

CHURCH WITHOUT WALLS: Living With Awe

Scripture used: [Acts 1:8 \(NIV\)](#); [Acts 2:42 \(NLT\)](#); [Acts 2:46 \(NLT\)](#)

OVERVIEW

What happens when we live with an awareness of who God is and what He is doing—even when life is difficult? In Acts 2, the birth of the church was marked by the unmistakable presence and power of God. The Holy Spirit filled the believers, people from different nations and languages heard the gospel, and 3,000 people responded to Jesus. But the story of Acts also reminds us that following Jesus includes both miracles and persecution, celebration and suffering. The early church learned to hold both realities together while never losing sight of God's presence. Their awe of God moved them to believe, belong, and give. In the same way, when we live with AWE, we become more aware of God and more willing to respond when He invites us to say yes.

KEY POINTS

1. **AWE is an awareness of God in the middle of life.** AWE is an unmistakable, unavoidable awareness of God's power and presence. The early believers experienced both incredible miracles and deep suffering, yet they continued to recognize that God was with them.
2. **The Holy Spirit empowers us to move toward people who are different from us.** At Pentecost, people from different languages, cultures, and backgrounds were brought together. The Spirit empowered the church to communicate across differences and become a Jesus-centered community. A Spirit-filled witness begins by listening
3. **AWE leads to a response.** The first believers didn't simply experience God and move on. They said yes to Jesus, committed themselves to community, shared life together, and became radically generous.

DISCUSSION

- 1) **HEAR** - What is something—big or small—that has made you stop and say, "Wow," recently? What made it stand out to you?
- 2) **UNDERSTAND** - Acts 2 shows the Holy Spirit bringing together people from many different languages, cultures, and backgrounds. What does this teach us about God's heart for the church and how the Holy Spirit empowers us to engage people who are different from us? Why do you think awe of God can move us beyond our comfort zones and toward other people?
- 3) **DO** - This week, take some time to pray and ask God, "What are You inviting me to say yes to?" That yes might look like:
Serving: Sign up for Be a Blessing Serve Day and be the hands and feet of Jesus in our community. [Sign Up!](#)
Community: Say yes to deeper involvement in your Life Group or the life of the church.
Generosity: Ask God what it looks like to give your time, resources, or abilities.
People: Say yes to crossing a difference or discomfort to listen to and care for someone.
Faith: Take a step toward following Jesus or helping someone else take their next step.

Then pay attention to what He puts in front of you—and take the next faithful step.