



AN IMPORTANT MESSAGE REGARDING THE RIPPLE EFFECT..

CROSSROADS CHURCH - 3 YEAR CAMPAIGN TO END THIRST

SOAP READING—March 9, 2010

Jonna Fantz—Engage Pastor

S: Acts 2:1-42

O: I am immediately struck by the boundary crossing nature of the filling of the Spirit. Right away the Spirit empowers the disciples and other followers of Jesus to cross the language barriers that were present in their community. The praise of God was heard in multiple languages, so immediately people could know that their language was a gift intended to praise God. The Spirit brought people running to see what was going on. They were puzzled that Galileans (*must have had an accent*) would be able to speak all these languages. When the spirit comes he seems to take us in our provincial niches, our tribes, and expands us to something much larger. When the Spirit came in power it needed to be interpreted for people. Peter preached a sermon to help explain to people what was happening. He pointed them toward Jesus Christ and away from a variety of other interpretations for what was happening. The revealing of the Holy Spirit's power wasn't enough, there has to be an explanation given. What a powerful way for God to spread the news that Jesus had started the kingdom of heaven on earth. First you see the kingdom in action, then you get the action explained to you.

A: I think I am called to live a life that demands some kind of explanation. I wonder how the Spirit's power could be demonstrated in my life so that people want to know what is going on. I know that I have a long way to go in terms of defying my cultural limitations and living into the Kingdom of God. I wonder what it looks like when a person filled with the power of the Holy Spirit works for the church? I wonder what kind of a home life does she have? What are her relationships like? How does she interact with her neighbors? How does she live out her hobbies? How does she pray? How does a Spirit empowered woman heal from a break up? How does she say good bye to her dying father? There are so many places where the Spirit can touch and move. I want my life to have the marks of the Holy Spirit's power on it.

P: Holy Spirit fill me with your power and demonstrate the reality of your presence through my life. Please help me to open myself to your movement. I am weak and small and selfish. Help me to transcend all those boundaries. Let my life call for an explanation.