

I would like you to stop and think about some of your defining moments. What events or relationships do you credit for the person you have become?

The book of Acts chronicles the defining moments of the early church. It describes our heritage as followers of Christ. People from different ethnicities, languages, colors, traditions, cultures, standings, and religions were discovering their likeness to one another, while the watching world came up with a name intended to insult; "Christians." The Church, the body of Christ, was growing leaps and bounds in breadth of numbers and in depth of doctrine.

These chapters, in the middle of the Acts of the Apostles, draw us in to help us recognize and appreciate the most important elements of that which unites us.

Epiphany – a sudden _____ or _____ they _____ us.

- *Baptized with the Holy Spirit [accompanied by _____ v. 16]*

- *The gift of the _____ (v. 17)*

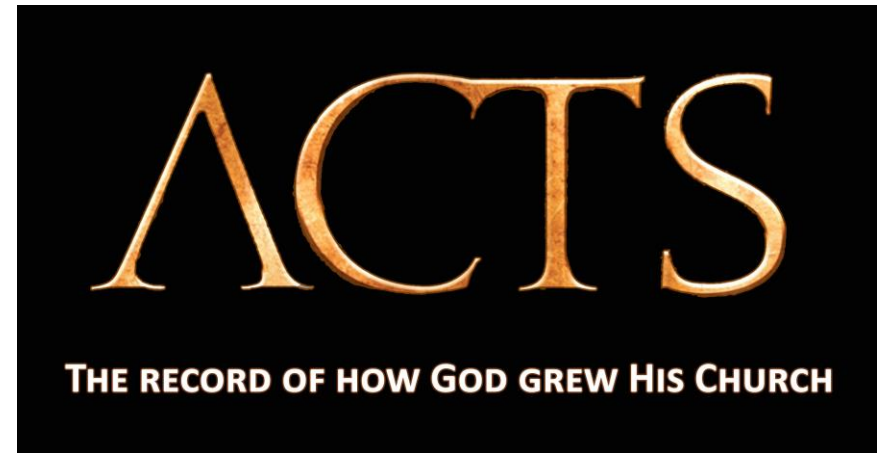
- _____ *unto life (v. 18)*

- *The Lord's _____ (v. 21)*

- *The _____ of God (v. 23)*

Personal Application and Group Interaction

1. *Describe some of the defining moments of your life.*
2. *Make a list of the things that all believers in Christ, in every generation, share in common.*
3. *How do you distinguish between the doctrine (systematic teachings from the Scriptures) of being baptized with the Holy Spirit and the manifestation of the Spirit through speaking in tongues?*
4. *Why do you think it is important for you to understand the cultural and spiritual challenges faced by the early church? What are you doing to wrap your mind and heart around them?*
5. *How does this text help you appreciate other followers of Christ whose practice of their faith is sometimes very different than yours/ours?*



Our Defining Moments

Acts 11

Pastor John

April 15, 2018

