

Message-based Study

Teacher: Billy Burch

Connection

Reflecting on the first church you attended, what is one word that describes what you experienced there?

Cheer and Challenge

- How did it go living out your "I will..." statement from last week? Share your experience.
- Tell about any experiences you had this week following through on the B.L.E.S.S. challenge.

Content

Jesus in you, through the Holy Spirit, is the catalyst for meaningful, vast, and synergistic Kingdom movement. After all, this is what Jesus prayed for.

1. Read John 14:16-17. As you reflect on this passage, understand that Jesus' listeners knew very little about this "Holy Spirit" who was coming to them. What words or phrases in these verses would have been thrilling for them to hear? Why?

2. The Assignment (Acts 1:1-12)

Resurrection: During the 40 days following His resurrection, Jesus walked the earth. What did He spend His time doing during those days? (Verses 2-5)

Go back over the things you listed above, noting how each would have been valuable for the disciples.

3. **Commission:** Write a succinct summary of the assignment given to Jesus' followers right before He left them (verse 8):

4. **Ascension:** What do you imagine the disciples were thinking and feeling as they watched Jesus ascending into the clouds?

5. In verse 10, angels appear on the scene to snap the disciples out of their nostalgia about the “good old days” and to prompt them to get on with the new assignment they had been given.

Sometimes there are seasons in your church experience when you are tempted to long for the “good old days” instead of embracing God’s work for you in a new season. Have you experienced that? Or are you experiencing that now? If so, describe it.

Have you moved beyond that nostalgia and into God’s current assignment? If so, how? If not, what is holding you back?

6. **The Power (Acts 2:1-4)**

Read Acts 2:1-4, looking for the details of how the Holy Spirit came. List these below. What do you think the Lord was conveying through these manifestations?

7. **The Result (Acts 2:41-47)**

In the “Connect” question on the previous page you came up with a word to describe your first church experience. As you read Acts 2:41-47, come up with some words to describe what this church experience was marked by.

Commitment

Challenge Question: In your church involvement today are you a... (circle one in each pair):

Renter - or - Owner

Consumer - or - Contributor

Spectator - or - Player

Pray...Look...Do: Spend some time in prayer right now. Ask God to help you **find** and **do** your part in our church during this specific season. After you have prayed, record your next action step below:

“I will _____.”



Begin with prayer. Listen with care. Eat / Engage with another. Serve. Share your story.

Pray that the Lord will use your involvement in our church to enable more people to come to know Him.