



Awakened to the World

Message Notes, October 8, 2017

We are walking through the Book of Acts to celebrate the many *awakening* moves of the Holy Spirit in and through the followers of Jesus. The Holy Spirit longs to awaken us to “the world” – not the broken systems and corruption of the world, but its people, made in the image of God, “for God so loved the world that he gave His only begotten Son ...” (John 3:16).

This message is an awakening reminder to us of God’s heart for all the world. This has always been God’s heart, from His calling of Abraham, through whom He would “bless all the peoples of the earth” (Genesis 12:1-3), to Jesus’ last declaration to His followers: “And you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, and the uttermost parts of the earth” (Acts 1:8).

This call on us to engage our world with the gospel of Jesus is rooted in the deep, profound, intimate love of God for each of us. “The love of Christ compels us ...” (Corinthians 5:14).

The key here is not that we must work up a heart for the world through our own emotional straining, but rather we yield to the Holy Spirit and ask and allow Him to grow in us His passion for those He longs to “seek and save.”

God’s strategy is revealed in several straightforward verses:

1. “Love your neighbor as yourself” (Matthew 22: 39).
2. “... therefore [as you are going], make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey all that I have commanded you” (Matthew 28:19-20).
3. “And you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, and the uttermost parts of the earth” (Acts1:8).

We are his witnesses in the world, called to share His love, His gospel and His teachings everywhere we go – in Jerusalem and Judea (at home), in Samaria (across ethnic and cultural barriers), and in all the earth (uttermost parts).

We are His salt and light in the world.

We are His hands and feet in the world.

May we be yielded, committed, and faithful to who He has called us to be:

- In our homes and neighborhoods
- In our city
- Across racial and economic lines
- All over the globe.

And may we devote ourselves to prayer:

- For ourselves – that God would lead us individually and as a church to engage our world
- For other brothers and sisters throughout our city and world that are serving in ministry and missions



- For those we (and others) are trying to reach with the love and gospel of Jesus – that Holy Spirit will speak, reveal and draw them to Himself.

Practically:

1. Be His witness where we live, where we are planted.
2. Explore local service opportunities through our various ministries at CCC or our partnership with other local ministries (<http://www.ccclive.org/get-involved>).
3. Consider participating in one of our upcoming short-term mission trips this fall or next year.
4. Commit to regularly praying for one of more of our ministries or missionaries.