

Defining Moments – Acts 2:1-13

Looking back on your life can you identify some defining moments that altered the trajectory of your life?

Name them - _____

What about defining “God” moments, where God showed up in a very real way and you knew that your life would never be the same?

Name them - _____

For me, the defining “God” moments in my life all happened in community w/other believers. They all happened while intentionally engaging in what we call inward, upward, our outward transformative experiences.

I believe God most often shows up in mighty ways when His people come together to corporately seek His transformative work in their lives! Why?

B/c God is passionate about making His presence known & receiving glory, and the more widespread His presence is revealed, **the more widespread the response of corporate praise will be.** **Psalm 22:3**

The disciples had such a defining moment in Acts 2 on the day of Pentecost!

- What was the significance of this day historically?
- Why was this day so fitting for what God was about to do?

God was faithful in keeping His promise to the disciples, but **Jesus’ disciples were also faithful in putting themselves in the proper place to receive it.**

Do you long to see God’s promises come to fruition? Do you long to see answers to your prayer? Do you long to see God work in mighty ways?

Then put yourself in environments where God normally shows up & surround yourself with people who God has committed Himself to.

Why are you here this morning? Why are you a part of a Bible Study or small group? Why do you serve in a ministry & share your faith with others?

Is it not because you believe that God is going to show up & be at work in & through your life as you do so? Is it not because you believe that it makes a difference, not only in your life, but also in carrying out God’s ultimate plan of redemption in this world? **What we do matters!**

The disciples did not forsake meeting together, they did not forsake worshipping in the Temple, they did not forsake corporate prayer – **they believed in God and their actions backed up their profession!**

And God showed up!!! **Vs. 2 - “And suddenly there came from heaven...”**
- This experience of God on Pentecost was both unique and common!

- ***It was unique in the sense that the Holy Spirit was poured out upon the disciples in a new way!***

This was not the first appearance of the Holy Spirit, but it was the first time the Holy Spirit was poured out in this way, and for this purpose!

- ***It was unique in the sense of what followed – they spoke in tongues!***

People from all over the known world, who were in Jerusalem, heard the disciples speaking in their own native language! (vs. 7-8).

This was an exclusive event, and it should be understood as such!

- ***It was common in the sense of how God often reveals His presence!***

Wind and fire are often the images associated with God’s presence!

- ***It was common in that this movement of God’s Spirit resulted in amazement & astonishment (vs. 7).***

Yes, some thought it was a result of intoxication, but **others recognized it for what it truly was – an act of God!** This is equally true today!

- ***It was common in that the result of this movement of God’s Spirit brought about the proclamation of the mighty works of God (vs. 11).***

Whether it is passed down verbally, or in written form, **God always provides for the ongoing testimony of His mighty works throughout history!**

How is He doing that through you today, through us? Acts 2 describes a unique event in history, but what it brought about is an ongoing reality!

Pentecost ushered in a reversal of the Tower of Babel! It also points to the already/not yet reality of our day! **The same God is at work today, with the same objective - to draw His people from all nations to Himself!** *How are we positioning ourselves to play a part of this great purpose in our day?*

5-13-18 Defining Moments – Acts 2:1-13

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