

## Acts 1:12-2:13 Anchored and Moving Forward in Unity

**Well, we had some Crazy weather this past week –  
Rain – Strong winds – A tornado warning**

**A) Wind is interesting – Can't really stop it or divert it – just does what it wants to do**

**B) Can't see it but you can see and feel it's affects**

**C) Reminds me of the story of the little boy who was talking to his grandpa – old fisherman.**

**Grandpa, what is the wind? – The old fisherman responded – “Son I can't explain the wind to you but I can teach you to raise the sails.”**

**That is a good description I think of the book of Acts**

**A) The book of Acts doesn't seek to explain to us all the nuances of the Holy Spirit.**

**B) But it shows us how we can have the wind of the Holy Spirit moving our sails.**

**C) We have a great picture of that in our text today – as we see what happened when the Holy Spirit fell upon the early Church on the day of Pentecost**

**D) But as we close out Chapter 1 today we will see 5 principles that set them up for this empowering.**

**5 Principles that when followed I think can set us up to experience the power of God in our lives.**

**A) Our Church – Families – Your marriage –  
Your ministry.**

**B) Set up the scene:** We have seen in V.1-11 how Jesus commanded his disciples to go to Jerusalem and wait for the Holy Spirit to come upon them. {

**Baptized by the Holy Spirit**

**C) They saw Jesus ascend – Angels said – quit Gwalking – and do what Jesus told you to do.**

**Pick up reading V. 12 -14**

**#1 They were Obedient!**

**A) Jesus told them to go into Jerusalem and wait and they did.**

**B) And Luke 24:52 says they returned with Joy!**

**C) You might think – well why wouldn't they?**

**Think about this: Jerusalem was a Dangerous place for them to be!**

**A) People there that Hated Jesus – Hated His Followers and were very Upset – Rez talk**

**B) There was already a growing hostility toward these followers of Christ**

**1) Dangerous place for them to be – but Obedient**

**They returned with Joy!**

**What about in your life – are you reluctant in your obedience? – If I have to Lord – I will. I must**

**A) Or is there a Joy – because you so trust God.**

**B) Reluctant moments !**

**C) Obedient even when it is Dangerous**

**1) Lose your job for standing for what is right**

**D) Take the lead as a husband and a Dad – even though it might mean resistance.**

**1) Wife submit to your husband allow him to lead**

**Life is often full of hard decisions!**

**A) Is there something in your life right now God is calling you to – Dangerous decision.**

**B) You will not see God's power and blessing until you are obedient to do what he is calling you to do**

**C) So First thing we note is they were obedient.**

**#2 They were waiting!**

**A) V.14 They continued { The Empowering didn't happen the moment they got back – 10 days**

**B) They were waiting – met in an upper room – waiting on the Lord.**

**C) Great Promise for those who wait Isaiah 40:31**

**Isaiah 40:31 "But those who wait on the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint."**

**Talk for a minute about what waiting doesn't look like! 4 Examples**

**1<sup>st</sup> Red Light waiting**

**Racing engine – banging the steering wheel – inching forward trying to hit sensors**

**Behind someone – soon as the light turns red you are honking your horn  
{ Done that ?**

**That is not waiting!**

**A)God have you in a situation where the light is red right now!**

**B) come on God – come on .....**

**1)Trying to hit the sensor – what do I need to do to get this going**

**C)No rest –**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Is it dinner time Yet? Waiting**

**A)My wife hates it when I do this – I am so hungry is it time yet – how much longer?**

**B)Problem is sometimes I start at lunch time I call her – what is for dinner tonight?**

**1)I am not telling you – most of the time that means – it's is only lunch – I haven't figured out yet**

**C)Sometimes it means – Surprise – last week**

**1)Just get home – My favorite**

**We can do the same with God – Ok God been single a while now – Is time yet – when is dinner!**

**A)Sometimes He is not only preparing us for the situation but preparing the situation for us.**

**B)checking the soup – keep letting out the heat – It is never going to be ready if you keep doing that.**

**This one: Bruised Fruit waiting!**

**A)Waiting on God to Change someone else!**

**B)People grocery** always handling the fruit – squeeze  
Bruise it – then what do – put it back or take home

**C)We do that with people – Spouse – Son daughter always prodding – squeezing**

**1)When are you going to start .... When Change...**

**D)Instead of just praying and entrusting them to the Lord – we get our hands in there – Bruised**

**No DETOURS for ME – WAITING**

**A)Traffic jam wreck – detour – I am going to take another route.**

**B)Now I can't get away with that anymore when my wife is in the car –  
{ Been wrong too many times**

**1)What are you doing – JUST WATCH!**

**C)So now I just do it when she isn't in the car or if she falls asleep –**

**1)I just better have figured it out before she wakes up or I am in trouble.**

**Sometimes God sends a Divine Detour!**

**A)Change the course – change the route – divert us off of I-5 – we resist – trying to figure out how to get back on the freeway.**

