

Dear Friends,

Acts2: 1-13

After their time of waiting and praying together, the friends of Jesus are being filled with the Holy Spirit. This is a general outpouring of the Spirit, who comes like a mighty rushing wind that fills the entire house. It is also a specific outpouring on each individual as the Spirit comes like fire with a flame resting on each person. The Spirit is given to all. The Spirit is given to you.

This is a very dramatic account of the coming of the Spirit. If you prefer something quieter then you can turn to John's gospel, where Jesus breathes the Spirit into each of his friends. Whether the Spirit is given noisily or silently does not really matter. What matters is that you give your consent and say "Yes" to the Spirit. Think of how good it feels to be a feather on the breath of God. To be what God wants you to be. To do what God wants you to do. To say what God wants you to say. What God wants is always good. It is always that love should grow and increase.

For the friends of Jesus, being moved by the Spirit takes them out and onto the streets of Jerusalem. Only a few days ago they were confused and frightened. They were afraid to speak about Jesus. Now they have been clothed with power from on high. They speak with the ability that God gives them about the powerful things that God does.

And the one to take the lead is Peter. Only a few days ago he had been afraid to speak to a single soul. He did not have the courage to speak to a servant girl. Now he is filled with confidence. He knows what he must say and says it well. The crowd that hears him is massive. About three thousand people respond by choosing to join the fellowship. The Christian Church is born.

What a transformation. The friends had been like the dry bones in the valley. They had fallen apart. They were disconnected and scattered. They were frightened and confused. Like the bones they have been put back together and brought to life as the breath of God has been breathed into them. Now, they are no longer so frightened and confused. They have become confident and illuminated.

God takes the dry bones, puts them back together and breathes life into them. God takes the church, puts the church back together and breathes life into it. God takes you, puts you together in just the right way and breathes life into you.

God bless you,

Tony