


F.O.L.L.O.W.E.R.S.

VS

Fans


(Sharing)
LIFE LESSON

Today we're finishing up our series on the differences between followers and fans, and our focus for today is on *sharing* our things or our testimony. For those who don't know, fifty days after Jesus was crucified outside the city walls of Jerusalem (Jesus was killed on the Passover), this happened just outside the walls of the Temple, in the heart of the city of Jerusalem...

 **Acts 2:1-12 (NLT)** *On the day of Pentecost all the believers were meeting together in one place. Suddenly, there was a sound from heaven like the roaring of a mighty windstorm, and it filled the house where they were sitting. Then, what looked like flames or tongues of fire appeared and settled on each of them. And everyone present was filled with the Holy Spirit and began speaking in other languages, as the Holy Spirit gave them this ability. At that time there were devout Jews from every nation living in Jerusalem. When they heard the loud noise, everyone came running, and they were bewildered to hear their own languages being spoken by the believers. They were completely amazed. "How can this be?" they exclaimed. "These people are all from Galilee, and yet we hear them speaking in our own native languages! Here we are—Parthians, Medes, Elamites, people from Mesopotamia, Judea, Cappadocia, Pontus, the province of Asia, Phrygia, Pamphylia, Egypt, and the areas of Libya around Cyrene, visitors from Rome (both Jews and converts to Judaism), Cretans, and Arabs. And we all hear these people speaking in our own languages about the wonderful things God has done!" They stood there amazed and perplexed. "What can this mean?" they asked each other.*

➔ **Prior to this day in history, who was the Holy Spirit typically given to and why?**

GOD was sharing His Holy Spirit with every follower, just like the prophet Joel said would happen. And clearly, **GOD** chose to do it on a day when there were lots of Jews present to witness it. This is what Peter tried to explain to everyone, but that's not all he explained...

 **Acts 2:14-36 (NLT)** *Then Peter stepped forward with the eleven other apostles and shouted to the crowd, "Listen carefully, all of you, fellow Jews and residents of Jerusalem! Make no mistake about this. These people are not drunk, as some of you are assuming. Nine o'clock in the morning is much too early for that. No, what you see was predicted long ago by the prophet Joel: 'In the last days,' God says, 'I will pour out my Spirit upon all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy. Your young men will see visions, and your old men will dream*

dreams. In those days I will pour out my Spirit even on my servants—men and women alike—and they will prophesy. And I will cause wonders in the heavens above and signs on the earth below— blood and fire and clouds of smoke. The sun will become dark, and the moon will turn blood red before that great and glorious day of the Lord arrives. But everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.’ People of Israel, listen! God publicly endorsed Jesus the Nazarene by doing powerful miracles, wonders, and signs through him, as you well know. But God knew what would happen, and his prearranged plan was carried out when Jesus was betrayed. With the help of lawless Gentiles, you nailed him to a cross and killed him. But God released him from the horrors of death and raised him back to life, for death could not keep him in its grip. King David said this about him: ‘I see that the Lord is always with me. I will not be shaken, for he is right beside me. No wonder my heart is glad, and my tongue shouts his praises! My body rests in hope. For you will not leave my soul among the dead or allow your Holy One to rot in the grave. You have shown me the way of life, and you will fill me with the joy of your presence.’ Dear brothers, think about this! You can be sure that the patriarch David wasn’t referring to himself, for he died and was buried, and his tomb is still here among us. But he was a prophet, and he knew God had promised with an oath that one of David’s own descendants would sit on his throne. David was looking into the future and speaking of the Messiah’s resurrection. He was saying that God would not leave him among the dead or allow his body to rot in the grave. God raised Jesus from the dead, and we are all witnesses of this. Now he is exalted to the place of highest honor in heaven, at God’s right hand. And the Father, as he had promised, gave him the Holy Spirit to pour out upon us, just as you see and hear today. For David himself never ascended into heaven, yet he said, ‘The Lord said to my Lord, “Sit in the place of honor at my right hand until I humble your enemies, making them a footstool under your feet.”’ So let everyone in Israel know for certain that God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, to be both Lord and Messiah!”


- ➔ **Once the Holy Spirit entered Peter and the disciples, describe the change you see in their knowledge of the scriptures, or their boldness about Christ?**
- ➔ **When the Holy Spirit entered your life, do you feel like you received this knowledge about the scriptures or the same boldness? Why or why not?**

Peter was inspired by the Holy Spirit to confront these men for their role in the crucifixion in spite of the potential backlash. But as stated earlier, these men didn’t retaliate in anger, but instead were convicted and asked Peter what they should do. Here’s what Peter said...

📖 **Acts 2:38-40 (NLT)** Peter replied, “Each of you must repent of your sins and turn to God, and be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. Then you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. This promise is to you, to your children, and to those far away—all who have been called by the Lord our God. Then Peter continued preaching for a long time, strongly urging all his listeners, “Save yourselves from this crooked generation!”

- ➔ **In your opinion, what does it mean to repent of our sins?**
- ➔ **Based on what Peter said, what needs to happen for our sins to be forgiven?**

All of us have been asked to demonstrate our surrender over to **GOD** by our baptism, and by rethinking or reconsidering how our lives should be lived, which is what it means to repent. And when we genuinely allow the Holy Spirit to help us do this, it will radically change the way we share our stuff with others, or our stories with them. For example, look at what the Holy Spirit inspired those people of the first church in Jerusalem to share...

