

## 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?*

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Here are some questions for this week to be thinking about based upon the sermon and Episode 3 of A.D.

- 1) Looking back on your life can you identify some defining moments that altered the trajectory of your life?
- 2) 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?
- 3) What did you know about Pentecost prior to this sermon? What did you learn?
- 4) Why was Pentecost an appropriate time for God to pour out the Holy Spirit and birth the Church?
- 5) Why was what transpired in Act 2:1-13 a unique event? (Meaning there has been nothing like it prior to that time and nothing like it since!)
- 6) Why was what transpired in Acts 2:1-13 a common event? (Meaning that it was consistent with the way God normally makes His presence know and takes action!)
- 7) Why does what we do as Christians matter in the big picture of God's glorious plan of redemption?
- 8) What part are we intended to play in God's plan and how can we position ourselves in environments where God can and will use us?
- 9) Why are the events that transpired in Acts 2:1-13 a reversal of the Tower of Babel in the book of Genesis? And why is this significant?

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