**B)That is not waiting on the Lord.**

**C) Waiting on the Lord is not simply being still!**

**1) Sit here for 5 hrs until God does something.**

**D) It can be very active – Doing the things you know that God wants you to do to.**

**1) Being obedient in the areas that He has already revealed while you wait for further instruction**

**E) Attitude of submission and surrender to His plan and His timing! – Not seeking to rush or Divert**

**The early Church was a great example of that Waiting on God.**

**#3 V.14 They continued in one accord – Not Honda**

**A) One accord - Homo- thu- madon { Cage fighting –**

**B) Homothumadon = One mind – One heart – Unity of purpose!**

**C) They continued in that direction:**

**1) No hidden agendas – thing of the past now seemed to be gone.**

**D) No more Jockeying for Position**

**1) THEY WERE NOW ONE**

**120 in that upper room – One Agenda! – JESUS**

**A) The Phrase one accord appears all over the book of acts in Describing – the early Church.**

**B) Chapters 1:14; 2:1, 46; 4:24; 5:12; 15:25;**

**C) And Acts 2:44 says they had all things in common – by this time – 3,000 believers**

**1) All things in Common – How can that be!**

**D)They had what mattered in Common.**

### **Unity is not Uniformity**

**A)Uniformity think – Uniform – all say same thing**

**Dress the same – Unified.**

**B)There is Uniformity at MacDonalds – All in the same uniforms – all make Big Mac the Same**

**1)In most places like that there is not Unity**

**C)This group hates the boss and there is all this back biting.**

### **There isn't and shouldn't really be Uniformity in the Church.**

**A)The Church is a place for varying opinions**

**Diversity of gifts personalities – passions.**

**B)That is healthy – But where there needs to be Unity in a Church – is area of Essential Doctrine.**

**1)And Methodology – Direction of ministry.**

**C)What are we called to do!**

**Essentials – Unity**

**Non Essentials – Liberty**

**All things – Charity.**

**C)Respect someone else's opinion and choose to agree to disagree on Non essentials.**

**D)Unity is not created – talked about – but happens naturally when people work together.**

**1)Common Goal - Unity among relief teams in Haiti -**

**Not fighting – who can save more lives –**

**E) All things in Common – common goal save lives**

**So Unity happens quite naturally when people roll their sleeves up to serve the Lord**

**A) And it happens when they respect each others gifts and callings. –**

**B) Look how the Lord is using that guy / gal – cool!**

**C) The book of Acts shows us the importance that the Lord places on Unity in the body.**

**1) Exhorted to fight to maintain it!**

**Now – v.13 mentions that the disciples were present – v.14 Jesus mother and Brothers**

**A) Interesting because in Mark 3:21 we are told of a time when his Disciples – “ He is out of His mind.”**

**B) Now Believers – Why? Ressurrection**

**His 1/2 brother James when on to write the book of James and Jude – book of Jude**

**A) I point this out because . If anyone could have questioned the deity of Jesus Christ, it would have been His own brothers,**

**B) Imagine growing up with Jesus –**

**1) Jude why can't you be more like Jesus – He always picks up after himself.**

**C) That alone might have turned them off -**

**1) yet here are James and Jude, numbered among the believers.**

**#4 They were given to prayer! V.14**

**A) They continued in one accord in prayer and supplication.**

**B) Prayer was a big part of who they were.**

**C) This word prayer appears 27 times in the NT and it means to pray earnestly, or fervently.**

**D) Passion connected to it – a sense of desperation.**

**1) Lord we need you! – We cry out to you.**

**E) The word supplication actually means to plead and to entreat.**

**John Bunyan, author of *Pilgrim's Progress*, said, “Prayer is a shield to the soul, a sacrifice to God, and a scourge to Satan.”**

