

# SHINE Devotional

## Week 6 – Lesson 1

### The Power of Unity

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Scripture reading Acts 2:1-4

*“And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.”*

The day of Pentecost was the day that the power of the Holy Spirit fell upon this planet and indwelt Bible believers. This was the fulfilled promise that had come from Joel the prophet, John the Baptist, and the Lord Jesus Himself. The Holy Spirit did not fall on one individual but fell on all believers collectively. Acts 2:4 says, *“And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost.”* The astonishing story of the book of Acts, the miracles, the churches being started, the boldness to preach God’s truth, the calling of the Apostle Paul, and the multitudes becoming Christians all started here as God poured out His power upon this first local church. This certainly was a fulfillment of Bible prophecy. I want you to see today that this took place because there were at least 120 believers who were united in prayer. They were praying for God to fulfill this promise. There is power in unity. God wants believers to be unified. Unity does not mean that the early Christians agreed on everything. It very simply meant that they were unified in core beliefs.

1. They believed Jesus was God.
2. They believed that Jesus died, was buried and rose from the dead to pay for our sins.

Though they were diverse in personality and gifts, they prayed for one another. They were unified enough to pray together and stay together to accomplish the great task Jesus had given them. With that unity came God’s power, and with that power multitudes got saved.

As a believer, you need to choose to strive to have a spirit of unity. Satan would have Christians divided from each other, demeaning one another and destroying one another’s character. Don’t allow yourself to be part of Satan’s devious plans. Determine to love your brothers and sisters in Christ. Encourage them on their good works and be united in the Bible basics. When you do, you will SHINE for Jesus.

# SHINE Devotional

## Week 6 – Lesson 2



### What Is Speaking in Tongues

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Scripture reading Acts 2:4-11

*“And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance. And there were dwelling at Jerusalem Jews, devout men, out of every nation under heaven. Now when this was noised abroad, the multitude came together, and were confounded, because that every man heard them speak in his own language....[They asked] And how hear we every man in our own tongue, wherein we were born?...we do hear them speak in our tongues the wonderful works of God.”*

When I first trusted Jesus Christ as my Lord and Savior, I was very confused about this subject. I thought that speaking in tongues was the evidence of being filled with the Holy Spirit. I found out later it is not.

If speaking in tongues is not evidence of being filled with the Holy Spirit, then what exactly is speaking in tongues? According to Acts 1 the first passage of Scripture to reference speaking in tongues, speaking in tongues is the ability to communicate God’s truth in a language that one has not previously learned. Jesus told the disciples that He would specifically send His Holy Spirit so they could be witnesses. He said in Acts 1:8 that He was going to empower them to be witnesses. On the day of Pentecost there were Jewish believers from multiple countries who met together in Jerusalem. God wanted them to communicate the Gospel and gave them the gift of speaking in other languages so they could be the witnesses He called them to be. God empowered them through His Holy Spirit to speak in different languages. This is the gift of speaking in tongues. There is no question. Acts 2 is the first reference to speaking in tongues and this clearly is what took place.

What a wonderful God we have who will remove obstacles so we can be the witnesses He wants us to be. When you, as a believer, surrender to the Holy Spirit of God, He too will remove obstacles for you to be a witness and you can SHINE for Him.



### How the Holy Spirit Works

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Scripture reading Acts 2:16-18

*“But this is that which was spoken by the prophet Joel; And it shall come to pass in the last days, saith God, I will pour out of my Spirit upon all flesh: and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams: And on my servants and on my handmaidens I will pour out in those days of my Spirit; and they shall prophesy.”*

What in the world is the Holy Spirit doing today? Acts 2 explains exactly how He is working today. The Prophet Joel said there would come a time when the Holy Spirit of God would be poured out on all flesh. On the day of Pentecost, the Holy Spirit was poured out. The Holy Spirit went throughout the world convincing everyone in the world of sin, righteousness, and judgment (John 16:8). On the day of Pentecost, He filled Bible believers with the power to witness. That is why Joel said, *“your sons and your daughters shall prophesy”* (Joel 2:28). The word *prophesy* simply means to proclaim God’s truth.

Before you were saved you were spiritually dead. You were not connected to God. When you trusted Christ as your Savior, the Holy Spirit of God came to live inside of you. As you surrender to the Holy Spirit of God, He empowers you to be the witness He wants you to be. He will not force Himself upon you, nor use His power in your life uninvited. Just like when you surrendered to Jesus for salvation, you must surrender daily to the Spirit of God to experience His power to witness. You, as a believer, can SHINE for Jesus as you day by day surrender to His power. His Holy Spirit is already working world-wide convicting people of the bad news of their sin, Gods righteousness, and His judgment to come. Your job is to tell them that their sins have been paid for by Jesus. You cannot do that in your own strength, but when you surrender to the Spirit of God, His Spirit will enable you to be the witness that God wants you to be and you will SHINE.

