



The Forgotten God

Why Do I Need Him?

#npforgottengod

Week 2

2 of 5

March 8, 2020

Bottom Line: Apart from God we can do nothing.

Icebreaker: Who would you describe as your greatest support in life, outside of God? Who would you feel unable to do life without? Why?

Key Verse: Jesus: *"I am the vine; you are the branches. The one who remains in me, and I in him, will bear much fruit. For apart from me you can do nothing."* John 15:5 BSB

After Jesus was baptized and God sent His Spirit in the form of a dove to witness to who Jesus was and confirm His mission, Jesus went and did ministry. One of His first tasks was choosing those in whom He would invest. You and I know them as the disciples. The disciples were a handful of unlikely misfits, nothing more than a group of uneducated men. But the remarkable fact is that they were the same ones who later "turned the world upside down," according to the testimony of people in the first century (Acts 17:6). How can anyone explain the transformation? Was it a crash course in spirituality? Some great seminar on leadership they attended? No question, history clearly shows these heroic figures were the same group of once timid, fearful men Jesus had trained. There is only one intelligent answer: the arrival and empowerment of the Holy Spirit. He alone transformed those frightened, reluctant men into strong, unintimidated, invincible followers of Christ.

The same power that came at Pentecost is available to empower us to **live righteously**. I don't perform from a list of must-dos. God writes on my heart, transforming me from the inside out. He empowers us to **live supernaturally**. He equips us to operate in a whole new realm. When the Holy Spirit comes, He gives us the mind of Christ. Having His mind enables us to live beyond logic and reason and dream dreams that are too big for us, yet we have the ability to pursue them. It means we have an advantage in the world because we know the Creator of all things. Our talk quits reflecting our difficulties and begins to illustrate God's power. There is power for every situation in which we find ourselves. The Holy Spirit empowers us to **live purposefully**. We have the mission of Christ to fulfill. God has asked us to do something we are totally unqualified to do on our own. The Holy Spirit empowers us to do the work of Christ in the world. The world cannot ignore us when the Holy Spirit transforms us in this way. We too will turn our world upside down!

THINK IT OVER >>>

What impacted you particularly from the message?

Think about the characteristics of the disciples before the Holy Spirit came and after. Which change is most astounding to you? With which one do you personally most identify? Why?

As the Holy Spirit took up residence in their lives, He was given complete control of their lives. What does that mean to you? Is it challenging? Scary? Comforting? Why? Have you experienced this? If so, how has the Holy Spirit transformed you? If not, what is the struggle or reason?

When the Holy Spirit came, they picked up the dynamic of Jesus. They no longer stood in the shadows or looked for excuses not to obey. That's very challenging. How does this speak to you where you are today?

The Holy Spirit wants to empower you to do something you cannot do on your own. What might that be for you?

LOOK IT OVER >>>

Pentecost—the coming of the Holy Spirit—has been packaged and marketed to make people afraid of God, and something you must have to be fulfilled and fruitful on this earth. Pentecost is not about wild services and people falling over. Pentecost is about power to make a difference, to do something for God you will never be able to pull off on your own. Reflect and discuss.

The Holy Spirit comes as the Spirit of Truth and makes your physical feelings take a back seat. He will nudge you and speak to you in ways that sometimes don't make sense to your senses. His Word will serve as true north when feelings point in every other direction. How does this connect with discernment? How does it conflict with those who says discernment is only for a few?

Some will be amazed at what God is doing in and through you. Others will be amused at what you are asking God to do. Some will acknowledge what God is doing in and through you and be forever changed. Discuss.

NEXT STEPS

1. Invite the Holy Spirit into your life.
2. Surrender to Him.
3. Walk in the empowerment and confidence of the Holy Spirit.

EVALUTION/ACTION

Realizing and reaching your full potential in Christ

Bottom Line: Apart from God we can do nothing.

Rate yourself from 1 to 10 1 (never), 10 (always)	1	2	3	4		6	7	8	9	10
Why did you give yourself this rating?										
What benefits will you obtain by raising your rating?										
Do you know someone who demonstrates this bottom line well? What do you admire about that person?										
What specific action can you put into practice to raise your rating?										
At the end of this week, reflect - where did you see the bottom line show up in your actions throughout the week?										

PRAYER

List group members and their prayer requests for this week:

DAILY STUDY

Want to dig deeper? Check out **The Daily** this week at newpointe.org/daily:

Monday: John 14:16-17

Tuesday: Acts 2:1-3

Wednesday: 2 Peter 1:3-4

Thursday: John 6:63

Friday: Romans 8:5-6

Don't let the conversation stop here. Keep talking it over with others throughout the week.
(Don't forget to bring this paper to your next small group meeting)