

The Way of the Early Church, Part 1: Rely on the Holy Spirit

Remember, small groups are primarily for growing closer relationships with other believers. We can learn wonderful things in this environment but keep relationships first.

- Make sure everyone knows each other's names. Have everyone share a little about themselves and how life is going right now.
- **The Way of the Early Church**
 - In this series we will unlock several powerful eternal principles that we need in order to see God do mighty things!
 - Intro to Acts:
 - Written by Luke. **Luke 1:1-4, Acts 1:1-2**
 - This was a simpler time. No baggage. But it wasn't perfect by any means.
 - Now that we are in a more complicated time with lots of baggage:
 - We can't go back. But we can take some of the great things from back then and apply them to now.
- **Part 1: Rely on the Holy Spirit**
- Before we get into the Book of Acts, I want to read two Scriptures:
 - **Zechariah 4:6 and Psalms 127:1**
 - What would your life be like if you really totally believed these verses?
- Today's Way of the Early Church: Rely on the Holy Spirit!
- **Acts 1:4-8**
 - "You will receive power" means we can move beyond just what we can do. Being empowered by the Holy Spirit opens us up to what God can do! Do you have any testimonies?
 - We go from good ideas to God ideas!
 - We go from our strength to God's power!
- **Acts 2:1-12** shows how this played out in the short term.
 - What, do you go take a class on how to make that happen????!???
 - This was a God moment that they were simply open to and available for!
- How to rely on the Holy Spirit:
 - It's not that we do things for God, but we make ourselves available for God to do things through us and we set the stage for God to do mighty things! (Have you ever gotten that backwards?)
 - How do you make yourself available?
 - I see four things: believe, be there, listen, and obey. What else?
 - How do we set the stage? Like in a church setting.
 - How about: pray, glorify the Lord, make room, be available. What else?
- This miracle at Pentecost was confusing to most of the people there. So Peter explains the whole thing, that prophecy is being fulfilled, that Jesus is the Christ, and that he rose from the grave!
- Peter finishes with **Acts 2:36-41**.
- Who crucified Jesus?
 - Sure, physically it was the Romans under the pressure of the Jews.
 - But spiritually, Jesus died for you. He died for me. He was no victim of the Romans or the Jews.
 - I have a piece of crucifying Jesus. You do to.
 - Miss that and you miss something profound.
 - So, who crucified Jesus?
 - 3,000 people accepted the message and were baptized that day.
 - They stepped into perfect forgiveness. They stepped into a life of walking with, serving, and relying on God.
 - How about you? Are you in?
- Pray for each other before you finish up!