 **Acts 2:41-47 (NLT)** *Those who believed what Peter said were baptized and added to the church that day—about 3,000 in all. All the believers devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching, and to fellowship, and to sharing in meals (including the Lord's Supper), and to prayer. A deep sense of awe came over them all, and the apostles performed many miraculous signs and wonders. And all the believers met together in one place and shared everything they had. They sold their property and possessions and shared the money with those in need. They worshiped together at the Temple each day, met in homes for the Lord's Supper, and shared their meals with great joy and generosity— all the while praising God and enjoying the goodwill of all the people. And each day the Lord added to their fellowship those who were being saved.*

- ➔ ***In your opinion, what did the Holy Spirit do in everyone that made them so willing to share their stuff and stories with others?***
- ➔ ***In your opinion, is it easier to be sacrificially generous with someone you know well, verses a person you don't know at all?***
- ➔ ***The believers then were meeting daily for the purpose of sharing life. In your opinion, how regularly should followers be meeting with other followers for this same purpose?***

From the moment the Holy Spirit arrived, sharing with others is what everyone was compelled to do. Peter was compelled to share the truth about Jesus, those filled with the Holy Spirit were compelled to share their time, their prayer requests, their food, and their stories with one another. Some even shared their homes for meetings or sold stuff to help with the needs of others. Which means, one of the biggest differences between those who are true followers of Jesus, verses those who are still just fans, is that followers will be known for sharing their stuff and stories with others, where fans won't...

MEMORY PASSAGE FOR THE WEEK

Therefore, let us offer through Jesus a continual sacrifice of praise to God, proclaiming our allegiance to his name. And don't forget to do good and to share with those in need. These are the sacrifices that please God.

Hebrews 13:15-16 (NLT)

F.O.L.L.O.W.E.R.S vs FANS

LESSON GOAL: We wrap up this series helping kids understand how God shared his Holy Spirit with us to help us share with others.

MEMORY VERSE:

'All the believers were together. They shared everything they had.' | **ACTS 2:44 NIRV**

THE HOLY SPIRIT

In our final week of the FOLLOWERS series, we're talking about the word Share. When we think of "sharing," we usually think about having to share our toys or our stuff with other people but sharing means so much more than that to God.

When we decide to follow Jesus, we repent of our sins and accept Jesus as our savior, then to demonstrate our decision, we choose to be baptized and at that time, we receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. Basically, God is sharing *his* spirit and power with us to bring us closer to him and to help us follow him.

Peter replied, "All of you must turn away from your sins and be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then your sins will be forgiven. You will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. The promise is for you and your children. It is also for all who are far away. It is for all whom the Lord our God will choose." Peter said many other things to warn them. He begged them, "Save yourselves from these evil people." | **ACTS 2:38-40 NIRV**

The Holy Spirit is there to help us notice when we're about to make wrong choices, and to comfort us. The Holy Spirit guides us to God and obedience and even gives us spiritual gifts that we should use to serve others and help them know God, or in other words, to help us share about God.

Fifty days after Jesus was crucified, all of the people who believed in him were meeting near Jerusalem. This day is called the day of Pentecost and it's a day we remember because something truly amazing happened:

'When the day of Pentecost came, all the believers gathered in one place. Suddenly a sound came from heaven. It was like a strong wind blowing. It filled the whole house where they were sitting. They saw something that looked like fire in the shape of tongues. The flames separated and came to rest on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit. They began to speak in languages they had not known before. The Spirit gave them the ability to do this. ' | **ACTS 2:1-4 NIRV**

This was the first time God had shared the Holy Spirit with so many people! In fact, because of the gift of the Holy Spirit, everyone there was able to understand each other's languages when they spoke and Peter when he preached to them!! Because of the Holy Spirit, Peter was able to boldly share the message of Jesus with a crowd of people from many different areas who spoke different languages. Peter challenged them for their part in Jesus' crucifixion and commanded them to repent and be baptized and receive the gift of the Holy Spirit for themselves.

'Peter replied, "All of you must turn away from your sins and be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then your sins will be forgiven. You will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. The promise is for you and your children. It is also for all who are far away. It is for all whom the Lord our God will choose." Peter said many other things to warn them. He begged them, "Save yourselves from these evil people." Those who accepted his message were baptized. About 3,000 people joined the believers that day.' | **ACT 2:38-41 NIRV**

Peter shared all of this because the Holy Spirit was inside him, guiding him with what to say and helping him understand scripture so he could explain to these people.

And after all of those people were baptized and received the Holy Spirit themselves, they began to share everything they had with each other and with others, drawing more and more people to their group who were hearing about Jesus and being saved from their sins.

When we decide to follow Jesus and obey his command to be baptized, we also receive the Holy Spirit, who will help, comfort, guide and give us special gifts that we can use to share Jesus with others.

DISCUSSION | REVIEW

- Read Acts 2:42-47 in a kid-friendly Bible.
 - Does it sound like the people wanted to share what they had, or did they only do it because they were told to?
 - What can we learn from the people who chose to follow Jesus on the Day of Pentecost?
- What is one thing you learned today that you can share with a friend?
- What is one item you have that you can share with someone else?