

AFRAID 02: "Connecting or Consuming?" Acts 2:42-47

November 12, 2023

Main Idea: The more or less we are connected to God's agenda, the more or less He reveals Himself to us.

The Early Church – Organic NOT Manufactured

The early church of Acts 2 was an organic demonstration of God's power in His people. The church wasn't highly organized and programmed the way it is today. The most prolific and powerful church in the church's history was the early church. That's because the early church was a reflection of God's work, not our programming. **This is BIG!** The early church connected with Jesus; we prefer to consume church programming.

The Problem: We fear the sacrifice necessary to make a meaningful connection with Jesus and His church.

It costs too much to attend regularly. It costs too much to get involved and take it seriously. It costs too much to give a prioritized percentage of my income. The list goes on. This being the case, we become consumers of church.

How do we Connect with Christ and His Church?

When God is ready to work, He will work through us. The following is taken from Henry Blackaby's "Experiencing God" workbook and will help you recognize the way God works in your life.

1. **God is always at work around me.** (John 5:17). He is working in your home, in this church, and in our community.
2. **God pursues a personal relationship with me.** (1John 3:16). God has been pursuing you from the beginning. His love is relentless. He never backs down.
3. **God invites me to become involved with Him in His work.** (Matthew 4:19). God works through you and me. We are His hands and feet; His eyes and ears.
4. **God speaks to reveal Himself, His purposes, and His ways** (John 14:15ff). God spoke clearly to the early church, but if you are a merely a consumer of church programming, you will never hear Him.
5. **God's invitation always leads me to a crisis of belief that requires faith and action** (Acts 2). God used Peter to deliver that powerful sermon at Pentecost. God goes to great lengths to help us overcome our doubt.
6. **I must make the proper adjustments in my life in order to join Him** (Romans 12:1-2). The faithwalk is all about adjustments. Sanctification is God's ongoing work in every Christ-follower.
7. **We come to know God by experience as we obey Him and He accomplishes His work through us** (John 15:1-17). The reason the disciples revolutionized the ancient Roman world is because they were connected to Jesus.

Family Night Big idea – Read Acts 2:42-47

The church is a living organism. We are alive in Christ. I am responsible for my faithwalk. It is hard to take initiative but that's the only way to truly connect with Jesus and His agenda.

- **Elementary School** – Ask, "Who taught the people of the church? Why did the people sell their property and possessions? Who added more people to the church?"
- **Middle/ High School** – Ask, "Who told the people to do all the things mentioned in this passage? Why did they do these things? What should motivate us in our own personal faithwalk?"

Prayer "Father, thank You for Your church. Help us connect to Your agenda and be willing to sacrifice ours. Amen."

Velocity (Middle and High School Students)

Velocity: Meet at the Church this Wednesday, Nov. 15th.

Gravity: Meet today in the Community Room.

Today's Songs

Praise.....Elevation Worship

Hymn of Heaven.....Phil Wickham

Glorious Day.....Northpoint Worship

Kenya Christmas

Learn how to give to Kenya this Christmas and how to correspond to the student you sponsored a uniform last year. Go to our website, gracestatesboro.com, and find more information.

Poinsettia Sale

Would you like to purchase a poinsettia in memory or honor of a loved one? We are selling poinsettias in the lobby starting this Sunday, November 5th until Sunday, November 26th. Cost is \$35 and due when you sign up. They will be delivered on November 28th, and we would like to display them on stage throughout the holidays.

GCC Christmas Gift List

We would love to provide gifts again this year for any family within your circle of influence who could use some help this Christmas. Tell a staff member of any family you know that would welcome gifts this year.