



Acts: Encountering for Empowering

Date: Sunday 11th October

Speaker: Jon Solway

Key Verses: Acts 2:1-4, 17-18 and Acts 4:23-31

Talk Summary:

- Through reading the gospels, the disciples that Jesus chose were very 'human'. They were argumentative, cowardly, critical, deserters, doubtful, faithless, greedy, prayerless, revengeful, unforgiving and unloving. But through an encounter with the Holy Spirit at Pentecost, they were radically changed and empowered.
- They were hungry for the Holy Spirit. They waited in the upper room, as Jesus had told them to do. They waited and sought after God until they received the Holy Spirit.
- This encounter enabled them to be bold and courageous, immediately sharing the gospel to everyone near them.
- As Peter says in Acts 2:17 (quoting the prophet Joel), the Holy Spirit is available to ALL people, and that includes ALL of us. Don't disqualify yourself!
- The Holy Spirit guides us, comforts us and encourages us, but He also isn't just for ourselves. He wants to empower us to be able to fulfil the Great Commission that Jesus commanded (Matthew 28:18-20).
- Even in the midst of persecution and difficulty, the disciples remained hungry and open to the Holy Spirit, and they continually encountered the Holy Spirit through seeking Him in difficult situations. We too should remain hungry in the midst of difficulty, always reliant on God and expectant to meet with Him.
- Come Holy Spirit!

Worship

Worship is not just singing, it is thanking God for who he is and what he has done and is lived out through a life of trusting obedience. Discussing this together is an act of worship.

(Small group worship resources can be found at bvc.so/sgworship)

- What are you thankful for this week?
- Where has God been at work in your life?
- When have you taken risks in faith and obedience this week?

If you have a time of singing you can skip the above questions but please do ask this question each week:

- What has God been speaking to you about this week? *(Go around the group quickly don't spend a long time on it)*

Discussion Questions (choose some which are most relevant to your group)

- How does the story of the disciples in the first few chapters of Acts inspire you?
- Have you encountered the Holy Spirit? How has the Holy Spirit helped you in a time of difficulty?
- How can we position ourselves to be constantly filled with the Spirit and not 'dry up'? Has anyone got any helpful tips and rhythms that help you to encounter the Holy Spirit through this current difficult situation of the past 6 months?

Witness

We want to be investing in authentic relationships with those who don't know Jesus yet and inviting them to anything where they might meet other Christians and Jesus.

- How would you share what you have learned with a non-church friend?
- What church events coming up would your friends appreciate an invitation to?

Note to Small Group Leaders: Please note that if you'd like to review the sermon, or have a hard time following the video, you can use subtitles on YouTube. On the YouTube video, click the "closed captioning" button (bottom left of YouTube video screen, first button). Google "how to show subtitles on YouTube videos" if you need help with this.