

September 24/25, 2005

Study Questions

The Unstoppable Church

God In Us

Acts 2:14-36

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Opening Discussion

1. How big is God? What are some ways to describe or understand the vastness of God and His power?
2. Imagine that same God pouring His presence and power into an organization to accomplish the mission statement of that organization. What words might you use to describe that organization?

Would anyone notice a difference now that God is running the organization? Why or why not?

3. Are those the same words people use to describe the Church today? Are people clearly aware that the Church is empowered by the person and presence of God? Why or why not?

Bible Study

1. Review the events of Acts 2:1-13. What are the reactions of the people observing the scene? Why?

2. Read Acts 2:14-21. How do we define the “last days” according to this text?

See also I Peter 1:20 and Hebrews 1:2. Are we in the “last days?” How might this affect our understanding of the urgency of our mission?

3. Peter quotes from Joel 2:28-32 to explain the events of Pentecost as recorded by Luke. Compare what Joel prophesied with what Jesus said in Acts 1:8. What happened at Pentecost, and why did it happen?
4. What does Peter confront His audience with in Acts 2:22-36? Outline Peter’s case that is summarized in verse 36.
5. What transpired at Pentecost was not merely the beginning of a religious movement. It was not a reorganization of Judaism. It was the miraculous fulfillment of Jesus’ promise to literally indwell His people and empower them to accomplish the mission. The Church is literally a God-empowered organism assigned the task of changing the world through the proclamation of the Gospel of Jesus. Is that how you view the Church? Why or why not?

6. The Church of Jesus Christ is made up of individual followers of Jesus who are indwelt with the presence and power of Jesus. There is no way the Church corporate is going to reflect the power and presence of Jesus if each follower of Jesus doesn't first reflect that power and presence individually. In what ways do you see that power and presence in effect in your own daily life?

Why do you think we sometimes fail to live out the reality of God in us?

Do people ever look at you in amazement and wonder as they did the believers at Pentecost? Why or why not? Do we have any less of the power and presence of the Spirit of Jesus than they had?

Application

1. What will be necessary for you to experience more of the power and presence of Jesus in your life?
2. What should that power and presence of God in your life look like on a daily basis?

What should be the result according to Acts 1:8?

3. Are there people in your life that model the power and presence of God in their lives? In what way?

What can you learn from them?