

SERMON OUTLINE

SERMON TITLE: Ingredients of a Church Aflame

SERMON REFERENCE: Acts 2

LWF SERMON NUMBER: #1234

We are grateful for the opportunity to provide this outline produced from a sermon preached by Adrian Rogers while serving as pastor of Bellevue Baptist Church in Memphis, Tennessee. This outline is intended for your personal, non-commercial use.

In order to ensure our ability to be good stewards of Adrian Rogers' messages, Love Worth Finding has reserved all rights to this content.

Except for your personal, non-commercial use and except for brief quotations in printed reviews, no part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form or by any means –electronic, mechanical, photocopy, recording, or any other– without the prior permission of the publisher.

Copyright ©2024 Love Worth Finding Ministries, Inc.

1) INTRODUCTION

- a) If we want something new, then we need to try something old.
 - i) We need to go all the way back to find the pattern for a New Testament church.
 - (1) We will find it in the book of Acts.
- b) The early church did so much with so little.
 - i) We do so little with so much.
 - ii) A church aflame is a mighty instrument in the hand of a holy God.
- c) We need to demonstrate to our communities and to the world the life of the Lord Jesus Christ.
- d) Acts 2:1
- e) The day of Pentecost was a great festival.
 - i) Perhaps a million Jewish people were in Jerusalem on the day of Pentecost.
 - ii) There were feasts, fellowships, meetings, reunion, and worship.
- f) On this day, there were 120 people who were the center of attention.
 - i) They were the Lord's disciples who had received the baptism of the Holy Spirit.
- g) The Jewish people had been holding the Feast of Pentecost for some 1,500 years.
 - i) It was a picture and a prophecy of what we have in the Lord Jesus Christ.
 - (1) When we are invited to the Lord Jesus, we are not invited to a funeral but to a feast to come to know the Lord Jesus.
 - ii) At this feast, they would take individual grains, grind them up, and make flour that would then be mixed with oil and leaven and baked into two loaves of bread.
 - iii) The following sacrifices would be made at the Feast of Pentecost:
 - (1) Seven lambs without spot or blemish.
 - (2) One young bullock.
 - (3) Two rams would be sacrificed as a burnt offering.
 - (a) There were ten sacrifices altogether.
- h) What does all of this picture?
 - i) The ten animals that were sacrificed and that blood sacrifice speak of the completeness of Calvary.
 - (1) Ten in the Bible is the number of completeness.
 - (2) This speaks of the peace offering that we have with the Lord Jesus Christ.
 - ii) The oil that was mixed into the bread represents the Holy Spirit.
 - (1) Oil in the Bible is an emblem of the Holy Spirit.
 - iii) The two loaves picture the body of Christ, the church.
 - (1) There were two loaves because the church is now made up of Jew and Gentile.
 - (2) Two is also the number of witnesses.

- (a) It is the church's duty and privilege to witness the saving Gospel of Jesus Christ.
 - iv) Before the day of Pentecost, they were like individual grains of wheat; but after Pentecost, they had become one body.
 - (1) 120 disciples went up into an upper room like individual grains of wheat, but no longer were they 120.
 - (a) They were God's loaf, baked together.
 - v) Leaven in the Bible is an emblem of sin.
 - (1) Though we have become one and have been infused with the Holy Spirit, we have not yet been completely purged of sin.
 - (a) We will not be until the rapture when Jesus comes again.
 - i) Acts 2:2-13
 - j) In today's message, we will look at the ingredients of a church aflame, a church that will make an impact on any community.
- 2) SUPERNATURAL POWER (ACTS 2:2-6)
 - a) On the day of Pentecost, God gave a demonstration of power that He had promised in Acts 1:8.
 - i) Upon every person's head, there sat a flame of fire.
 - (1) They looked like 120 human candles.
 - ii) There was the sound of a cyclone, like a tornado, inside the building.
 - b) This power was visualized.
 - i) There was the sound.
 - (1) Acts 2:2
 - (2) The sound of the wind was a symbol of the Spirit.
 - (a) The Lord Jesus equated the Holy Spirit with wind.
 - (i) John 3:8
 - (b) This wind comes from Heaven.
 - (c) This wind moves at its own will.
 - (i) It is commanded by no one.
 - (d) It is mysterious, yet it operates according to fixed laws.
 - (3) We are not able to understand the Holy Spirit, but we can know how to set our sails when the wind of God's Spirit blows.
 - ii) There was the sight.
 - (1) Acts 2:3
 - (2) Fire also is an emblem of the Holy Spirit.
 - (a) Fire spreads, and fire consumes.
 - (3) It was said of John the Baptist that he was a burning and a shining light.
 - (a) John 5:35
 - (b) There can be no shining unless there is burning.
 - (i) The Lord wants to consume our lives for His glory.
 - (4) Fire warms.
 - (a) May God forgive our cold church services.

