



Approaching God

Read this portion of Psalm 3 and begin with an opening prayer

I will not fear the tens of thousands drawn up against me on every side. Arise, O LORD! Deliver me, O my God! Strike all my enemies on the jaw; break the teeth of the wicked. From the Lord comes deliverance. May your blessing be on your people. (Psalm 3:6-8)

While most of us will never know what it's like to face a literal army of 10,000 enemies in battle, we've all been totally overwhelmed by our very real spiritual enemies - the world, the sin nature, and the Devil. Where do you need your Mighty God to fight for you today? Pray this prayer from Psalm 3 along with David as you consider places in life where you long for deliverance.

Acts 2:1-13

Passage Introduction:

By Acts 2, the apostles, along with 120 other disciples and eyewitnesses of Jesus Christ, have gathered in the upper room. They are waiting for the Holy Spirit, whom Christ had promised to send (Acts 1:4-5). This chapter describes the fulfillment of that promise on the day of Pentecost as the Holy Spirit descends on the apostles and empowers them for gospel ministry.

Bible Reading, Study & Meditation

Start with Engaging the Text: Take a few minutes to highlight, circle, or underline key words.

Throughout the Bible, the work of God is described with the imagery of wind. In the OT the Hebrew word **ruach** means both "wind" and "Spirit." Ezekiel describes the Spirit of God working in & through the wind (Ezek 37). bringing new life to dry bones. The implication in Acts 2 is clear: God's spirit, which alone brings new life, has come to rest on his disciples.

Acts 2:1-13 - 1 When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. **2** Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. **3** They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. **4** All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them.

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? **9** Parthians, Medes and Elamites; residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, **10** Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya near Cyrene; visitors from Rome **11** (both Jews and converts to Judaism); Cretans and Arabs—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.”

Questions for Reflection & Meditation

- Take a few minutes to think carefully about the passage. What are some things this passage reveals about God (the Father, Son, or Holy Spirit) Try to list as many as you can.
- List all the extraordinary events that occur in vs. 2:2-4.
- What metaphors are used to describe the work of the Holy Spirit? Can you think of some other places in scripture where the Spirit is described in similar ways? If you have time look up some of these passages (Exodus 3:1-5, Exod 19:18, Ezekiel 37:4-9, Matthew 3:11) What do you think they teach about God’s work of redemption in the lives of his people?

Key Takeaway:

What does today’s passage show you about a need you have in your life? What do you need to do or become in light of this truth? How can you begin to petition God for it?

Close in Prayer:

How do the images of wind and fire excite you about the reality that you are indwelled by the same Spirit? Ask the Lord to bring new life to you today wherever you need it most.

“In the new covenant, the message of the gospel is universal in scope. The day of Pentecost signified that reality as the nations of the world gathered to hear the mighty works of God in their own languages.”
Al Mohler - Commentary on Acts