



Week 2 | September 23 Sermon

Community:

These questions are designed to help your groupies take one next step in being real with each other. Choose for the group, let each person choose a question, or cut them out, put them in a bowl & draw them out at random! However you use them, they'll definitely help you learn things about each other you didn't know.

Are you a hugger or a non-hugger? Why?

Are you more of a rule breaker or a ruler keeper? Why?

How much of a bargain hunter are you? Explain.

If you had to change your first name, what name would you choose?

If you were able to listen to only one music album ever again, what would it be and why?

If you could relive any year of your life, what year would you choose? Why?



Sermon Title: The Spiritual Explosion at Pentecost | Text: Acts 2:1-47

Sanctuary Discussion Questions::

Please read Acts 2. What does the Holy Spirit prompt in you as you read/listen to this passage of Scripture?

Kevin used a quote from the book *Surprised by the Voice of God*: "Every chapter of Acts except Chapter 17 reveals an example of a reference to supernatural revelatory communication of God to His servants" (pp. 53-54).

Where do you see this in Acts 2?

What was the result?

Has the Lord ever spoken to you in a "supernatural revelatory" manner? If so, how did you respond?

In 2:4, what entered the room visibly then entered them personally: they were filled with the Holy Spirit. Their emptiness was filled. The Lord Jesus took them where they were, as they were: broken, empty yet somehow hopeful people who needed to be convinced by His presence without, so that they could receive His presence within. Here (2:4) the word filled (epleroson in Greek) means that, as a container is filled with water, so their minds were actually energized by/with the Holy Spirit. New emotions were released and new "thinking and acting" was engendered.

Have you ever been filled as Acts 2:4 describes? If so, will you share your experience? If not, do you desire this kind of "in-filling?"

Sanctuary Discussion Questions, continued::

Kevin described the difference between a “peg community” and an “ethical community” with the unpacking of 2:42-47. Scripture has nothing to say about “peg community” where we gather because of shared opinions. The church is to be the “ethical community” which the Spirit builds. A “peg community” is a place we go to “feel good.” An “ethical community” is a place we go to live, love, submit, share...and die (“that is, pick up a cross daily and follow ME (Jesus)”).

What kind of community do you prefer? Why? What does this reveal about you?

Are you reading a chapter of Acts each day? (last week, chapters 16-23)? If so, what is the Spirit saying to you? Are you obeying?

Could you pray for each other? Would you pray for “more Holy Spirit in-filling” so that you are willing to live this week as a “sent one?”

*Let us think of ways to motivate one another to acts of love and good works. And let us not neglect our meeting together, as some people do, but encourage one another, especially now that the day of his return is drawing near. **Hebrews 10:24-25***

GROUPS

Auditorium Discussion Questions::

"Explosion begets Expansion." Tom touched on several Biblical characters who experienced some kind of "explosive" event or circumstances which moved them where God wanted them to be. Have you ever experienced a life explosion" (could be spiritual or circumstantial) that God used to bring about "expansion" in your spirit, relationships, or life? Would you be willing to share?

God was "Blowing up Division to Expand Diversity" among the first believers in the book of Acts. Men, women, Jews, Gentiles, priests and commoners who would be separated in Jewish religious culture were meeting and praying "all together." How do you see God breaking down divisions in the body of Christ today? Do you see healthy ways in which diversity is growing in our midst?

God was "Blowing up Tradition to Expand Transformation" in the early church. In your own spiritual journey, have you experienced religious "traditions" that actually turned out to be hindrances to your spiritual transformation? Can you describe any experiences of letting go of traditions that led to a deeper relationship with Christ and others?

God was "Blowing up Propriety to Expand Praise & Prayer." If you grew up in a church tradition, would you say worship you were taught was free, loud, and expressive or was it strict, starched, and proper? How do you think the traditions you grew up with have influenced your own personal expressions of worship as an adult? Tom gave several scriptural examples of God's desire for worship to be physical and vocal. Does that excite you or scare you?

Have you been reading a chapter of Acts each day? Be honest (you're in a safe place): Are you getting anything from it? If you've been getting something out of it, please share what Holy Spirit has been teaching you, impressing upon you, or lifting for you from the daily reading.