

A WHOLE NEW TEAM

WEEK 3

AN
ATHLETE
STUDY

THE REVIVAL

When people think about a “revival,” they often conjure up thoughts a week-long event held at a church, sometimes in a tent. These kinds of big-tent revivals were characterized by fiery sermons and loud singing.

This kind of “revival,” isn't really a revival in the church history sense. True revival is a movement of God where people turn to Christ by the hundreds or sometimes thousands. The week long big-tent revival is more like a scheduled pep rally. And, pep rallies serve a great purpose. We all need the occasional encouragement and spiritual recharge.

However, true revival is like a winning streak—elusive, but monumental. One such revival kicked off at Asbury University in February of 2023. During a chapel service, students started confessing sin. Then, chapel ended, but nobody left. For 16 days the auditorium was occupied by worship, teaching, and confession. A response much like we'll see in our passage today.

Jesus told his disciples back in John 14 that no matter how great a team they are, they lack one crucial component; they need a Helper, a Teammate. Last week we discussed God's Game Plan. This Week we see phase one of the execution. The Spirit of God arrives and the winning streak begins—it's time for revival!

ACTS 2:1-4, 37-41

When the day of Pentecost arrived, they were all together in one place. ²And suddenly there came from heaven a sound like a mighty rushing wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. ³And divided tongues as of fire appeared to them and rested on each one of them. ⁴And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance.

³⁷Now when they heard this they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, “Brothers, what shall we do?” ³⁸And Peter said to them, “Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. ³⁹For the promise is for you and for your children and for all who are far off, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to himself.” ⁴⁰And with many other words he bore witness and continued to exhort them, saying, “Save yourselves from this crooked generation.” ⁴¹So those who received his word were baptized, and there were added that day about three thousand souls.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Last Week, we shared a sermon on gospel clarity so you can understand the gospel, evaluate yourself, and be inspired. This Week, we want to remind you of the challenge from Zero Week. Have you been praying? Are you ready to share?

Scan the QR code to hear pastor, Jimmy Scroggins, to learn an effective, conversational gospel presentation from the man that created it—the 3-Circles.



DISCUSSION

Describe your favorite pep rally, how did it impact your game?

1. Around what Jewish holiday does this scene take place? (1)

2. What supernatural ability did God give to his apostles? (4)

3. How did the crowd feel after Peter's message? (37)

4. In your own words, what is the result of repentance in response to the Gospel? (38)

5. How has the Spirit gifted you (with abilities and relationships) to further his work and possibly start a revival?

If you've encountered Christ, you are fully equipped to share your experience and invite friends to join you on the journey. If you need encouragement, talk to your coach!

ICEBREAKER

OBSERVATION

INTERPRETATION

APPLICATION

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STUDY NOTES

PENTECOST

Babe Ruth is possibly the greatest baseball player of all time. He set the bar for many records in baseball, some remaining unbroken. One of the most fascinating stories of the Great Bambino is from the 1932 World Series when he pointed his bat beyond the center field wall, calling his shot. On the next pitch, Ruth did what he promised and sent the ball soaring.

My guess is that Ruth was as surprised as anyone to see the ball flying right where he pointed, but that would ruin the legend. However, any athlete can *claim* they will do something, but only God can say “I will do it,” and has the power to *always* make it happen. The events at Pentecost in Acts 2 are no exception. During the Last Supper, Jesus privately taught the Holy Spirit would come (in fulfillment of the New Covenant in Jeremiah 31:31–34 promised hundreds of years before. That private lesson has now gone public.

Although not specified in Scripture, Pentecost marks the anniversary of God giving his Law to the Jewish nation through Moses. On this holiday it was customary to read Exodus 19–20, describing God giving the Mosaic Covenant at Mt. Sinai. The events on *this* Pentecost, 1500 years later, unfolded just as dramatically as the foundational events related in *Exodus*.

These unfolding events are so connected, it might be helpful to open your Bible to Exodus 19 and read each reference as we continue.

GOD’S TEAM RECOGNIZES GOD’S MOVEMENT

Remember from last Week, that Jesus told the disciples to wait in Jerusalem (Acts 1:4). After the wait, God **suddenly** acted. Let’s remember one thing: “suddenly” describes the way they personally experienced it, *not* the way God sovereignly planned it. God had it all under control. In *his* time, in *his* way, and on *his* command and for *his* purpose. And when it came...*boom!* The world changed forever.

First, they heard **a sound like a mighty rushing wind**. Like the events in Exodus 19:16–19 accompanying God’s presence, these followers experienced the Lord’s mighty presence throughout **the entire house**.

Second, following the wind, **tongues** spreading **as of fire appeared to them and rested on each one of them**. Seeing prophetic events fulfilled must have captured their attention and reminded them of God’s Shekinah glory (i.e. God’s visible presence) appearing both then (Exodus 19:18) and at the dedication of the Temple (2 Chronicles 5:14).

Third, after this dramatic sign, God revealed himself to the Twelve as never before (as in Exodus 19:9). For the first time, **they were all filled with the Holy Spirit**.

Fourth and finally, this one cosmic shift in the relationship between God and his followers carried such great significance that the Lord marked it with a supernatural ability to **speak in other tongues** (languages)—a reversal from the confusion created at the Tower of Babel (Genesis 11).

GOD MOVES THROUGH HIS PEOPLE TO HIS PEOPLE

When these *devout Jews* (Acts 2:5) **heard** [that the Jewish nation had crucified their Messiah], **they were cut to the heart** (or distressed). Recognizing their wrongdoing in Christ’s death, they knew they needed spiritual restoration for a saving relationship with God. Appropriately, they asked **Peter and the rest of the apostles, “Brothers, what shall we do?”**

To answer their question, Peter took the crowd back to the prophet Joel’s own solution to which he had just referred in Acts 2:21, **“then everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.”** Peter paraphrased and applied this prophecy to his context. **Peter said to them, “Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins.** If they did, they would **receive the gift of the Holy Spirit**. With this statement, Peter publicly proclaimed the gospel for the very first time.

The Bible tells us **those who received his word were baptized, and there were added that day about three thousand souls**. 3,000 people were saved that day. Like we discussed in the intro, that’s revival. And that kind of revival is still happening today.

If you’ve never put your faith in the message that Peter proclaimed, do it today! If you have, then I want to issue you a challenge. Did you know that almost every major revival throughout the church’s 2000-year history, including the one at Asbury, is a product of the prayer and obedience of young people like you?

Teenagers and early 20-somethings have often been at the forefront of great gospel events and revivals. Don’t think you’re too young to do something GREAT for the Lord. You’re in your prime! Read 1 Timothy 4:12 and understand that your youth isn’t a barrier to ministry. Now, huddle up with your whole team, including the Holy Spirit, and begin praying for revival. Jesus said in John 16:13, **“But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all truth.”** He’s here, and like the ultimate coach, he’s ready to guide you.