



We The Church | Shawn Johnson | 5.21.23

Weekly Study

SHARE

This weekend Pastor Shawn broke down Acts 2 & 3 for us, challenging us not to simply attend church, but to be the church outside the four walls of where we meet on Sundays during week five of our *We The Church* Series. Shawn reminded us of the Great Commission that Jesus gave to the eleven disciples - to “go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you.” (Matthew 28:19-20) - and challenged us to receive this challenge for ourselves as part of our own everyday faith. So, how will you be the church in your community this week?

GROW

Read Ephesians 2:8-9

“For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.”

What does it mean that we are saved in faith alone in Christ, but we were “created in Christ Jesus for good works”?

Can you see the “good works” God has prepared before you that He wants you to faithfully walk in? What kind of things has he set before you to love other people and share your faith?

What kind of mental, physical, spiritual obstacles might be in your way when it comes to sharing your faith and extending the love of Jesus to others around you?

MOVE

Read James 2:14-17

“What good is it, my brothers, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can that faith save him? If a brother or sister is poorly clothed and lacking in daily food, and one of you says to them, “Go in peace, be warm and filled,” without giving them the things needed for the body, what good is that? So also, faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead.”

Have you ever “wished the best” or said “I’ll be praying for you” to someone in need when it’s possible you could have done more?

Galatians 6:9 encourages us to “not grow weary of doing good.” What is a tangible way you can use your gifts, skills, resources, time, etc.. to go out and “be the church” in your areas of influence this week?

To “be the church” outside of the building, Shawn gives us four ways of doing so:

1. Share your life
2. Share your faith
3. Share your story
4. Share your church

Which of the above comes easiest to you? Which of these is the most difficult for you? Why?

Shawn reminded us through Acts 5:40-42 that following our calling is often uncomfortable and comes with a price. On a weekly basis, are you seeking your own comfort, or God's Calling for your life?

What is one area of your life that you can take a step of faith away from your comfort, and step towards something God has been asking of you for a while?

In an effort to "be the church" this week, take some time and pray how God might use you (your group and you as an individual) to make Heaven more Crowded.

- God, who is someone in my area of influence you want me to pray for?
- Jesus, because of you, I have walked out the other side of something I once thought was impossible and I know someone is currently in the middle of something similar that doesn't know you. Who is someone in my life that needs to hear about my story and the sacrifice you made for them?
- God, please point out opportunities for me to "be the church" to people in need this week. What opportunities come to mind?
- Think of three small ways you've experienced the love of Jesus through simple acts of kindness, generosity, sacrifice, love, hospitality, etc.. that other people have extended to you in your time of need. Express your gratitude toward God for those moments and pray for opportunities to do the same for someone else this week.