- (5) Fire purges.
 - (a) It cleanses; it purifies.
- (6) Fire illumines.
 - (a) It gives us light.
- (7) Fire energizes.
 - (a) Great engines are run by fire.
- iii) The Holy Spirit is symbolized by wind and fire.
- c) This power was vocalized.
 - i) Acts 2:4
 - (1) What happened was miraculous and inexplicable.
 - ii) 120 disciples began to speak in foreign languages.
 - (1) There were people there from all over the world.
 - (a) They didn't have common languages.
 - (2) The disciples began to speak in languages that they were not familiar with.
 - (a) This was not nonsensical gibberish nor nonsensical sounds.
 - (b) These were known languages.
 - iii) Acts 2:5-6
 - (1) This power was vocalized as a sign-gift to the Jewish people.
 - iv) Tongues are given for a specific purpose, as a sign to the Jewish nation.
 - (1) 1 Corinthians 14:21-22
 - (a) "This people" means the Jewish people.
 - (b) Tongues are not a sign to God's people about anything.
 - (2) On the day of Pentecost, God gave a sign that would confirm the Gospel to the Jewish people.
 - (3) Speaking in tongues is mentioned three times in the book of Acts.
 - (a) Each time where it is mentioned, the Jewish people were present, and unbelieving Jews were in the background.
 - v) This was a temporary gift.
 - (1) 1 Corinthians 13:8
 - vi) Sometimes, people have the idea that if someone is spiritual, then he will speak in tongues.
 - (1) The real mark of spirituality is not speaking in tongues.
 - (a) The most carnal church Paul had majored in that gift.
 - (2) The real mark of spirituality is controlling the one tongue we do have.
 - (a) That the law of kindness and love is in our mouth.
 - (b) That the tongue is used to glorify Jesus, to praise Jesus, and to preach the Gospel of Christ.
 - vii) God was inaugurating a new age.
 - (1) We don't need to repeat Pentecost any more than we need to repeat Bethlehem or Calvary.
 - (a) Bethlehem was God with us.
 - (b) Calvary was God for us.
 - (c) Pentecost is God in us.

- d) This power was vitalized.
 - i) Acts 2:4
 - ii) Men, women, boys, and girls need to be filled with the Holy Spirit.
 - iii) The baptism of the Holy Spirit was once for all.
 - (1) It is an accomplished work for every child of God.
 - (a) You cannot be a child of God without having the baptism of the Holy Spirit.
 - (i) 1 Corinthians 12:13
 - iv) We are not told to seek the baptism of the Holy Spirit; we are told to be filled with the Holy Spirit.
 - (1) Ephesians 5:18
- e) There are a number of works of the Holy Spirit:
 - i) The baptism of the Holy Spirit
 - (1) The baptism of the Holy Spirit is the act of God where He places us into the body of Christ by the Holy Spirit when we are saved.
 - (a) If you are saved, then this has happened to you.
 - (2) 1 Corinthians 12:13
 - ii) The indwelling of the Holy Spirit
 - (1) He comes into us to live in us.
 - (2) Romans 8:9
 - (3) Some people have the idea that we can get saved and later receive the Holy Spirit.
 - (a) But it is impossible to be saved without receiving the Holy Spirit.
 - (4) By baptism of the Spirit, we are placed into the body of Christ.
 - (5) The infilling of the Holy Spirit is when Christ comes into you.
 - iii) The sealing of the Holy Spirit
 - (1) We are sealed into Christ.
 - (2) Ephesians 1:13
 - (3) Once we are children of God, we are children of God forever.
 - (a) These acts of the Holy Spirit of God are never to be withdrawn.
 - (b) We are part of the body once and for all.
 - iv) The filling of the Holy Spirit
 - (1) The filling of the Spirit is conditional.
 - (a) This depends upon our receptivity, our surrender, and our faith.
 - (2) The filling with the Spirit turns weaklings into witnesses.
 - (a) On the day of Pentecost, 120 disciples led 3,000 to Christ.
 - (i) Today, 3,000 cannot even lead 120 to Christ.
 - 1. We have not understood the fullness of the Spirit.
 - v) The anointing of the Holy Spirit
 - (1) Jesus was anointed with the Holy Spirit and with power.
 - (a) Acts 10:38
 - (b) At Jesus' baptism when the Holy Spirit descended upon Him, that was not when Jesus was filled with the Spirit.
 - (i) Jesus was already filled with the Spirit.

