

**Acts Week 11 | Walking with God**  
**Redemption Hill Church | Simon Murphy**  
**Sunday 5th April 2009**

**Acts 8.26 – 40:** 2000 years ago there was a tiny group of 120 peasant slaves that had no political power, economic power, educational power but in 2 centuries this small group who believed in the death and resurrection of Jesus had swept up millions of people in a joy and peace they had never known. Became the leading force in a society that was falling apart to such a degree that the ruling emperor at the time had to concede that this indeed was a Christian society, because it was the Christians who were holding the society together.

**Why did this happen?** Christianity wasn't a new ideology. Not a new fangled philosophy like the enjoyed talking about on Mars Hill in Athens day after day. It's not like communism! Sounds great at the time but it only takes 100 years to pass! **It was because people were reconciled with God.** Not a philosophy, not a thought system, but a person! Christians lives are different because they have a relationship with the living God. Not something you can try. It's something that **happens** to you as you recognize that you are sinful, God is Sov / Holy, Jesus is Saviour.

Our Christianity makes us alive to God. 1 Peter 3.18: Christ suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order that he might bring us to God. And Christians are those who have been brought to God!

Therefore our faith is not intellectual, it's deeply experiential. The means of our fellowship with God is the Holy Spirit. We are serving the Living God. There seems to be

The angels had announced 'God with us' and now Jesus was saying that something even better was here. (John 16) Can we see God's abiding presence with us in this way? That it is better that Jesus went away!

Christians don't just abide by a higher standard and have a better example! Jesus death was His life's work and focus, not his example. If you have just lived your life trying to follow the teachings of Jesus and imitate his life but never come to Him, you aren't a Christian.

This is the promise of God for every believer. This is a part of our sanctification and the fruits of our new birth. We are alive to God and should walk with Him. This is why the world was turned upside down. Many have said that Acts is not the 'Acts of the Apostles' but the Acts of the Holy Spirit.

**We see this in Acts - God with us!**

Peter preaches, clearly full of the Spirit and the people are cut to their heart and 3000 were saved.

Stephen was full of the Spirit doing great signs and wonders among the people.

Peter has an angel lead him out of prison in Acts 12.

Paul is in Prison in Acts 16, at midnight singing hymns and praying, an earthquake opens the gates!

10.38: Jesus was anointed with the Holy Spirit and power, he went around doing good and healing all who were under the power of the devil, because God was with him. Now lets note that it doesn't say that 'he was God' but that God was with him. And God is with us.

**Longing of people: Psalms 34.8, 42, 63, 84 | Job 42.5 (We have this in New Cov)**

**Some of the finest moments of my life have been in intimacy / hearing His voice.**

**Lets have a look and see some of the work of the Holy Spirit in Acts:**

**1. Acts 8.26 | Are you close enough to hear Him?**

**1 Samuel 3.4| My sheep know my voice – John 10.4**

**Matthew 1.23 – John 167 – Acts 10.38 – Romans 7.6** | Some don't see God as a Father

**Paul in Acts 16.7** 'Spirit of Jesus did not allow them to'. **Tarryn traffic lights and my job!**

Acts Phillip! This was being led by the Spirit and led to evangelism. Also Paul was led by the Spirit as where to go and where not to go.

**God speaks to us!** We are His children! God says he will be our Father.

**And that we will know Him.** This is the promise of the New Covenant, Hebrews 8.

**He gives us directions!** A test of obedience and faith! He is God! We have to listen! Adam and Eve. Would he follow God? A faith test! Are you available to be used by God?

**Remarkable things happen!** But we need to be walking with God!

16.7: The Holy Spirit prevented them travelling to some areas. The Holy Spirit called them to other areas

20.22: Paul travelled under the compulsion of the Spirit, the Spirit compelled him.

## **2. Acts 8.26 | Can He tell you what to do?**

If there is no contradiction, your god is figment of your imagination. And no relationship.

**The utter inconvenience of this!**

## **3. Acts 8.30, 37-40 | Is there evidence of God in your life?**

Some pretty remarkable things can happen! Now we are not asked to pursue these things but we shouldn't be totally surprised when they happen!

Surprisingly the results of walking with God are very similar to what the Bible reveals His will to be! People are saved! Come to know Him!

Often we want the Holy Spirit and God to change the world but we aren't willing to let Him have access into our own lives. The benchmark for spirituality is not the gifts we got, but the fruit we have. Signs of God's work in our lives are fruit, not free gifts we got.

The Spirit's work in our lives is primary to reveal Christ, make Him real to us, convict us of sin etc. And then it naturally bears fruit as we draw near to God, because by the Spirit we are transformed into His image (2 Cor 3.18).

Results of God's word: His Kingdom is built both **IN** us and **THROUGH** us.

**OUTSIDE:** Kingdom, Men saved, God's Kingdom coming – **Divine Dealings**

**INSIDE:** Fruit, like Jesus (2 Cor 3.18) and Gal 5.17

***“Often we want the God to change the world around us and work through us but we don't allow access to the Holy Spirit deep into our own lives.”***

Grew up, Grandfather loved gardening. Replant Trees. You can't tell immediately if it's healthy.

How you talk to wife, do business dealings, spend your money on. **Indicators / Fruit.**

**Jeremiah 7.4** 'do not trust in these deceptive words; 'this is the temple of the Lord.. will you steal, murder, commit adultery, swear falsely, go after other gods and then come and stand before me in this house and say 'we are delivered! Has this house become a den of robbers?'

**Hebrews 3.7-12:** "Evil, unbelieving heart" – we draw near **by believing in Jesus**. Else we run!