

What the “New Normal” Can Never Change

Acts 2:1-4

Lessons from the isolated: Paul, Joseph, Hannah, the Samaritan leper, Stephen

The “New Normal”

- Life after 9-11
- Our “new normal” will be different, but we’ve no reason to fear

Pentecost – the Holy Spirit came upon the first disciples to propel them into the world for Jesus

Pentecost shows us that whatever the “new normal” is, some things will never change

1. We are filled with God’s Presence

- God’s presence in the Old Testament symbolized by the Tent of Meeting and the Jerusalem Temple
- God’s presence in the Old Testament distinguished God’s people from all the other nations
- The Tent of Meeting and the Temple were shadows of the greater reality: Jesus is the supreme expression of God’s presence

John 1:14; Hebrews 1:3; Colossians 2:9
John 1:14 – “made his dwelling among us”

- What about us? John 14:16-17

We become the dwelling place of God by the Holy Spirit

1 Corinthians 3:17; 6:19
The Church is not “closed”!

2. We are empowered to live the Christian life

- The Sermon on the Mount is impossible without God’s Spirit

Story of Henry Warner
Romans 8:11-13

- We’re not instantly perfected, but we are spiritually infected.

Galatians 5:22-23 (Fruit of the Spirit)
Story about speaking to airline customer service

3. We are commissioned to declare God’s Glory

- Acts 1:8 and Acts 2:11
- Peter’s sermon is the Gospel
Acts 2:23 (Cross); Acts 2:24 (Resurrection); Acts 2:33 (Ascension); Acts 2:33 (Gift of the Spirit); Acts 2:36 (Jesus is Lord and Christ)

What was the first act of the Church?

How will we respond?

- Is our love for Jesus past or present?
- Jesus doesn't want to be part of your life, he wants to be your life
- Isaiah 64:1, "Oh, Lord, that you would rend the heavens and come down."