- (ii) He didn't live thirty years without being filled with the Spirit.
 - 1. If John the Baptist was filled with the Holy Spirit from his mother's womb, then would his Lord be less?
 - (iii) He was filled with the Holy Spirit from His childhood.
 - (c) Jesus was anointed with the Spirit when His ministry began.
 - (2) The anointing is a special touch for a specific task, such as to preach, sing, witness, etc.
 - f) A church cannot be aflame without supernatural power.
- 3) SPIRITUAL PREACHING (ACTS 2:14, 22-26)
- a) Acts 2:14
 - b) Peter preached a Christ-centered message.
 - i) Acts 2:22-26
 - (1) Peter spoke of the following:
 - (a) The manner of Jesus' life.
 - (b) The meaning of Jesus' death.
 - (c) The miracle of Jesus' resurrection.
 - (d) The magnificence of Jesus' reign.
 - (2) He exalted the Lord Jesus.
 - (3) The climax of this message is found in verses 23-24.
 - ii) The Peter who preached this was the same Peter who had cursed, swore, and trembled before a little maiden and denied the Lord Jesus.
 - (1) Matthew 18:15-27
 - iii) The difference was that now Peter was filled with the Holy Spirit.
 - (1) Peter now spoke the Word of God with boldness.
 - iv) Peter had now had an encounter with the resurrected Christ.
 - (1) This is one of the great proofs that we have of the resurrection.
 - (a) Acts 1:3
 - (2) Peter knew that Christ was alive.
 - (3) Tradition tells us that Peter was crucified upside down.
 - (a) He said that he was not worthy to be crucified right side up like the Lord Jesus was crucified.
 - c) Almost every one of the apostles died by martyrdom.
 - i) They were no longer afraid of death because of the resurrection.
 - ii) One of the great proofs of the resurrection of Jesus Christ is the martyrdom of the early believers, the eyewitnesses.
 - (1) A man may live for a lie, but no man will willingly die for a lie.
 - (2) They knew that the Lord Jesus was alive.
 - (3) These men were willing to seal their faith with their blood.
 - d) Acts 2:16
 - i) Peter took a text, and he preached the Word of God.
 - (1) Churches will die if the Word of God ceases to be preached.

- 4) SAVED PEOPLE (ACTS 2:37-42)
 - a) Acts 2:37-41
 - b) A New Testament church should have a born-again membership.
 - i) Many churches don't put an emphasis on this.
 - ii) Some people de-emphasize it.
 - (1) Many churches are more like clubs.
 - (2) Many churches are filled with people who have never been born again.
 - c) They were convicted by the Lord.
 - i) Acts 2:37
 - ii) We cannot brow beat anyone into becoming a Christian.
 - iii) We cannot do a sales job on people.
 - iv) We need to have such spiritual power in our hearts and in our lives that when the Word of God goes forth, it cuts the hearts of people.
 - d) They were converted to the Lord.
 - i) Acts 2:38
 - (1) The word "repent" means a change of mind, a turning around.
 - (a) There must be a change of mind about sin, self, and God.
 - ii) When Peter said, "Repent", he might as well have said, "Believe".
 - (1) Or if a person says, "Believe", he might as well say, "Repent".
 - (a) Repentance and faith are heads and tails of the same coin.
 - iii) When we turn from sin, we turn to Jesus.
 - iv) When we turn to Jesus in faith, we turn from sin.
 - v) No one has ever been saved unless he has been converted.
 - vi) No one has been converted except he repents.
 - vii) Luke 13:3
 - e) There was a confession of the Lord.
 - i) Acts 2:38
 - (1) Baptism is an outward expression of that inward reality.
 - (2) "For the remission of sins."
 - (a) We are not baptized in order to have our sins remitted.
 - (b) We are baptized because our sins are remitted.
 - (c) The Greek preposition may be translated "for", or it may be translated "because of".
 - (i) In this instance, it is better translated "because of".
 1. Be baptized because of the remission of sin.
 - (ii) This same preposition is used in Luke 11:32.
 1. The word "at" is the same preposition used in Acts 2:38 that is translated "for".
 - a. They repented because of the preaching of Jonah.
 - ii) Baptism is like wearing a wedding ring.
 - (1) It is a symbol that you have been saved, just like a wedding ring is an emblem that you have been married.
 - (2) Wearing the ring does not make you married.
 - (a) It shows that you are married.

