

# TALK 10

## • Where Do We Go From Here?

Acts 2:37–47

1. Repent. (Acts 2:38)
2. Be baptized. (Acts 2:38, 41)
3. Join a local church. (Acts 2:42–47)
  - “The freelance Christian, who would be a Christian but is too superior to belong to the visible Church upon earth in one of its forms, is simply a contradiction in terms.”<sup>22</sup> – C.E.B. Cranfield

Why do we need the church?

- **It’s central to God’s purposes.**
  - Matthew 16:18 - “And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.”
  - “If the church is central to God’s purpose, as seen in both history and the gospel, it must surely also be central to our lives. How can we take lightly what God takes so seriously? How dare we push to the circumference what God has placed at the center?”<sup>23</sup> – John Stott
  - **It’s central to our growth.**
  - 1 Peter 5:8 - “Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion seeking someone to devour.”
  - **It’s central to our experience of God.**
  - “God will manifest his presence to you in congregational worship in ways you can never know, even in the most glorious secret worship. That’s because you are not only a temple of God as an individual, but the Bible says, and far more often, that Christians collectively are God’s temple. God manifests his presence in different ways to the living stones of the temple, when they are gathered, than he does to them when they are apart.”<sup>24</sup> – Donald Whitney
4. Devote yourself to spiritual disciplines. (Acts 2:42–46)
    - Read the Bible.
    - Listen to teaching.
    - Fellowship with other Christians.
    - Pray.

### Discussion Starters

- What are your thoughts or reactions to the talk?
- Jim read the list of “Excuses to Neglect Church.” Which of the excuses do you identify with?
- What do you think about being baptized?
- Where do you think you stand with God as a result of the Bridge Course?
- What do you think God wants you to do next?
- How do you feel about joining a church

### Book Recommendation

- *Stop Dating the Church*, Josh Harris