# SHINE Devotional

## Week 6 – Lesson 4



### How Do You Get Saved?

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Scripture reading Acts 2:21

*“And it shall come to pass, that whosoever shall call on the name of the Lord shall be saved.”*

I grew up all my life going to church. I heard the great stories of the Old Testament. I knew about Adam and Eve in the garden. I knew about their sin. I knew about them being expelled from the garden. I knew about Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. I remember being told the story of the flood. I remember hearing the story of the Exodus and watching the movie *The Ten Commandments*. I knew about David, the good shepherd and memorizing Psalm 23. I celebrated Christmas with my family and knew that Jesus came at Christmas and angels announced that He was the Savior of the world. However, I did not know that I could absolutely be sure that I was going to heaven. I did not know what it meant to get saved, and I did not know how a person got saved. Our simple verse in Acts 2:21 tells us exactly what a person needs to do to get saved.

Peter explained that Jesus had suffered and died to pay for our sins, that He was buried, and rose from the dead. After he made it very clear that Jesus is God, he quoted Joel by saying that the way we get saved is by calling on the name of Jesus Christ and asking Him to save us. Paul repeated this same statement in Romans 10:13. Salvation is not based on what you do, but who you know. Many people today sadly are trusting their church membership, baptism, and good works to get them to heaven. None of these things will save you or them. The Bible says, we are sinners and Jesus Christ is God. He died for our sin. He was buried and rose from the dead for us. When we personally come to Jesus and tell Him; “I know I am a sinner. I believe You died for me, and I believe You rose from the dead for me. I want to ask You to give me eternal life. He will send His Holy Spirit into your body which will make your dead spirit come to life (Ephesians 2:1). Being spiritually alive means you have an eternal connection with God and when your physical body dies, your soul and spirit will dwell with God forever in heaven. The only way to be saved is to call on the name of Jesus and express your reliance upon Him. Then, His Spirit will come into your life, and you will become a spiritual child of God. When you understand this truth, you should share this truth with others, so that you as a believer can SHINE.

# SHINE Devotional

## Week 6 – Lesson 5



### God's Sovereignty and Human Responsibility

Scripture reading Acts 2:22-24

*“Ye men of Israel, hear these words; Jesus of Nazareth, a man approved of God among you by miracles and wonders and signs, which God did by him in the midst of you, as ye yourselves also know: Him, being delivered by the determinate counsel and foreknowledge of God, ye have taken, and by wicked hands have crucified and slain: Whom God hath raised up, having loosed the pains of death: because it was not possible that he should be holden of it.”*

Two things are obvious in this passage of Scripture:

1. God knew that Jesus would be rejected.
2. God knew that Jesus would suffer and die to pay the penalty for our sins.

God knew that wicked people would crucify Jesus. God knew that Jesus would be rejected, but the truth is, this was all part of God's plan. No matter how dark things look, God is sovereignly in control. The Bible tells us that Jesus was crucified in the sight of God the Father before the foundations of the world. Though God knew what would take place, He still holds accountable the men who had a free choice to honor God or reject Him. Peter says, *“ye have taken, and by wicked hands have crucified and slain.”* This is the balance between God's sovereignty and human responsibility.

God does not allow you or me to justify our wicked works or lack of obedience because He is sovereignly in control. God has given you and me a free will, and we will answer to Him for the choices we make. Therefore, Paul tells us in Galatians 6:7, *“Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap.”* It is imperative that you and I, as believers, study the Scriptures and see what God says about making right and wrong decisions. You have to make the decision to trust Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior. You have to make the decision to surrender to the Holy Spirit of God. When you make the choice to do what God wants you to do, God does bless you. God does lead you. God does direct you. Does He know ahead of time what you are going to do? Yes, He does, but He holds you responsible for your decisions. God is sovereign but you are responsible. If you live responsibly for God and choose to do what He wants you to do, you, as a believer, will SHINE.



# SHINE Devotional

## Week 6 – Lesson 6

### Ignoring the Critics

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Scripture reading Acts 2:12-15

*“And they were all amazed, and were in doubt, saying one to another, What meaneth this? Others mocking said, These men are full of new wine. But Peter, standing up with the eleven, lifted up his voice, and said unto them, Ye men of Judaea, and all ye that dwell at Jerusalem, be this known unto you, and hearken to my words: For these are not drunken, as ye suppose, seeing it is but the third hour of the day.”*

Acts 2 records the day the Holy Spirit was poured out on all flesh around the world. It records the day the Holy Spirit indwelt believers. This had not taken place since the death of man’s spirit in the Garden of Eden. Those who were surrendered to God were endowed with power from on high to be the witnesses that God wanted them to be. Because of this event, over three thousand people trusted Christ as Saviour. The church was empowered to witness to the entire world. This day was one of the most amazing days ever in human history. Yet, our text shows that in the midst of God’s glory falling upon the world, there were critics who mocked. *“Others mocking said, These men are full of new wine”* (Acts 2:13).

Today, the Spirit of God is moving among young preachers across this country through movements like the Idea Day Network. Recently, I had the great privilege of kneeling in prayer with over a hundred of these men and their wives, seeking the moving of the Holy Spirit of God. I believe God is doing a wonderful work in our nation in many areas. As He does, we need to understand that Satan will have his critics.

When you as a believer choose to do what God wants you to do, you can expect the same thing. That is why Paul told Timothy to war a good warfare and fight the good fight. I encourage you to do the same in your life. Love Jesus. Share the Gospel. Love the brethren. Keep moving forward for Jesus. Love and pray for your critics. Refuse to render evil for evil and keep going forward for the cause of Jesus Christ. When you do, you will SHINE.