

Last Sunday we began a new series in the book of Acts entitled – **Unstoppable**. The heart of this series is built on a promise Jesus made to His disciples that upon His departure, He was going to provide them w/ an amazing gift – the H.S. And once they received this gift they were going to initiate an **unstoppable** movement that'd carry the good news of God's love and Jesus sacrifice into the world.

But what does it mean to be unstoppable? It means it can't be stopped. Here the truth – this side of heaven there are few things which are truly unstoppable.

Time is unstoppable. It seems like yesterday I ran a 4.5 forty and was able to dunk a basketball, graduated from school, lived in Europe, started my 1st job, got married, started a family, and sported a full head of hair. Now I'm a middle-aged balding, fat-boy who pulls a hammy running the forty and needs a ladder to touch the net. Where has time gone!

What else is unstoppable? Apparently this year it's the McI football team who for the 1st time in school history are 5-0.

Remind: *You will receive power when the H.S. comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, and unto the uttermost parts of the world.* Acts 1:8

So in Acts 1:8, we discover the one thing God intended to be unstoppable – the church. From inception, the church was to be nothing less than a **movement of the H.S.** It was never intended to be a work of man but an *unstoppable* work of God – a **movement powered by the H.S. to give witness** to the belief that Jesus died as God’s solution to sin and that He arose from the grave to prove He was who He said He was and did what He said He’d do – to rescue humanity from sin.

So the H.S. is essential element in this endeavor. He is the one who empowers, guides, and employs God’s people in this unstoppable commission. Our real role is to follow His lead. (**Art’s dad’s funeral**)

In **Acts 2** we find the story of Pentecost. Pentecost is when God unleashed the H.S. to guide His disciples into an unstoppable movement known as the GC.

I The Disciples were **EMPOWERED**

When the day of Pentecost had arrived, they were all together in one place. Suddenly a sound like that of a violent rushing wind came from heaven, and it filled the whole house where they were staying. And tongues, like flames of fire that were divided, appeared to them and rested on each one of them. Then they were all filled w/ the H.S. and began to speak in different languages, as the Spirit gave them ability for speech. Acts 2:1-4

If ever there was a moment to be a fly on the wall in history, this was one of those moments. After Jesus' departure, the H.S. descends upon the disciples and things get Pentecostal.

Suddenly a sound

They **heard** it

Filled the whole house

They **felt** it

Tongues like flames appeared

They **saw** it

They were filled w/ the H.S.

They **experienced** it

They spoke in different languages

They **spoke** it

W/out getting into the weeds of the faith – here's the point: When the H.S. arrived, there was no mistaken He'd come. And 1000's of people experienced His arrival.

II The Gospel was **EXPLAINED**

But Peter stood up w/ the (11), raised his voice, and proclaimed to them: "Men of Judah and all you residents of Jerusalem, let me explain this to you and pay attention to my words. For these people are not drunk, as you suppose, since it's only (9) in the morning. On the contrary, this is what was spoken through the prophet Joel: Acts 2:14-15

Let me explain the situation. While we know Pentecost to be the day the H.S. arrived, the Israel, Pentecost was a lively Jewish festival celebrating the post-barley/pre-wheat harvest.

It was a type of Jewish Mardi Gras – so devout Jews from across the Roman Empire were in Jerusalem to celebrate this festival. And then, under the influence of the H.S., Peter begins to preach the 1st distinctively Christian sermon – and God moves. Let me hit the highlights:

A God MEETS Us Where We Are

I don't know how devout Jews partied, but I can guarantee you they're not expecting a sermon to break out! I'm fairly certain no one goes to Mardi Gras expecting to meet Jesus. Yet here Peter stands up and begins to throw down Jesus.

Where were you when the Lord first confronted you to introduce you to His love/grace?

God often meets us when we least expect it where we would not necessarily be looking for Him. For Paul it was on the road to Damascus as he was in pursuit of killing Christians.

I remember flying from Nashville to L.A. The day I was leaving, a church member gave me a PS2 gaming device, a week before it was to hit the market. While on the plane, the teenager next to me couldn't help but noticing what I had and as we engaged in conversation, the Lord took over and at 32,000 ft over Denver, CO, John gave his life to Christ.

For me, it was while watching my brother play baseball...

B God TELLS Us the Truth about Ourselves

Fellow Israelites, listen to this: Jesus of Nazareth was a man accredited by God to you by miracles, wonders, and signs, which God did among you through Him, as you yourselves know. This man was handed over to you by God's deliberate plan and foreknowledge; and you, w/ the help of wicked men, put him to death by nailing him to the cross.

God lovingly yet honestly explains to us that we're guilty.

Don't miss this. It's likely many in the crowd that day were not present 50 days earlier when Jesus was falsely accused / crucified. Many had nothing to do w/ those who asked for Barabbas to be released and for Jesus to be crucified – though many were present. Peter tells them we're all guilty.

We're all guilty b/c it was our sinfulness that put Christ on the Cross. He was pierced for our transgressions and crushed b/c our yours and my iniquity... that's the truth.

The truth is our sin has separated us from a God who desires to be in relationship w/ us – but cannot b/c of this barrier.

C God OFFERS Jesus for Our Forgiveness

Peter goes on to explain that God made Jesus who knew no sin to become sin for us so we could be made right w/ God.

This is the purpose of the cross. The cross wasn't an event authored by men to exterminate God... the cross is an event authored by God to rescue you/me from our sin into an eternal relationship w/ our loving Creator. (John 3:16)

D God INVITES Us to Receive His Grace

Whoever shall call on the name of the Lord will be saved.

If you confess w/ your mouth Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart God raised Jesus from the dead you will be saved.

III God's God was EMBRACED

When they heard this, they came under deep conviction and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles: "Brothers, what must we do?" "Repent," Peter said, "and be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the H.S. Acts 2:37-38

conviction – to bring into the light. In this text, the truth Peter spoke brought to light the reality of their guilt. The evidence brought understanding so that each person not only knew that they were guilty of being sinful, but also that Jesus was the Messiah and God's only solution to their sin.

repent – turn from your pattern/way of sin to God through God's provision of the cross.

IV The Church was ESTABLISHED

So those who accepted his message were baptized, and that day about 3,000 people were added. And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching, to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread, and to the prayers. Acts 2:41-42

We're going to talk about this in greater detail next week, but the result of receiving Christ was to become a part of something greater than yourself – the church. It was joining in the movement of the H.S.

On the day of Pentecost, somewhere b/w 12/120 disciples – Jesus followers saw over 3,000 people come to Christ – and it had nothing really to do w/ them and all to do w/ the H.S. The disciples were willing vessels but it was God the H.S. who did the work.

Today 3,000 believers can't seem to reach 120 – **Why?** B/c even w/ our good intentions and well-meaning hearts – we're trying to do it in our power often for our own glory or approval what can only be done through the H.S. The Gospel can only change a life when it comes as a result of the H.S. and not from the holy ambition of men.

Adrian Rogers once shared a story of a preacher in a country church who asked one of the deacons to dismiss the service in prayer. As the deacon prayed, in the midst of his prayer, he said, "Lord, *unctionize* our pastor. *Uunctionize* our pastor!" Trying to understand the man's prayer, the pastor met the old deacon at the church door, and he asked, "Deacon, that was a good prayer you prayed, but why did you ask God to *unctionize* me? What does that word *unctionize* mean?" The deacon said, "Reverend, I ain't sure what it means; but whatever it means, you ain't got it."

Friend, whatever it means, I want it. I want to know Christ as my Savior and I want to know Him as my Lord who leads me throughout my life. I want His presence and anointing in all the days of my life.