

# Essentials: Empowerment

(Acts 2:42-47)

## A. We've talked about the four essentials of the Renewal Lab:

1. We talked about making *abiding* in Christ our most important priority
2. We talked about *vision* - God blessed us to be a blessing
3. We talked about walking our faith journey together in (a healthy) *community*
4. We talked about the spiritual *leadership* to move from here to there

## B. The world had never seen anything like the Acts 2 Church

1. It was a melting pot of diversity; barriers came down
2. It was a missional community of Spirit-powered reconciliation
3. It was a faith-forming community that transformed the world

## C. What's happened to the Acts 2 Church?

1. The same Holy Spirit is still alive and well
2. This Holy Spirit can still change me if I ask
3. This Holy Spirit can still empower us if we catch God's vision

## D. Are you abiding close enough to Jesus that His Spirit dwells in your life?

## OUR BELIEFS

### A. I believe Jesus Christ is the hope of the world

1. I believe Jesus has entrusted his mission to the church
  - a. I believe God has a plan for human beings to be liberated from sin
  - b. I believe the church is God's venue for repentance, grace and serving
  - c. I believe the church is the steward of God's mission that "*all people be saved and come to a knowledge of the truth.*" (1 Timothy 2:4)
2. Christ longs for an Acts 2 Church - where believers devote themselves to the apostles' teaching, to fellowship, to the breaking of bread, and to prayer

### B. I discovered the larger Church also loved Jesus

1. They weren't afraid of new ideas or engaging the culture
  - a. They valued the study of Scripture and theological discussions
  - b. They were deeply concerned with how to integrate faith and life
  - c. They were unapologetic followers of Jesus

2. Many churches were losing their moorings, members, and mission
  - a. There was a lessening focus on evangelism
  - b. They are preoccupied with survival, internal strife, and their irrelevance
  - c. The most troubling trend was their lack of urgency to engage the spiral

## C. The world needs our voice. The world needs Acts 2 churches

## OUR HISTORY

### A. 125 years ago, twenty people started this church

### B. Dreaming bold dreams is a part of being Christ's Church!

1. Imagine a thoughtful, culturally-engaged, Christ-centered faith wed with Spirit-infused courage, innovation, and risk-taking leadership
2. Imagine a church where leaders gather to mentor, equip, and encourage
3. Imagine a church where leaders spend their time talking about how to reach lost people for Jesus, how to worship more deeply, how to make disciples
4. Imagine a church where there's so much love, so much grace, so much joy that those who don't know Jesus yet say, "I want to be a part of that"

### C. First Cutlervilles' interest in moving from here to there

1. Are you willing to make following Jesus the most important priority in life?
2. If you're a follower of Jesus, its time to get serious about being the church

## OUR FUTURE

### A. Do you want to be a part of a Christ-centered, Spirit-empowered future?

1. Are you willing to jump in? Are you will to pray?
2. One day the Holy Spirit fell upon a group of ordinary people like you and me

### B. Our God can do it again...

1. Are you willing you give your life to go from here to there?
2. For His Church; For First Cutlerville Church? For Jesus?