

Home Group Questions

the week of 1/19/2020

Acts 2:1-13

THE CHURCH IS BORN

GETTING STARTED...

This past Sunday, Pastor Mel continued his series on the book of Acts by talking about the birth of the church in Acts chapter 2. This was a major event in the history of redemption, and marks a major transition from the Old Covenant to the New Covenant and the "new thing" the Lord initiated through the creation of His "ekklesia" (church)!

LOOKING IN THE WORD...

1. Read Acts 2:1-13. Discuss this passage together. What do you believe are the reasons for the miracles that occurred at the birth of the church? What do the tongues seem to signify? What about the sound of a mighty rushing wind? Discuss the significance of the apostles speaking in other human languages and people hearing in their own language? What does this signify concerning the heart of God to reach the world? This event is referred to by Jesus in Acts 1:5 as the baptism of the Spirit. Pastor Mel discussed the fact that at the transition to the church, this baptism occurred as a second event in the life of believers but from this point on, would occur at the moment of salvation. (Read 1 Corinthians 12:12-13). There are brother and sisters in Christ who belong to "charismatic" denominations that believe the baptism of the Holy Spirit should be a second experience in the life of a believer. These folks are still brothers and sisters in Christ but we do differ with that interpretation of the the baptism of the Spirit. What occurs in the book of Acts should not be interpreted as normative for the body of Christ (an event as a second experience) due to the unique transition that was happening between the Old Covenant (Israel being central) and the New Covenant (the church being central). Discuss experiences that you may have

had in this theological arena with other Christians. As pastor, I want to encourage us to be loving to those who see the baptism of the Spirit as a second experience after salvation. There are some who attend Riverview who believe this way and they are loved at our church. We simply ask that this doctrinal difference not become a point of divisive contention.

2. Read the following quote from a Christian author:

"We can conclude the following:

- 1. The baptism with the Holy Spirit occurs the moment a person is saved. It is not the same experience as salvation but happens at the time of salvation. It is not a second experience following conversion.**
- 2. God has given believers everything in Christ. When we are saved we are complete in Him. We lack nothing. There is nothing else for Him to give to us.**
- 3. Nowhere are believers commanded to receive any second blessing that would give them power. All power is already available.**
- 4. The power of the Holy Spirit working in a person's life is something that should be desired. Some who have legitimately experienced the Spirit's power label the encounter as the baptism with the Holy Spirit whereas the Scripture calls this experience the filling of the Holy Spirit. As previously mentioned, everything has been provided for us upon conversion. We only need to appropriate what God has already done for us."**

Again, this position reflects the position of Riverview Church but we realize that there are those who believe differently about the Baptism of the Spirit and, in spite of differences on this doctrine, we love having them worship here with us and serve here at the church. Discuss this as a group and talk about how we can maturely fellowship with brothers and sisters who believe differently in non-essential doctrines of our faith in a way that honors Christ!

MOVING FORWARD...

Pray that we would all walk under the power of the Holy Spirit!