel: It is by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified but whom God raised from the dead, that this man stands before you healed.” (Acts 4-NIV)

It shocked the tribunal to discover their intimidation had no effect on Peter and John. Bullying did not work. It was 74 in the Sanhedrin against 2-and two uneducated and untrained fishermen from rural Galilee facing off against the educated and religious elite. That day, heaven’s power in the Holy Spirit met hell’s power in the halls of religious bondage.

Mention the name of Jesus and power is released.

In the end Peter and John’s closing argument came down to this statement about Jesus. *¹² Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to mankind by which we must be saved. (Acts 4-NIV)*

Salvation is not found in Buddha, Mohammed, Joseph Smith, Agnosticism, Hinduism, Scientology and Tom Cruise, all is simply demonic efforts to take your soul into a Christless eternity.

To say there is another way of salvation is simply NOT true, and it diminishes Jesus’ atoning death on the cross.

What separates Christianity from all other religions is that at the core we have a Savior-Jesus Christ who extends a personal relationship of friendship to you and me. It is an unconditional relationship based on grace and love.

Do you have faith in Jesus Christ? Is that how you experience a relationship with God? Do you talk with him on a daily basis? On a personal basis? God wants to be your friend. It is really powerful and personal when you have that kind of relationship with the God of the Universe. It changes everything. I hope this is true of you.

Without this friendship with Jesus, the Holy Spirit the Christiann life is like every other religion. It is dogmas, dos and don'ts, drills and formulas eventually leave people exhausted and alone.

*No one in their corner.

*No one who truly cares.

*No one with heavens resources or a desire to help.

Spiritual speaking without Christ, life is being friendless in the world, a functional orphan looking for someone to take you in. To pick you up. Jesus crashed through the barrier of your sin and mine and he invites you to his salvation plan.

Like Peter and John, willing to be imprisoned and even die, their declaration was, "I present to you the God of the Universe, a friend who sticks closer than a brother-the good shepherd who gives up his life for his sheep."

For there is no other name in heaven, by which anyone can be saved.

Peter and John went back to their friends and told them all that had happened to the Sanhedrin, and they closed their gathering with this prayer, and I want to close this service with the same prayer:

²⁹ Now, Lord, consider their threats and enable your servants to speak your word with great boldness.

³⁰ "Stretch out your hand to heal and perform signs and wonders through the name of your holy servant Jesus."

³¹ After they prayed, the place where they were meeting was shaken. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the word of God boldly. (Acts 4-NIV)

The book of Acts repeats many times the historical fact that signs and wonders in the name of Jesus appeared through the disciples.

Acts 2:43 (NIV) - Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles.

Acts 4:30 (NIV) - Stretch out your hand to heal and perform signs and wonders through the name of your holy servant Jesus.

Acts 5:12 (NIV) - The apostles performed many signs and wonders among the people. And all the believers used to meet together in Solomon's Colonnade.

Acts 6:8 (NIV) - Now Stephen, a man full of God's grace and power, performed great wonders and signs among the people.

Acts 7:36 (NIV) - He led them out of Egypt and performed wonders and signs in Egypt, at the Red Sea and for forty years in the wilderness.

Acts 14:3 (NIV) - So Paul and Barnabas spent considerable time there, speaking boldly for the Lord, who confirmed the message of his grace by enabling them to perform signs and wonders.

Acts 15:12 (NIV) - The whole assembly became silent as they listened to Barnabas and Paul telling about the signs and wonders God had done among the Gentiles through them.