

Series: Upside Down

Title: Part 2 - Pierced to the Heart

Date: April 14/15, 2018

Speaker: Ben Patterson

Big Idea: Before his death, Jesus had promised to send the Holy Spirit to empower his followers. Now, in an amazing scene, the Spirit arrives and people all across the Roman empire respond to the gospel. The same Spirit is still calling us to respond today in repentance and baptism.

Passage: Acts 2:1-41

Discuss It:

1. What everyday expressions can you say in another language? How did you learn them?
2. **Read Acts 2:1-8.** Before Jesus had left the earth, he promised that the Holy Spirit would come to empower the church for mission. In this passage, the Spirit comes, and everyone is amazed and perplexed. To this day, many people remain confused about the identity and activity of the Holy Spirit. How would you describe the Holy Spirit? What questions do you have about the Spirit?
3. Has there ever been a time when God enabled you to do something that you didn't think you could do?
4. In his message this past weekend, Ben talked about the significance of the Spirit speaking in many languages: the barriers that kept people apart have now been broken down! Do you ever find yourself being distant from people who aren't like you in some way? Where might God be leading you to overcome certain barriers for the sake of the gospel?
5. **Read Acts 2:14, 22-24, 32-33, 36-41.** Peter, who only days before had denied Jesus and hid to avoid arrest, now stands before the whole city of Jerusalem to explain what God had done through Jesus. How would you summarize his message to the people?
6. Peter had once thought that he would use violence to conquer the world for Jesus. Now he's cooperating with the Spirit, and thousands are responding to the gospel. What do you think is the relevance of that principle for us today?
7. When and how did you first respond to the message to let God rescue you?

Apply It:

- What is the one thing you need to take away from this study?
- What will help you remember it?
- Is there anything that needs to change in your thinking, actions, or relationships as a result?