- (3) You could be married and not wear the ring, or you could wear the ring and not be married.
 - (4) In society, the wedding ring says that you belong to someone, and you are not ashamed of it.
 - (5) Baptism says that you belong to Christ, and you are not ashamed of Him.
 - iii) Baptism is a public demonstration of our faith in Christ.
 - (1) If you are saved and have not been baptized by immersion, openly and publicly, then you need to do so.
 - f) There is a control by the Lord.
 - i) Acts 2:38
 - ii) The gift of the Holy Spirit is the Holy Spirit.
 - (1) This is God's gift to us.
 - (2) When we are born again, our birthday gift is the Holy Spirit.
 - iii) We receive the Holy Spirit when we repent and believe the Gospel, and the Holy Spirit comes in to us.
 - (1) The Holy Spirit comes in to control our life.
 - (2) Salvation is not just believing something or achieving something; it is receiving someone.
 - (3) Salvation is not getting man out of Earth and into Heaven.
 - (a) That is the byproduct of salvation.
 - (4) Salvation is getting God out of Heaven and into man.
 - iv) Repent, believe the Gospel, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.
 - g) There is a continuing with the Lord.
 - i) Acts 2:41-42
 - ii) Jesus didn't call us to make decisions; He called us to make disciples.
 - iii) A person may have gone through all of these other things; but if he does not continue, then he is not saved.
 - (1) It is not that he loses his salvation; he never had it.
 - iv) Real salvation is not merely a crisis act that we look back to.
 - (1) It is a present experience.
 - v) If you want to know whether or not you are saved, then don't talk about being at some church as a child when you gave your heart to Jesus.
 - (1) That is not the question.
 - (2) The question is this:
 - (a) Is the person sitting in your seat right now trusting Christ as his personal Savior?
 - (3) The Bible never tells us to look back to some past experience.
 - (4) The Bible tells us to look to a present reality.
 - (a) The way we can know that we are saved is that we are now believing in Jesus Christ as our personal Savior.
- 5) SPIRITUAL PROGRAM (ACTS 2:41-47)
- a) The spiritual program of the church is found in this passage.

- b) Indoctrination
 - i) This is Bible study.
 - ii) Acts 2:42
 - iii) They had a way to teach the Bible.
 - (1) This is why we have Sunday school ministries.
 - iv) If we don't have a regular time of Bible study, then we will be spiritual weaklings.
- c) Edification (fellowship)
 - i) Acts 2:42
 - ii) We need one another to build one another up.
 - iii) Hebrews 10:25
 - iv) Even the great Apostle Paul needed other Christians.
 - (1) Acts 28:15
- d) Adoration
 - i) Acts 2:42
 - (1) "Breaking of bread and in prayers" speaks of the worship service.
 - ii) Worship must always be a part of the program.
- e) Participation
 - i) Acts 2:43-44
 - ii) This speaks of service and giving.
 - iii) They had all things common.
 - iv) They took their resources, their talents, everything they had, and pulled them together.
 - (1) This was not communism; it was based on a belief in God.
 - (2) It was not state-controlled; it was church-controlled.
 - (3) It was not forced; it was voluntary.
 - (4) It did not come about by revolution; it came about by people being born and saved.
 - v) "Having all things in common" was only temporary because of the emergency situation they were in.
 - (1) But it shows that everything they owned was at God's disposal whenever it was needed.
 - (a) Is everything you own at His disposal?
- f) Propagation
 - i) Acts 2:46-47
 - ii) This church was a growing church.
 - (1) Acts 1:15
 - (a) The number of disciples together were about 120.
 - (2) Acts 2:41
 - (a) There were now 3,120 members.
 - (3) Acts 2:47
 - (a) They had a gathering of 3,000, and every day more and more people were coming in.
 - (4) Acts 4:4

- (a) There were 5,000 men who believed.
 - (i) Most likely, their families came, too.
 - 1. This would have added 20,000 (if there were four people in each family) to those who were already in the church.
- (5) Acts 5:28
 - (a) They filled the entire city.
- (6) Acts 6:7
 - (a) They have stopped talking about being added, and now they are multiplied.
 - (i) Amazing things happen when we start multiplying.
- iii) Someone has said that this early church had in excess of 65,000 members in six months.
 - (1) Another theologian has said that it was more like 250,000 souls.

6) CONCLUSION

- a) Let God live in you.
- b) Jesus Christ is alive and well.
 - i) He lives in those who are saved.
- c) He doesn't want us to do anything for Him.
 - i) He wants to do something through us.
- d) Do you know Jesus personally? If not, you can pray to Him today by asking Him to come into your life.
- e) Call upon Jesus today. Repent (turn) from your sins, and turn to Jesus. Ask Him to forgive you of your sins, and acknowledge Him as Lord of your life.
 - i) Romans 3:23
 - ii) Romans 10:9-10
 - iii) Romans 10:13
 - iv) Acts 16:31
 - v) John 3:16