



## Life Group Study Notes

### “The Path (KNOW): Added to the Church”

Ps. Carol Fidler - June 9, 2019

#### **Warm Up (10-15 minutes)**

**Choose a question to answer, or ask another. No right or wrong answers.**

- If you were to start a club, what would it be about?
- As a youth, were you a part of a sports team or club or some other group? What was it?
- Are you a fan of any sports team? If so, how do you express your passion?

#### **Word (10-15 minutes)**

**Sermons can be heard online at [www.bethelworld.org](http://www.bethelworld.org)**

*Acts 2:32-47 ESV “This Jesus God raised up, and of that we all are witnesses. Being therefore exalted at the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, he has poured out this that you yourselves are seeing and hearing. For David did not ascend into the heavens, but he himself says, ‘The Lord said to my Lord, “Sit at my right hand, until I make your enemies your footstool.”’ Let all the house of Israel therefore know for certain that God has made him both Lord and Christ, this Jesus whom you crucified.”*

*Now when they heard this they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, “Brothers, what shall we do?” And Peter said to them, “Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is for you and for your children and for all who are far off, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to himself.” And with many other words he bore witness and continued to exhort them, saying, “Save yourselves from this crooked generation.” So those who received his word were baptized, and there were added that day about three thousand souls.*

*And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. And awe came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. And all who believed were together and had all things in common. And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need. And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved.*

## **Orchestration**

God orchestrated the events leading up to what many have referred to as the birth of the New Testament church. Jesus had risen from the dead after being punished for the sins of the world. He instructed his disciples to pray and wait for the outpouring of his Spirit to empower them to be his effective witnesses. By God's orchestration the feast of Pentecost had gathered devout Jews from throughout the Roman Empire. The stage was set for a tremendous gathering of people into God's new covenant.

## **Outpouring**

As the disciples were gathered in prayer, God poured out his Spirit upon them. They were filled and also spoke with other languages (tongues), praising God and declaring his wonders in the languages of the Jews who had assembled in Jerusalem for the feast. 3000 came to Christ.

## **Outcome**

Prior to God's outpouring of his Spirit, the disciples were in need of transformation. They wondered who Jesus was and how he could exercise such authority over nature and devils. They complained about how hard some of his teaching was. They struggled to understand him at times. They argued about which among them was the greatest. And immediately after his crucifixion they were confused, disheartened, and fearful.

But after his resurrection and the subsequent outpouring of God's Spirit, they were transformed into a powerful community. They were bold in their witness, caring in their relationships, and joyful in heart. God used them to draw many to himself.

As a lifestyle they were devoted to the apostles' teaching, to fellowship, to the breaking of bread, and to prayer, all of which became part of the transformative process God used to build them together as a faithful community.

We too are called by God to be added to the church. We need to surrender to Jesus as Lord and trust him with our lives. We too need to be filled with God's Spirit. We too need to be devoted to biblical teaching, to committed Christian relationships, to gathering in our homes, and to set times of prayer.

At Bethel we seek to live this out by the Path, our practical steps for following Jesus, which we refer to as KNOW, GROW, and GO. For KNOW, we emphasize regularly attending our worship services, going through our foundational Connect Class, and participating in our Life Groups.

## **Discussion (10-15 minutes)**

**Choose one of the points below, and discuss how the lesson applies to our lives.**

- How would you describe the level of your participation in the life of the church?
- What do you believe God wants to do in your heart and life in relation to the church?
- In what ways do you think being filled afresh with God's Spirit would affect you?

## **Prayer (10-15 minutes)**

**Pray any of the following, as well as any other requests you may have.**

- Thank God for giving us his Son and his Spirit so we might become his church.
- Ask God for a fresh infilling of his Spirit and a further transformation of our hearts.
- Ask God for an increased love for his people and for his church.