

**Sunday, August 17, 2025**  
**Sierra Vista Community Church, Las Cruces, NM**  
**Acts Sermon Series: Pray Send Go**  
**Peter's Bold Stance, part 1, Acts 2:14-21**

**Introduction**—We are going to take a 3 week look at Peter's amazing sermon beginning today. This sermon is one of the reasons I share my sermons with other people. Thank God, Luke had the foresight to inscribe this sermon for us. I could not imagine the Bible without it. It is one of those sermons you read, but wow, what we would do to see this kind of Holy Spirit power again. Around 3,000 souls were saved after this message. We can't rush through this sermon. If we can catch just a glimpse, we too can be changed.

Peter, a bold pillar of the early church, had much to say, since he was filled with the Holy Spirit. We need the Holy Spirit each day of our lives so we can reach others for the Kingdom.

**Stand & Read—Acts 2:14-21**

14 Then Peter stood up with the Eleven, raised his voice and addressed the crowd: "Fellow Jews and all of you who live in Jerusalem, let me explain this to you; listen carefully to what I say. 15 These people are not drunk, as you suppose. It's only nine in the morning! 16 No, this is what was spoken by the prophet Joel:

17

"In the last days, God says,  
I will pour out my Spirit on all people.  
Your sons and daughters will prophesy,  
your young men will see visions,  
your old men will dream dreams.

18

Even on my servants, both men and women,  
I will pour out my Spirit in those days,  
and they will prophesy.

19

I will show wonders in the heavens above  
and signs on the earth below,  
blood and fire and billows of smoke.

20

The sun will be turned to darkness  
and the moon to blood  
before the coming of the great and glorious day of the Lord.

21

And everyone who calls  
on the name of the Lord will be saved.'

**Pray**

**1. Take Your Stance—verses 14-16**

- A. When we are passionate about something, we should be serving in that area of ministry.
- B. Since day 1 of His calling by Jesus, Peter wanted to speak about defending the faith.
- C. Oh, he made a lot of mistakes along the way. His mouth would get ahead of his brain on more than one occasion.
- D. He spoke often without truly understanding. Look with me at some of the situations Peter got himself in.
- E. **Matthew 14:25-30—25** Shortly before dawn Jesus went out to them, walking on the lake. **26** When the disciples saw him walking on the lake, they were terrified. “It’s a ghost,” they said, and cried out in fear. **27** But Jesus immediately said to them: **“Take courage! It is I. Don’t be afraid.”** **28** “Lord, if it’s you,” Peter replied, “tell me to come to you on the water.” **29** **“Come,”** he said. Then Peter got down out of the boat, walked on the water and came toward Jesus. **30** But when he saw the wind, he was afraid and, beginning to sink, cried out, “Lord, save me!”
- F. I can imagine the scene. Peter afraid, speaking out of fear, hey Jesus, I bet you can’t make me walk on water too. Maybe the other followers were thinking, “good one Peter.”
- G. Until Jesus takes him up on his challenge.
- H. **Matthew 16:21-23—21** From that time on Jesus began to explain to his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things at the hands of the elders, the chief priests and the teachers of the law, and that he must be killed and on the third day be raised to life. **22** Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. “Never, Lord!” he said. “This shall never happen to you!” **23** Jesus turned and said to Peter, **“Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to me; you do not have in mind the concerns of God, but merely human concerns.”**
- I. Peter is scolding Jesus.
- J. Jesus quickly puts Peter in his place, not merely rebuking Peter, but to the satanic voice he surely must have been listening to.
- K. When we have the concern of God at the forefront of our mind and heart, we will not get caught up in civilian affairs. We will stop battling earthly mindsets that aren’t gaining the Kingdom projective.
- L. **Matthew 18:21-22—21** Then Peter came to Jesus and asked, “Lord, how many times shall I forgive my brother or sister who sins against me? Up to seven times?” **22** Jesus answered, **“I tell you, not seven times, but seventy-seven times.”**
- M. Peter was thinking that Jesus would be proud of his forgiving heart. But Peter was focused on his own merit.
- N. He was telling Jesus, look at me, I am a man that can forgive people over and over, but surely there has to be a limit, Lord.
- O. Thank God, Jesus gives us this answer. It really isn’t about the number of times either. It is about the willingness to be like minded in Christ.
- P. So, by the time Peter begins this amazing sermon, he has been through a lot, wouldn’t you agree?

- Q. I believe that if we are going to be who God has called us to be, we aren't going to get there in a day. It is going to be a process of ups and downs.
- R. We may even say and do crazy things that we believe are for Jesus, and they have nothing to do with him.
- S. As long as we are able to be disciplined and shaped by God, we will be better for it.
- T. You can't be who God called you to be by standing on the sidelines.
- U. That was Peter. He was not going to just stand by and let nothing happen. No! He knew that he had been called by God for such a time as this.
- V. He has the power of the Holy Spirit. He has been prayed up. He has everything going in the right direction. Now is the time to take a bold stand!
- W. **Verse 14**—While some made fun of God, Peter lets them know just exactly what is going on.
- X. You see, the Bible will give us the answers we seek. Peter the pastor says this: Fellow Jews and everyone else that is here; listen to me carefully.
- Y. **Verse 15**—No one is drunk, it is only 9 am.
- Z. **Verse 16**—What has happened here is a prophetic fulfillment of the prophet Joel.
- AA. Wow Peter! His insight is amazing, only possible through the power of the Holy Spirit.
- BB. Joel said it, and now it has come to fruition or been made manifest.

