

Filled With Awe

Acts 2.43: Everyone was filled with awe, and many wonders and signs were being performed through the apostles. The verses we have been studying over the past six weeks describe the spiritual life of the early church. The entire section (2.42-47) describes the ideal church God designed. What we see in these verses is a blueprint for what God wants to do for us ... as we do what He wants for Him. What makes the church different .. as a group? It is the work of the Spirit. His work of transformation inside of us yields the fruit of unselfish love. This is what makes the church special and unique. What happened to cause local churches to lose sight of and experience the ideal? What can we do to get back this unblemished authenticity in the fellowship inside our congregations today?

I. Regaining a Sense of Awe

- A. Acts 2.43: *Everyone was filled with **awe**, and many wonders and signs were being performed through the apostles.*
 1. Think “holy fear” or “reverence for the divine presence.” *The feeling produced when one realizes God is at hand.*
 2. Luke 5.26: *Then everyone was astounded, and they were giving glory to God. And they were filled with awe and said, “We have seen **incredible** things today.”*
- B. This is more than simple amazement over miracles and wonders
 1. The “awe” of v. 43 is not only about miracles. There was more!
 - a) Every Christian was amazed at how everything was working together to demonstrate that God was with them. No miracles, signs, or wonders are required to know this.
 - b) The Spirit was working to make all these people one with God and one with each other.
 2. This is what we need today. The church has seen too much division and huddling into groups.
 3. One of the things that we should be in awe of here at Cornerstone is how God is bringing people together from every background in the churches of Christ.
 4. Calls for unity are biblical ... not a call for compromise or weakness.
 - a) John 17:20–21: *I pray not only for these, but also for those who believe in me through their word. May they all be **one**, as you, Father, are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us, so that the world may believe you sent me.*
 - b) Something is wrong if we equate growth and coming together as a threat.
 - c) let us have the type of faith that sees what God is doing among us. 2 Corinthians 5.7: *For we walk by **faith**, not by sight.*

II. More Things to be in Awe About

- A. God’s presence in us for the purpose of sanctification and transformation
 1. God has given you the Spirit to assist and aid you in your spiritual life.
 2. 1 John 4:4: *You are from God, little children, and you have conquered them, because the one who is **in you** is greater than the one who is in the world.*
 3. Who is the One responsible for your growth and spiritual victory?
 4. 2 Corinthians 3:18: *We all, with unveiled faces, are looking as in a mirror at the glory of the Lord and are being **transformed** into the same image from glory to glory; this is from the Lord who is the Spirit.*
- B. God’s work of evangelism through us
 1. Matthew 28:19–20 - “Go.”
 2. 2 Corinthians 4.7: We are nothing more than **clay jars**.

C. God's sustaining power through severe trial

1. 2 Corinthians 4:8–9; 16-5.1 - *Therefore we do not **give up**. Even though our outer person is being destroyed, our inner person is being renewed day by day.*
2. 5.7: Paul walked by faith ... not by sight.
3. Ephesians 6.10: in whose **strength** do we have access?
4. Ephesians 6.11 - what have you been given so that you can be able to stand?
5. Ephesians 6.14-18 - God will give you everything you need to be successful in your spiritual life.

D. God's endless supply of hope

1. 1 Corinthians 15:57–58: *But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ! Therefore, my dear brothers and sisters, be steadfast, immovable, always excelling in the Lord's work, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in **vain**.*
2. What profound awe our heart should be filled with ... at the fact that God will deliver us through and get us home.

III. As We Close...

- A. The awe that characterized the first Christians is something that can be realized today.
- B. It is this that will fuel revival in our churches in the 21st century.
- C. Do you believe it? Will you walk by faith and not by sight?

My Notes: