



PROTOTYPE
Part 2: "Living with Devotion"
Sermon Small Group Notes
Speaker: Pastor Dave Patterson

USING THIS SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE

- This Sermon Discussion Guide is only a tool to aid you in meeting the needs of your group. For most groups, there are too many questions to answer in one session together. After considering the needs of your group, you may choose one of the following options:
 1. one section of questions
 2. one or two questions from each section
- Feel free to adapt the format to meet the needs of your group. If your group is mature and wants to dig deeper, add Scripture and ask suitable questions. Remember that this is only a guide.
- Personal application is key to everyone's growth and should be included in every discussion. When asked how he or she intends to apply a certain principle a group member may say, "I need to spend more time in the Bible and in prayer." It is important for you to help group members make applications that are more specific and commit to a specific plan of action by asking, for example, "How are you going to begin?" An example is to get up 30 minutes earlier each morning, spending 15 minutes reading the Bible and 10 minutes in prayer. Encourage each group member to be accountable to the group for personal progress at the next meeting.
- As the leader your goal is to help bring the group into a stimulating discussion that helps the members recognize their need for personal life change. Ultimately you want them to be willing to commit to change with accountability to the group. Accountability helps us to persevere in our commitments and achieve the blessings of success.

INTRODUCTION

Over the next few weeks, we're going to talk about God's original intent and design for what Jesus came to build: the Church. This time we ask ourselves: "What or who are you devoted to?" Are you living with devotion? When you ask someone to marry you, for instance, you hope they are ready to live with a high level of devotion. When you make a decision to follow Christ, there is an expectation and an understanding that this will be a life of devotion. Yet, so many well-meaning Christians lose their life of devotion and end up trying to "do devotions" instead. In this discussion, we will look at the day of Pentecost and the requirements for living a life of devotion.

Definition of "prototype": *the original or model on which something is based or formed*

Definition of "devotion": *profound dedication and attachment to a cause or person*

New Testament "pure devotion": *a focused, undistracted life, fully committed and fully loyal*

MESSAGE

In our key text, we find the disciples waiting expectantly, ready to receive the gift of God as promised by Christ.

[Acts 2.1-8]

On the day of Pentecost all the believers were meeting together in one place. Suddenly, there was a sound from heaven like the roaring of a mighty windstorm, and it filled the house where they were sitting. Then, what looked like flames or tongues of fire appeared and settled on each of them. And everyone present was filled with the Holy Spirit and began speaking in other languages, as the Holy Spirit gave them this ability. At that time there were devout Jews from every nation living in Jerusalem. When they heard the loud noise, everyone came running, and they were bewildered to hear their own languages being spoken by the believers. They were completely amazed. "How can this be?" they exclaimed. "These people are all from Galilee, and yet we hear them speaking in our own native languages!"

Requirements for Living a Life of Devotion:

- 1. Living with devotion is a result of a divine interruption!**
- 2. Living with devotion positions us for the "suddenly-s of God."**

Never forget or underestimate the potential of a "suddenly" from God in your life! When God leads you into an intense time of waiting, seeking, and preparing, it means you are being set up for "a suddenly."

[Acts 2.14-17, 22-24, 37, 38-40]

¹⁴ Then Peter stepped forward with the eleven other apostles and shouted to the crowd, "Listen carefully, all of you, fellow Jews and residents of Jerusalem! Make no mistake about this. ¹⁵ These people are not drunk, as some of you are assuming. Nine o'clock in the morning is much too early for that. ¹⁶ No, what you see was predicted long ago by the prophet Joel:

*17 'In the last days,' God says,
 'I will pour out my Spirit upon all people.
 Your sons and daughters will prophesy.*

The "suddenly," in this case reached many nations all at once. Such an agitation for those, who could not believe what they were witnessing, forced a decision about their understanding of Christ.

22 "People of Israel, listen! God publicly endorsed Jesus the Nazarene by doing powerful miracles, wonders, and signs through him, as you well know. 23 But God knew what would happen, and his prearranged plan was carried out when Jesus was betrayed. With the help of lawless Gentiles, you nailed him to a cross and killed him. 24 But God released him from the horrors of death and raised him back to life, for death could not keep him in its grip!

32 "God raised Jesus from the dead, and we are all witnesses of this. 33 Now he is exalted to the place of highest honor in heaven, at God's right hand. And the Father, as he had promised, gave him the Holy Spirit to pour out upon us, just as you see and hear today. 36 "So let everyone in Israel know for certain that God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, to be both Lord and Messiah!"

37 Peter's words pierced their hearts, and they said to him and to the other apostles, "Brothers, what should we do?"

Definition of "piercing the heart": Greek <i>katanusso</i> = to pierce thoroughly, to agitate violently , to sting to the quick
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38 Peter replied, "Each of you must repent of your sins and turn to God, and be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. Then you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. 39 This promise is to you, and to your children, and even to the Gentiles —all who have been called by the Lord our God." 40 Then Peter continued preaching for a long time, strongly urging all his listeners, "Save yourselves from this crooked generation!"

3. God's plan of rescue is His Church!

Knowing where the disciples took the church, how do we lead those around us into a life committed to Christ?

Road to Devotion:

- 1. Devotion is a result of true repentance. (a change of mind accompanied by a change of direction)**

2. **Devotion is a result of identification with Christ. (going public with our faith-- water baptism and continual witness)**
3. **Devotion is the result of Holy Spirit baptism.**

Peter Pattern (seen 14 times in the NT):

born again + water baptism + Spirit baptism

Statistics about the pulse of our nation:

- **Of the 100M Americans** that attend church regularly, **over 50%** do not have an assurance of their salvation (ready to meet God)
- **95% of American Christians** are unaware of the Person or ministry of the Holy Spirit
- **Only 2% of American Christians** regularly share their faith with others (a direct result of being spirit empowered)
- **The majority of Christians** interviewed said *“They have habits or issues in their life that they cannot break free from.”*

[Acts 2.41]

⁴¹ Those who believed what Peter said were baptized and added to the church that day —about 3,000 in all. And all the believers devoted themselves...

We, as a church, are devoted to expanding God's tangible influence in our cities, our counties, and the outlying world. Let the prototype that we know be the Kingdom we build and the fruit of our pursuit in these days!

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. **What, in your life right now, are you devoted to?**
2. **When was a time when you were divinely interrupted and it brought you to a place of devotion?**
3. **Have you gone public with your faith, declaring who Jesus is in your life? What does that look like to the people around you?**
4. **Have you received the Baptism of the Holy Spirit, that Christ promised to those who believe in Him? How has your life been empowered by that?**
5. **Where are you praying God's power would move most in your life?**