

The Way of the Early Church, Part 10: Stuck in Transition

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 unlock several powerful eternal principles in order to see God do mighty things!
- **This Week: Stuck in Transition**
- A couple of weeks ago we talked about the New Covenant.
 - No longer the letter of the law but we are saved by grace and follow the Spirit of the law!
- Today we look at a couple of situations where people needed help making the full transition.
- Apollos. **Acts 18:24-28**
 - Apollos was tearing it up!! But he could still have a "more adequate" understanding!
 - Did Apollos get mad? How about Priscilla and Aquilla?
- 12 "other" disciples. **Acts 19:1-7**
 - Practically speaking, how many Christians don't know much about the Holy Spirit?
 - Did these 12 resist Paul's message?
- Now let's look at the 3 part transition from the Old Covenant to the New Covenant: John the Baptist, Jesus, and The Holy Spirit.
 - John the Baptist describes all three steps in **Matthew 3:1-3, 11**.
 - John prepares the way for Jesus. Jesus sends the Holy Spirit.
 - John represents repentance.
 - Jesus represents forgiveness and love.
 - The Holy Spirit represents power and guidance.
 - Jesus describes the ministry of the spirit in **John 7:37-39, John 14:25-26**.
 - What the Holy Spirit does is in **Acts 1:8** and **1 Corinthians 12:4-13**.
 - What if you missed one or more of those steps?
- The examples of Apollos and the group in Ephesus indicate that good followers of God don't automatically put all of the pieces together. They can be missing something. (Not always the Holy Spirit part either!)
 - Note: all three are woven together and can individually ebb and flow.
- What if you are missing one or two of the three steps? Discuss the following examples:
 - Repentance without forgiveness.
 - Forgiveness without repentance.
 - Repentance and forgiveness without the fullness of the Holy Spirit.
 - Have the Holy Spirit but repentance has long since left!
- Other topics of note relating to the Holy Spirit:
 - The Holy Spirit interacts with everyone, not just the super spiritual.
 - When you ignore the still small voice it gets quieter and quieter.
 - Following the Spirit is essential for living the New Covenant life, but:
 - Know your Bible so you can tell when you are off!!
- Is there a step into the New Covenant that you are missing?
 - True Repentance? Very important but don't stay there!
 - Forgiveness and love? Jesus loves you and forgiveness is there for the asking!
 - The power and guidance of the Holy Spirit? Supernatural power to live the Christian life!
 - Also there for the asking! **Luke 11:9-13**
 - It's time to ask.
- Pray for each other before you finish up!