

**The Spirit Sends Us**  
**September 16, 2007**  
Acts 2:1-13  
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Synopsis:

**Spirituality? What does this mean? (Acts 2:12)**  
**Greek text: “What does this wish to be?”**

- From UT in 1971 to now!!
- What is spirituality in the new century?

READ Google list

Transition: How would we define spirituality?

Spirituality means something like this: A spiritual person is an *individual* who is on a journey of *inward* awareness in order live a more *peaceful* and *fulfilled* life.

How does this compare with Acts?  
Why should we care?  
Let's take a look

**I.**

**Biblical Spirituality**

Acts 2:1 “When the day of Pentecost had come”

Background for Acts 2:

Pentecost = 50 days, seven weeks from Passover, Shavuot  
Celebrates giving of the law  
Associated with Numbers 11 (70 elders)  
Philo (time of Jesus) fire and tongues/dialects to interpret law to nations (70)

Wind and Fire

Associated with Spirit (Genesis)  
Associated with prophecy (Elijah, Joel)

List of Nations: notice the countries in 9-11 (E to W)

Here's what Acts 2 teaches:

God's Spirit comes upon a *group* that they may proclaim the *great deeds* done in Jesus Christ to the *nations, dialect* by dialect.

Let's compare this to popular spirituality.

Important because: Where's God?

- my relationship
- church's relationship

## II.

### **Group versus Individual**

Acts 2:2 "They were all together in one place"

#### **Group**

Acts 2:1 "all together"

- evangelize in a group, FRT
- pews
- importance of assembly

#### **Individual**

- walk in the garden
- seats
- Jesus on my own

E.g I need you to find God: *Breakthrough*

## III.

### **Proclamation versus Meditation**

Acts 2:4 "began to speak in other languages"

#### **Proclamation**

Acts 2:4 "other languages"

- dialects (y'all)
- raucous public
- confusion and debate
- Berlin Wall in 1989

#### **Meditation**

- tongues/prayer
- quiet
- analytic study
- Zen Garden

E.g. George Weigel, Philip Jenkins, papers

#### IV.

##### **Known Content versus Mystery**

Acts 2:11 “In our own languages we hear them speaking about God’s deeds of power”

##### **Known Content**

##### **Acts 2:11 “God’s deeds of power”**

- resurrection (Peter Acts 2:23, 32))
- commonplace
- coherent content
- search Bible and look in world

##### **Mystery**

- nothingness, you fill
- exotic
- glossolalia
- search self

E.g. Read Scripture, look in world (Harry Potter)

#### V.

##### **Convert the Nations versus Calm the Individual**

Acts 2:5 “Now there were devout Jews from every nation under heaven”

##### **Acts 2:9-11 from east to west (Rome)**

##### **Nations**

- Goal is salvation of nations
- looking for others, find self

##### **Individual**

- goal is finding self
- looking to self, lose both

E.g languages: Bwana Asifiwei, El Senor, der Herr

#### VI.

##### **So What?**

Acts 2:12 “What does this mean?”

If,

Spirituality is a *group* phenomenon, where the Spirit of God calls people to *proclaim* the *known deeds* of God, the coming of Jesus the Messiah to restore all things, for the purpose of *saving* and turning the nations.

What are the implications?

For Individuals:

1. Mediate on a mystery in order to find peace NO
2. Join a group to proclaim the resurrection of Jesus in order to convert the nations YES  
E.g. Sign up on courtyard

For the Church

1. Group of individuals who encourage each other to find peace NO
2. Staging place where we pray and go out to proclaim the good news of Jesus Christ to the nations YES

Read Hayner article