**In the Book of Acts, you see prayer accomplishing all of these things.**

**Note this: It wasn't like they locked themselves in this upper room for 10 days and did nothing but pray.**

**A) Luke 24:53 says of this time “they were continually in the temple praising and blessing God.”**

**B) They would go during the day to the temple for worship return to the upper room later to pray.**

**C) I point this out because I think it is a good illustration of balance in Church services.**

**1) The temple was more of a mixed multitude**

**D) In the sense – not everyone in the temple was there because they believed in Jesus.**

**1) That is Sunday morning Church here**

**E)Mixed group – seekers – some obligation – some here carnal – others – committed.**

**1)Primary purpose is the Praise & worship – ‘  
And the Word. { response time**

**Prayer meetings throughout the week – anyone is welcome – But attract – the committed.**

**Prayer times listed:**

**Sunday am 7:30 Family room.**

**Ladies Prayer 1<sup>st</sup> Tues 9am – Nursery**

**Prayer at the Property 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday 7:30am**

**Every Wednesday morning: 6:30am**

**Staff prays every Wednesday**

**Church prayer Thursdays 6pm room 300**

**Missions prayer 1st Saturday 7pm – Home of Rob Nash**

**Selah – Once a month Saturday night – 2 hrs worship and prayer.**

**Important to be a praying Church – Home groups**

**300 pp – Praying**

**A)More people sure – But people are praying!**

**So these are the things that were happening to set up what took place next in Ch. 2.**

**#1 Obedient**

**#2 Waiting**

**#3 Unified**

**#4 Praying**

## **#5 They were given to the Word. Read v.15-26**

**Now there has been a lot of debate over the idea of Was Peter right in suggesting that they pick a replacement for Judas.**

**A)Argue – Peter jumped the gun – because this guy Matthias was never heard from again.**

**B)God’s pick was the Apostle Paul!**

**C)Here is how I would answer those remarks**

**a) Scripture doesn’t commend or condemn what took place here. – Just states it.**

**b)Aside from Peter, James and John none of the other apostles listed in V.13 are mentioned again in the book of Acts.**

**c) Paul would not become saved or an apostle for at least 6 years.**

**d) Barnabas is also called an apostle in Acts 14**

**e) The Decision to pick a replacement was Biblical  
Peter quoted Psalm 109:8**

**And the setting was one of Prayer! –Maybe someone was praying – Why did Judas have to betray the Lord why couldn’t it have been an enemy.**

**A)Maybe Peter felt led to address the issue**

**B)Maybe Peter just took initiative**

**C)Bottom line: I don’t know if it was right or wrong  
But I like it either way.**

**D) I like that it was scriptural –**

**1) This is that which was written – good model**

**If Peter did jump the gun I like it even more because of what happened next – God's grace in blessing in spite of getting ahead of him.**

**Ch. 2:1-13**

**When the Day of Pentecost had fully come, they were all with one accord in one place.**

**Pentecost = 50 took place 50 days after the feast of First fruits.**

The calendar of Jewish feasts in Leviticus 23 is an outline of the work of Jesus Christ.

**Passover pictures His death as the Lamb of God.  
and the Feast of First fruits pictures His resurrection from the dead.**

**The feast of first fruits took place on the day after the Sabbath following Passover.**

**The Sabbath was on Saturday and the following day Sunday or the first day of the week.**

**Pentecost took place 50 days later – 7 weeks plus one day – Another Sunday.**

**2 And suddenly there came a sound from heaven, as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. 3 Then there appeared to them divided tongues, as of fire, and one sat upon each of them. 4 And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.**

## **This is the account when the apostles were Baptized in the Spirit.**

### **A) Incredible event in the Life of the Church.**

**Point out some unique aspects of this.**

### **B) Sound of a mighty rushing wind.**

**1) Divided tongues of Fire. –**

### **C) v. 4 All filled – all spoke with tongues**

#### **Symbolic aspects:**

#### **A) The first thing is the sound of the wind:**

Wind is the symbol of invisible power. Remember that Jesus said to Nicodemus, he that is born of the Spirit is like the wind which blows wherever it desires and no man can tell where it comes from or where it will go {cf, John 3:8}.

It is sovereign, mighty, powerful, irresistible, invincible. But it is also invisible, you cannot see it. And this is to be a characteristic of the church.

It is to be a band of men and women bound together by the life of Jesus Christ who, when they operate in the invisible power of the Spirit, will accomplish great things.

The second symbol was fire.

Fire is used in two ways in the Old Testament. It is that which purifies, which burns up dross, garbage and waste, and thus purifies; and it is used as a symbol for enthusiasm, passion, purpose, a hunger within.

Jeremiah says, "As I was musing, the fire burned." These two symbols indicate that the church is to be characterized by purifying passion. There is to be within it a strange hunger for God which will purify the lives of those

who are affected by it.

**Although ever believer needs to experience the Baptism of the Holy Spirit  
– this was unique experience that was never duplicated**

**Reason for it – V. 5-13 Crowd Gathers**

**Tongues – Purpose – Preaching**

**Praising**