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SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE

BOTH+AND — STRENGTH + WEAKNESS

Warm-Up Question:

- In what aspect of your life do people around you recognize your strength?
- In what aspect of your life do you feel the most weakness?

READ: Acts 2:1-22

I. SPIRITUAL ANIMATION

- ▶ Jesus had already ascended into heaven. As the disciples were gathered together in one place (v.1), what must they have been thinking when reflecting on the calling Jesus gave them to be his witnesses to the nations? (v1:8) What would you be thinking?
- ▶ From Acts 1:8 & 2:1-13, how did Jesus plan to give them the strength to fulfill his calling?
- ▶ When you think about God giving you the same Holy Spirit, do you find it hard to believe that God has given you sufficient strength to do what He has called you to do?

II. SPIRITUAL PARTICIPATION

- ▶ What kind of challenges in your life most reveal your weaknesses? (relational, intellectual, financial, emotional, physical, spiritual, etc.)
- ▶ How do you deal with these challenges when you feel the gap between your weakness and what God is calling you to do? (Get anxious? Work harder? Spiritual disciplines? Etc.)
- ▶ Is there an area where you feel God calling you to be more involved with his mission but you hesitate because you don't think you have what it takes?
- ▶ Read the quotes to the right and discuss.
- ▶ Read 2 Cor. 12:9-10 and discuss how God's power is put on display? Knowing this is true and you have the Holy Spirit, what is an area you would like to trust God more and step out in faith?

What is one main take-away you want to apply in your life this week?

“God does not give us what we can handle, but God helps us handle what we are given.”
- Saint Augustine

“Our weakness is not an obstacle to God's power; it is the very stage upon which it is displayed.”
- Charles Spurgeon

For Prayer:

- Praise God for giving you the Holy Spirit.
- Ask God to strengthen you for what he has called you to do.
- Ask God to reveal more of his power through your weaknesses.
- Ask God to empower us as ordinary people to be his witnesses in Citrus County.



SEVEN RIVERS
CHURCH

Scriptures Used

Acts 2:1 When the day of Pentecost arrived, they were all together in one place. 2 And suddenly there came from heaven a sound like a mighty rushing wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. 3 And divided tongues as of fire appeared to them and rested on each one of them. 4 And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance.

Acts 2:5 Now there were dwelling in Jerusalem Jews, devout men from every nation under heaven. 6 And at this sound the multitude came together, and they were bewildered, because each one was hearing them speak in his own language. 7 And they were amazed and astonished, saying, “Are not all these who are speaking Galileans? 8 And how is it that we hear, each of us in his own native language? 9 Parthians and Medes and Elamites and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, 10 Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, 11 both Jews and proselytes, Cretans and Arabians—we hear them telling in our own tongues the mighty works of God.” 12 And all were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, “What does this mean?” 13 But others mocking said, “They are filled with new wine.”

Acts 2:14 But Peter, standing with the eleven, lifted up his voice and addressed them: “Men of Judea and all who dwell in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and give ear to my words. 15 For these people are not drunk, as you suppose, since it is only the third hour of the day. 16 But this is what was uttered through the prophet Joel:

Acts 2:17 “And in the last days it shall be, God declares, that I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh, and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams;

18 even on my male servants and female servants in those days I will pour out my Spirit, and they shall prophesy. 19 And I will show wonders in the heavens above and signs on the earth below, blood, and fire, and vapor of smoke;

20 the sun shall be turned to darkness and the moon to blood, before the day of the Lord comes, the great and magnificent day. 21 And it shall come to pass that everyone who calls upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.’

Acts 2:22 “Men of Israel, hear these words: Jesus of Nazareth, a man attested to you by God with mighty works and wonders and signs that God did through him in your midst, as you yourselves know— 23 this Jesus, delivered up according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of lawless men. 24 God raised him up, loosing the pangs of death, because it was not possible for him to be held by it.

2 Cor. 12:9-10 ⁹ But he said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.” Therefore I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me. ¹⁰ For the sake of Christ, then, I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities. For when I am weak, then I am strong.

Acts 1:8. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”