**Illustration**—Following Jesus can be something that can drive a wedge in family dynamics. Some families are torn apart over the issue of following Jesus. You just might have to take a stand in order to for them to believe Jesus is real in your life. And then, some will still not want to follow. The rejection isn't aimed at you; it is aimed at Jesus. Jesus has been rejected millions of times, and He is still seeking out people to come to a saving relationship with Him. Don't be afraid, take your stand!

**Application**—Have you had to take a stand for Jesus? Are you taking a stand for Him not because you have to, but because you want to?

## **2. Speak With Boldness—verses 17-21**

“In the last days, God says,

I will pour out my Spirit on all people.

Your sons and daughters will prophesy,

your young men will see visions,

your old men will dream dreams.

18

Even on my servants, both men and women,

I will pour out my Spirit in those days,

and they will prophesy.

19

I will show wonders in the heavens above

and signs on the earth below,

blood and fire and billows of smoke.

20

The sun will be turned to darkness  
and the moon to blood  
before the coming of the great and glorious day of the Lord.

21

And everyone who calls  
on the name of the Lord will be saved.'

- A. Peter had no problem speaking with boldness. It was very natural for him.
- B. Sometimes he said things that made no sense as we have seen already.
- C. **John 13:6-9**—**6** He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, "Lord, are you going to wash my feet?" **7** Jesus replied, "**You do not realize now what I am doing, but later you will understand.**" **8** "No," said Peter, "you shall never wash my feet." Jesus answered, "**Unless I wash you, you have no part with me.**" **9** "Then, Lord," Simon Peter replied, "not just my feet but my hands and my head as well!" **10** Jesus answered, "**Those who have had a bath need only to wash their feet; their whole body is clean. And you are clean, though not every one of you.**" **11** For he knew who was going to betray him, and that was why he said not everyone was clean.
- D. Peter should have just watched and allowed the lesson to be presented in order that he might learn.
- E. But some of the time, Peter said the most incredible statements that could only have been by the power of the Holy Spirit.
- F. **Matthew 16:13-19**—**13** When Jesus came to the region of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, "**Who do people say the Son of Man is?**" **14** They replied, "Some say John the Baptist; others say Elijah; and still others, Jeremiah or one of the prophets." **15** "**But what about you?**" he asked. "**Who do you say I am?**" **16** Simon Peter answered, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God." **17** Jesus replied, "**Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah, for this was not revealed to you by flesh and blood, but by my Father in heaven. 18 And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it. 19 I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.**"
- G. In our final few verses of our text from Acts today, we see Peter in one of his most powerful moments. Speaking the truth about the Holy Word of God.
- H. This time Peter gets it right!
- I. **Verse 17**—Peter repeats **Joel 2:28-32**. I will pour out my Spirit on all people.
- J. Peter connects Joel's prophecy with the Holy Spirit's coming and the commencement of the church. Not every detail of Joel's prophecy is yet to be fulfilled, but the "*pouring out of the Spirit*" began on the Day of Pentecost. From that time, the Holy Spirit indwells all those who come to faith in Jesus Christ.
- K. This event marked a notable difference in the Spirit's role from Old Testament times. The Holy Spirit had previously only empowered certain individuals and sometimes only for a particular period of time. On the Day of Pentecost, the 120

followers of Jesus in the Upper Room not only experienced the Holy Spirit's power but His abiding presence!

- L. Men and Women will prophesy, have visions, and dream dreams.
- M. Prophecy. Notice the spelling of Prophecy and Prophecy. 2 different words.
- N. Prophecy means to predict a future event inspired by God
- O. Prophecy means to edify the church with encouragement and strengthening.
- P. **1 Corinthians 14:3-4**—But the one who prophesies speaks to people for their strengthening, encouraging and comfort. **4** Anyone who speaks in a tongue edifies themselves, but the one who prophesies edifies the church.
- Q. We want the Spirit of God so that we may encourage each other as we are led by the Spirit.
- R. In **verse 17**, the visioning and dreaming are also part of the Spirit's outpouring. You too can have God Dreams in your life as you lead.
- S. In the Muslim world, Jesus Himself is appearing in dreams and beginning relationships to His people. It is amazing to see the Spirit of God at work.
- T. **Verse 18**—repeats the fulfillment of verse 17 again.
- U. **Verse 19-20**—Whether taken figuratively or literally, you can know this. The end times will be full of prophetic signs and unnatural things that we aren't used to seeing.
- V. The Day of the Lord, which will be a day unlike any other day, is not going to be a good day for some. We must never take for granted the peace that God offers. It is all that we have to escape the coming path.
- W. God will have His day of Judgement on the world. It isn't a popular subject to preach on. Many pastors avoid it like the plague.
- X. But as we see the details of the end of times, the last days, we know God will be in full vengeance mode.
- Y. **Romans 12:17-19**—**17** Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everyone. **18** If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone. **19** Do not take revenge, my dear friends, but leave room for God's wrath, for it is written: "It is mine to avenge; I will repay," says the Lord.
- Z. Every word, deed, and error that was against the God of this Universe will be avenged.
- AA. Where does that leave us?
- BB. **Verse 21**—And everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved!
- CC. If you are scared for the end of the world and what it will be like, it is time to place your faith, your trust, your life, in the saving grace of Jesus the Christ.

**Illustration**—This sermon by Peter is just the start of the church with new Spiritual power. Peter was just quoting Scripture throughout His sermon. We need to have more pastors who are not ashamed of the Gospel. We need the next pastor of Sierra Vista to a pastor who will boldly proclaim JESUS!

**Application**—So I ask you today: Are you prepared for the Lord's Return? Do you believe that judgement is coming? What will it take for you to believe in the Lord Jesus Christ as your personal Lord and Savior? When he returns, it will be too late. Choose Jesus now!