Small Group/Sermon Notes based on "Miracles: Part 2"

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.
- Do you believe in miracles? Have you experienced any or know others who have?
    - Our God is not passive, inactive, or asleep. He intervenes in this world!
    - In this series we are going to look at categories of miracles so that we understand the sorts of things that God does. Then we will believe God to intervene in our lives!
- **Part Two: Baptized in the Holy Spirit**
    - This miracle is a spiritual heart transplant plus a skill infusion!
        - Note: the following is just a quick touch on a huge topic.
- No side issue: many many Scriptures point to the baptism in the Holy Spirit.
    - **Matthew 3:11-12**
    - **Mark 1:6-8**
    - **Luke 3:15-17**
    - **John 1:32-34**
    - **Acts 1:3-9**
- And then this happens:
    - **Acts 2:1-21**
        - This is the Great Commission in microcosm.
    - Peter gives a long speech. This is the Peter who 50 days before was hitting people in the head with swords and denying Jesus. Peter has a different Spirit about him now!!
        - The speech boils down to: **Acts 2:36-39.**
- So, let's talk about the Baptism in the Holly Spirit.
    - BIG DEAL: This isn't about doctrine, or style, or who is better than who. It is about God's power to change your heart and give you abilities to serve Him.
        - The heart change is called "The Fruit of the Spirit." Read **Galatians 5:22-23.**
        - The skill empowerment is called "Gifts of the Spirit." Read **Romans 12:6-8.**
    - Which is more important do you think, fruit or gifts?
        - Discuss this in light of the following Scriptures:
            - **1 Corinthians 13:1-3.**
            - **Matthew 7:18-23.**
        - Without the fruit of the spirit, the gifts do harm.
            - The contradiction of the ugly hearted Christian. Have you met people like that?
                - This could be the most destructive thing to the Kingdom of God.
                - Discuss this contradiction in light of **Romans 8:9.**
    - Put your effort into receiving the Holy Spirit.
        - Don't try to love your enemies or speak in tongues merely on your own strength. You need God's help! Have you gone down this road? What was it like?
            - Trying to do this without God's power is just weird and futile.
            - **Galatians 3:3.**
        - However, you have a part to play.
            - Don't blame God's sovereignty for your lack of spiritual growth!
            - **2 Timothy 1:6-7.**
            - How does one go about "fanning into flames the gift of God?"
    - The main thing is to believe and ask.
    - **Luke 11:9-13.**
        - Go ahead and knock.
- Pray for each other before you finish up!