

Series: When the Holy Spirit Makes a Mess Series –
Learning to Live with Holy Disruption
Part 1 The Spirit Offends Order
Text: Acts 2:1-13 (ESV)

INTRODUCTION

Pentecost confronts something deeply rooted in human nature. Namely, that people prefer a God who inspires them without interrupting them.

I. THE SPIRIT DISTURBS AND INTERRUPTS

“And suddenly there came from heaven a sound like a mighty rushing wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. And divided tongues as of fire appeared to them and rested on each one of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance.” **Acts 2:2-4 (ESV)**

“And when they had done this, they enclosed a large number of fish, and their nets were breaking.” **Luke 5:6 (ESV)**

Personal Application: Stop hiding the parts of your life you don't want God to disrupt and invite the Holy Spirit into them honestly.

II. THE SPIRIT CONFRONTS HUMAN PRIDE

“Now there were dwelling in Jerusalem Jews, devout men from every nation under heaven... And at this sound the multitude came together, and they were bewildered, because each one was hearing them speak in his own language... both Jews and proselytes, Cretans and Arabians—we hear them telling in our own tongues the mighty works of God.” **Acts 2:5-11 (ESV)**

Personal Application: Ask the Holy Spirit to show you where you're still building your own name instead of making much of Christ.

III. THE SPIRIT DEMANDS A RESPONSE

“And all were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, ‘What does this mean?’ But others mocking said, ‘They are filled with new wine.’” **Acts 2:12–13 (ESV)**

Personal Application: When the Spirit convicts you, respond with repentance instead of explaining it away or pushing it aside.

CONCLUSION

Pentecost did not leave the disciples hidden, safe, or unchanged. The Spirit pushed them into public witness, deeper dependence, and greater surrender. He still does.

The crowd witnessing Pentecost immediately begins searching for explanations. Some are honestly asking questions. Others mock the entire event and accuse the disciples of drunkenness. That response seems absurd considering what is actually happening. These men are speaking coherent foreign languages understood by people from across the Roman world. Yet unbelief will often choose a weak explanation over a disruptive truth.

Human beings have always tried to explain away what threatens their sense of control.

Pharaoh watched Egypt collapse under plague after plague and still hardened his heart. The religious leaders watched Jesus heal the sick, cast out demons, and raise the dead, yet they still attributed His power to Satan rather than submit to Him. In John 11 the Pharisees witness the resurrection of Lazarus and immediately begin plotting how to kill Jesus.

Miracles do not automatically produce surrender because the deepest resistance of the human heart is not intellectual. It is spiritual.

That is why some people in Acts 2 move toward wonder while others move toward mockery. The same sun that softens wax hardens clay. The presence of God reveals what people love most. Some people hear truth and become open. Others become defensive because surrender feels more threatening than unbelief.

The accusation of drunkenness also reveals how uncomfortable the crowd had become with public displays of dependence on God. The disciples are no longer hiding quietly in an upper room. The Spirit has pushed them visibly into the streets. Their worship, proclamation, and joy no longer fit within socially acceptable boundaries.

The Spirit still unsettles people that way. Not because emotional chaos is the goal, but because genuine dependence on God offends cultures built on self-sufficiency, image management, and control. People are comfortable with religion as long as it remains private, restrained, and manageable. But once faith becomes visible, joyful, surrendered, and impossible to fully explain, resistance begins appearing quickly.

Pentecost forces the crowd to answer the same question every generation must answer: What will we do when God moves outside the categories we prefer?

