***#Suddenly***

***“Suddenly there came from heaven a noise like a violent rushing wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting”.***

***Acts 2:2 NASB***

**What Does it Say?**

Suddenly from heaven a noise like rushing wind filled house where they were sitting

**What Does it Mean?**

At the end of our study last week, there were 120 followers of Jesus waiting in Jerusalem. They traveled back to where they were staying simply following his command to “wait.” Who loves to wait? I have never enjoyed waiting. What did they do in the meantime? They prayed and praised God in the temple and out.

Did they wonder when God was going to show up and start to get impatient? God does not act in our time frame or in the way that we prefer. Do you and I get frustrated when God asks us to wait? It seems absurd that we would question why the infinite God of the universe doesn’t just work according to how our finite minds prefer. Am I confessing that I struggle with waiting- absolutely! I cannot tell you how many times I have whispered in my prayers phrases like: “but you just don’t understand,” “I need to get this done…. like two days ago,” “When will You show up?” and “How will I know it is you?” or “Did I miss it?”

I love knowing that God created us and He knows what we need exactly when we need it. God also knows that we sometimes need things to be super obvious. The command was to go and wait in Jerusalem until the promise of the Holy Spirit comes upon you (Acts 1:8). If you are like me, you may be afraid that you have missed hearing God’s voice. We will not miss what God is doing and when He is doing it, if we are obeying the last thing He said. Actually, God frequently asks believers to “wait.” We can get anxious in the waiting. Previously, Peter had gone fishing while waiting−but not this time. This time Peter stayed with the other believers to wait for God. They stayed together and were not going to move until they knew for sure that God was moving them.

Their waiting must have felt like forever, but there was a “Suddenly” coming. God is not trying to hide from us. If we diligently seek and search for Him, He promises that we will find Him (Jeremiah 29:13). God keeps His promises. Could our problem be that we prefer for God to rubber stamp what wethink He should be doing instead of waiting on Him to act? We need to put aside our expectations of how God should act and enjoy His presence as we soak up His Word. How different our emotions would be if instead of worrying we got on our knees and passionately prayed. It is difficult for you to trust God in the waiting? What if your season of waiting is not 10 days but 10 years, will you continue to trust Him? On our knees is where the battle is won. In the presence of our sovereign God there is no room for pride, selfish ideas, or flow charts. In devoted prayer there is only room for praise, adoration, and trust. Humility is hard−but essential. We trust that God has not forgotten us. I know that even when life seems chaotic the words *“*But God” resonate in my mind and remind me that He is in control. Our moment will come “suddenly” and the wait will be over.

For the early church, their time of waiting on God ended suddenly when the entire house was filled with a violent rushing wind. The same Holy Spirit rushes into believers today. Can you feel Him? Can you imagine pictures falling off the walls and trinkets on the counter crashing to the floor? When I think about Pentecost, I imagine everything in the house being pressed to the floor as the Spirit of the Living God entered and believers knelt in hushed silence. Being face down as God comes in to the room is the most appropriate place to be, isn’t it? This happened so suddenly that no one was distracted and no one missed the fact that it was God!

Waiting on our “suddenly” can be hard. Finding yourself in a season of waiting gives allows time to ask God for strength to wait. God will empower you for the moment He will “suddenly” answer you. Using this time to passionately pray and to read God’s Word will prepare your heart for whatever God has for you. Because sometimes a “sudden” moment can be heart wrenching. Our nation is grieving the sudden loss of Kobe Bryant and the helicopter full of souls that were suddenly taken. Sudden loss is incredibly painful. These moments bring us to the floor in grief and we are at a loss for words. Who better to understand loss than God? He sent His only Son into the world and watched as the emotions of a crowd turned from worship to hatred. Within a few hours Jesus suddenly went from serving Passover to being mocked, beaten, and crucified. Cry out to Jesus in your grief. The promised Holy Spirit’s name is Wonderful Counselor. His *name* is Wonderful Counselor. His name is Peace and Shalom. I am praying that over you right now. I pray God will be His very name to you as you struggle to take your next breath. “May the peace of God that surpasses all understanding guard your heart and mind in Christ Jesus” (Phil 4:7).

**What Does it Mean to Me?**

* When have you truly felt impressed by God to a certain calling but it did not seem to be happening? What did you do in the time of waiting? Have you been trying to make it happen in your own timing?
* When did God show up in your life in an unexplainably “sudden” way?
* When life suddenly brings you to your knees what do you do?
* When has the Wonderful Counselor showed up suddenly in your grief and to answer your questions?
* How will you share His name with those grieving around you?
* How will you claim His name moment by moment­­−especially now?

**Live it out!**

Today I will seek God in His Word and through prayer, and ask Him to show me where He is working around me so I do not miss Him.

Today I will hold His name close to my heart and claim it minute by minute.

**NEXT WEEKS HOMEWORK IS ACTS 2:42-47**

**Recommended Reading**:

*Spiritual Profiling* by Tom Hovestal available at <https://rover.ebay.com/rover/0/0/0?mpre=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.ebay.com%2Fulk%2Fitm%2F362872772871>

*Seeking Allah, Finding Jesus*: A Devout Muslim Encounters Christianity by Nabeel Qureshi

<https://www.amazon.com/Seeking-Allah-Finding-Jesus-Christianity/dp/0310092647/ref=sr_1_1?crid=3NM7OJZMMEM3S&keywords=seeking+allah+finding+jesus&qid=1579607888&sprefix=seeking+allah+f%2Caps%2C163&sr=8-1>

*Your People shall be My People* by Don Finto

https://www.amazon.com/Your-People-Shall-Be-Christian/dp/0800797892

**Recommended Spiritual Profiling Assessment**:

www.spiritualprofiling,com

**Recommended Study Bible:**

*The Complete Jewish Study Bible*<https://www.amazon.com/dp/1619708671/ref=cm_sw_em_r_mt_dp_U_3G0hEb5Q25WX9>

*If you are interested in joining the live stream for this study visit my professional FB page.*

Join me in praying and fasting this winter season as we live out the book of Acts, together.