

Message Notes | New Beginnings

Part 4: Empowered by the Spirit

Acts 2:1-21

→ from frightened doubters to bold proclaimers

→ Pentecost - **vs. 1-4**

#1 Confidence comes from _____, not _____.

→ these were uneducated men - **vs. 5-11**

**#2 The Spirit empowers the _____
to do the _____.**

→ Peter explains the source - **vs. 12-21**

#3 Look at your _____, not your _____.

→ quietly draining what God wants to empower

#4 Don't wait to _____ what God says _____.

Message Notes | New Beginnings

Part 4: Empowered by the Spirit

Acts 2:1-21

1. On a scale of 1 to 10, how confident of a person are you? Why did you answer the way you did?
2. Does your answer to #1 have any implications for how you live out your faith? If so, how?
3. **Read Acts 2:1-4.** Today's culture tends to associate confidence with personality or inner strength. How is confidence different when it comes from God?
4. **Acts 2:5-11** shows how God empowered the unqualified to do the unimaginable. What are some seemingly impossible aspects of living out your faith in today's world, and how does the Holy Spirit empower you to do them?
5. Rather than taking credit for the miraculous speaking in tongues, Peter immediately deflects attention to God as the one who empowered them. Why can it be difficult in life to deflect attention to God when he empowers you to do great things?
6. **Read Romans 8:16.** Confidence from God comes through your position as his child, not your ability to perform. What difference would it make if you could remember this and live it out?
7. Identify something in your life that might be quietly draining the spiritual power and confidence God wants to give you. It could be a hidden sin, unresolved guilt, a distracting habit, or even something that seems small but is slowly wearing you down. Share with the group what difference it would make if you, with God's help, addressed that drain.

Message Notes | New Beginnings

Part 4: Empowered by the Spirit

Acts 2:1-21

→ from frightened doubters to bold proclaimers

→ Pentecost - **vs. 1-4**

#1 Confidence comes from above, not within.

→ these were uneducated men - **vs. 5-11**

#2 The Spirit empowers the unqualified to do the unimaginable.

→ Peter explains the source - **vs. 12-21**

#3 Look at your position, not your performance.

→ quietly draining what God wants to empower

#4 Don't wait to feel what God says you are.

Bible Reading for Today

Acts 2:1-21 (*selected verses*)

⁵ Now there were staying in Jerusalem God-fearing Jews from every nation under heaven. ⁶ When they heard this sound, a crowd came together in bewilderment, because each one heard their own language being spoken. ⁷ Utterly amazed, they asked: "Aren't all these who are speaking Galileans?" ⁸ Then how is it that each of us hears them in our native language? ¹¹ ... we hear them declaring the wonders of God in our own tongues!" ¹² Amazed and perplexed, they asked one another, "What does this mean?"

¹³ Some, however, made fun of them and said, "They have had too much wine." ¹⁴ Then Peter stood up with the Eleven, raised his voice and addressed the crowd: "Fellow Jews and all of you who live in Jerusalem, let me explain this to you; listen carefully to what I say. ¹⁵ These people are not drunk, as you suppose. It's only nine in the morning! ¹⁶ No, this is what was spoken by the prophet Joel:

¹⁷ "'In the last days, God says,

I will pour out my Spirit on all people.

Your sons and daughters will prophesy,
your young men will see visions,
your old men will dream dreams.

¹⁸ Even on my servants, both men and women,
I will pour out my Spirit in those days,
and they will prophesy.

¹⁹ I will show wonders in the heavens above
and signs on the earth below,
blood and fire and billows of smoke.

²⁰ The sun will be turned to darkness
and the moon to blood
before the coming of the great and glorious day of the Lord.

²¹ And everyone who calls
on the name of the Lord will be saved.'"