What is the Gospel? The Good News of the Holy Spirit (Acts 2)

According to the book of Acts, shortly after Christ rose from the grave and ascended into Heaven, his disciples were gathered together (probably for prayer and worship – see Luke 24:50 – 53 and Acts 2:1 - 6)[1]. Suddenly a hurricane-like wind from heaven overcame them and they were filled with the Holy Spirit. From that moment miraculous things began to happen in the newly born Christian Church as it grew and spread like wild fire across the planet. In his maiden sermon to the Jewish crowd at the feast of Pentecost, the Apostle Peter spoke of the Holy Spirit as God's promised gift to all who confess their sins and profess Jesus Christ as their Lord. Who is the Holy Spirit and what should we expect him to be doing in our lives, church, and world today? Read the following passages from Acts 2 and explain what they teach us about the various works and powers of the Holy Spirit. Also take time to reflect on any evidence you have seen of the Holy Spirit working in these ways.

- Read Acts 2:1 – 21. Describe how the Holy Spirit empowered, equipped and helped these ordinary people with supernatural gifts, signs, and wonders.

- Read Acts 2:22 – 36. How does the Spirit testify to the fact that Jesus Christ is alive and at work in the world?

- Read Acts 2:37 – 41. What role does the Holy Spirit play in saving sinners?

- Read Acts 2:42 – 47. Explain the role of the Holy Spirit in adopting us as God's children and drawing us together as his family.

[1] The book of Acts is part 2 of Luke's two-part work: Luke-Acts (see Luke 1:1 – 4 and Acts 1:1 -2). After giving us some important background and details in Acts 1, Acts 2 seems to pick up where Luke 24:53 left off.