

### Taking it Home:

- **Personal Reflection** - If Christianity was outlawed and you were arrested for being a Christian, would there be enough evidence against you to convict you in court?
- In Acts 1:8 why does God want the disciples to proclaim the Gospel to the entire world? Compare Acts 1:8 with Jonah chapter 1. Why would God want Jonah to preach to the Assyrian empire? Why would God want you to proclaim the Gospel in your neighborhood? Workplace? School? Home? What's stopping you?
- What would the people who know you best say about your Christian "*witness*?"
- Pastor Matthew talked about being "doers" of the Word as "*witnesses*" of Christ in your realm of influence. READ James 1:22-25. What's the difference between a "**hearer and a doer**?"  
**Personal Reflection:** are you a "hearer" or a "doer?"

### Related Resources:

- **David Platt**, "*RADICAL: Taking Back your Faith from the American Dream*," Multnomah, 2010

For a restatement of Pastor Matthew's sermon points, visit [pastormatthew.net](http://pastormatthew.net) and click on the "Write This Down" tab.

Jonah and the World Beyond  
Having a Heartbeat for a Dying World  
Acts 1:8

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Bethel Church  
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## Having a Heartbeat for a Dying World

Notes:

For more information about Growth Groups, Growth Group homework, and a podcast of sermons with homework, visit [www.bethelfc.com](http://www.bethelfc.com).

# Growth Group Homework

For the week of September 18, 2011

Acts 1:8

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**Quick Review:** Acts 1:8 serves as marching orders for the followers of Christ, demonstrating the necessary and expected movement of God's redemptive plan from our own individual reality toward the vast world beyond what we know. The challenge for Jesus' disciples and the early church was getting past the prejudices and bias' of their comfortable cultural Hebrew setting by becoming radically transformed by the Holy Spirit to empower them to cross over their racial, gender, political & religious barriers to proclaim the Gospel message locally and globally.

## My Story:

- How do you measure authenticity in another person? Describe.
- Did you grow up in a family environment that had bias' or prejudices? How did the biased worldview impact or affect you? Were their personal internal attitude changes that corrected those prejudices?
- Describe your "comfort zone?" Is it easy or difficult for you to cross over from your "comfort zone" when it comes to interacting with different cultures, ethnically, race, etc?

## Growing Deeper:

- The crossover for the disciples from their comfortable traditional Jewish culture must have been extremely awkward for them when Jesus commands them to come out of their comfort zone and reach out to all cultures, peoples, nations, ethnicities and races as **living witnesses** of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. What did Pastor Matthew say "**a witness**" in Acts 1:8 meant? What does it mean for believers today? (Witness: Gk. word "martyria")
- Pastor Matthew mentioned believers living out their faith in an authentic, practical manner for the world to see the proclamation of the Gospel through actions not just words. What were some of the examples Pastor Matthew gave as validity of Christian authenticity?
- Jesus told the disciples to be "**witnesses**" for the Gospel in regions they were not typically comfortable being around. What did Pastor Matthew say were the differences between cultures, races, religions, and ethnicities in Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria and the world beyond? Do you think it was an easy transition for the disciples to go outside their comfort zone? What about you, is it easy taking to people of different races, ethnicities, cultures or religions about the Gospel?
- There is some tension and conflict inside Jonah; he does not want to minister to the Ninevites even though God commands him too. It is abundantly clear Jonah does not want to prophecy to the pagan people in the capital city of the Assyrian Empire, Nineveh. What were Jonah's reasons for NOT wanting to minister to Nineveh when God told him too?
- Are there people groups, races, cultures, ethnicities, or worldviews which you definitely would not want to be "**a witness**" to with the Gospel of Christ because it is outside your comfort zone? Why? Discuss.
- Are there some clear biblical passages that demonstrate genuine Christian authenticity? How does a genuine Christian live? **READ and interpret: Matt. 11:29; 22:37-39; John 13:5; Rom. 12:9-10; Gal. 5:22-23; Eph. 5:1-2; Phil. 2:3-5; 1 Tim. 6:11; 2Tim. 2:22; James 1:27; 1 John 2:5-6.**