

COMMON FOLK

-Ryan Parsons-

Acts 4:13

Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were uneducated, common men, they were astonished. And they recognized that they had been with Jesus.

Following the day of Pentecost, Peter and John began doing some gospel ministry in the temple courts. The religious leaders caught wind of this, and it might be an understatement to say, but they didn't like it. As a result, Peter and John were arrested, detained, and questioned. In response to this, it says that Peter, who was filled with the Holy Spirit, spoke, and it was a jaw-dropper. The religious big-wigs were intimidated. Ordinary men were throwing down with the religious elite, and it was clear that what was exuding from their lives wasn't natural.

We know that this is all by the power of God in Peter and John. We have studied these things many times. But have we made the connection that this same presence of the Holy Spirit is for us too? We receive this gift when we are immersed into Christ (Acts 2:38), and it is supposed to fill us (Acts 13:52; Ephesians 5:18; Romans 5:5; 1 Corinthians 6:19; 2 Timothy 1:14) and transform us (Galatians 5:22-23). In the same way God used common folk to fulfill his mission back then, he can use common folk today for his glory. But, it is only possible by his spirit.

The questions for us are this:

- Are we truly FILLED with the spirit?
- Is your boldness for Jesus evident in your life?
- Is the contrast between who you were and who you have become so different that people scratch their heads in astonishment?
- When someone looks at you, are they sure you have spent time with Jesus?

These are challenging questions!

God, fill us with your spirit. Transform us into the image of your son. Use us for your glory. May the world see you and your power when they look at our lives.

In the name of Jesus, we pray. Amen!