

SERMON NOTES

June 8, 2014

“What Do You Mean?” – Acts 1:4-5, 2:1-4

Only 38% of Americans in a recent Barna survey believed that the Holy Spirit was a living active force (and that’s a pretty loose definition), leaving 62% believing the Holy Spirit is symbolic, not real.

Acts 1:4-5

*And while staying with them he **ordered** them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to **wait** for the **promise** of the Father, which, he said, “you heard from me; for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.”*

The O.P.P. of Pentecost: 1. *Obedience*, 2. *Promise*, 3. *Power*

When we sing about the Spirit **falling down** we are singing about obeying God’s commands, acknowledging his promises, and receiving his power.

John 14:15-17

If you love me, keep my commands. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another advocate to help you and be with you forever—the Spirit of Truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you. [NIV]

Helper / Comforter / Friend – These are words than can also be translated as “advocate” in the verse above.

When we sing about the Spirit **raining down**, we are singing about the promise that God will come to us.

Remember! “God doesn’t call the qualified, he qualifies the called.”

QUESTIONS TO PONDER

Acts 1:4-5, 2:1-4

Question 1: In Acts 1:5, why does Luke use the word “*baptize*” when he describes the Spirit coming down (which happens in 2:1-4)?

Question 2: What does Acts 1:6-8 tell us about God’s plan for us while Jesus is physically away from the world? Can you describe what the “power” is that we have been given?

Question 3: Many people think the church is a place for “perfect” people, and they do not believe that they would be accepted there – How does John 14:15-17 both confirm and destroy their fear?

Question 4: If you can, play a worship song you know well (on an instrument, or from a CD etc.) and consider the words carefully. Can you find the scripture references from which the song was written (the internet can help a lot in this)? Read them and consider how they influenced the song.

Question 5: What might John Piper mean when he says: “*It’s a shame that the term “Pentecostal power” has for many people become more associated with speaking in tongues than with the harvest of world evangelization.*”

John 16:7 Jesus said:

Nevertheless, I tell you the truth: it is to your advantage that I go away, for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you.