

# Conviction: Day by Day in 2016

- A. **Day by day.** That's our congregational focus for 2016. To be "of Christ." Every day. Everywhere. To follow in the footsteps of the earliest Christians—men and women whose lives were powerfully changed (*Acts 2:42-47*).
1. They were devoted to God and to one another.
  2. Their hearts were filled with gladness and generosity.
  3. They had a real impact on the lives of their fellow believers and on those who needed salvation.
- B. **How did it happen?** What led to their transformation? Where must we begin if we are to follow the same path?

## The God-Defined Pathway to Transformation

- The \_\_\_\_\_, the Holy Spirit, empowers the apostles of Jesus to be witnesses in Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, and to the end of the earth (*John 14:25-26, 15:26-27; 16:7; Acts 2:1-4*).
- The aim of the Spirit's coming and the apostles' work is to \_\_\_\_\_ the world concerning sin ("You have separated yourself from God"), righteousness ("Your Creator has expectations of you"), and judgment ("You will be held accountable") (*John 16:8-11; Acts 24:25*).
- Men and women in need of salvation must come in \_\_\_\_\_ with the good news of God's grace (*Acts 2:5-13; Rom 10:14*).
- The "dots" of God's revelation to mankind and rescue mission throughout human history are \_\_\_\_\_ (*Acts 2:14-35*).
- Jesus is \_\_\_\_\_ as the risen Lord and Christ (*Acts 2:36; John 14:6; Acts 4:12*).
- In the hearts of those who are willing to meekly receive the implanted word (*James 1:21*), alienation from God leads to amazement leads to questions leads to realization leads to \_\_\_\_\_ leads to transformation (*Acts 2:37-41; Rom 12:2*).

## The Transformation of Hearts and Lives: Our Ongoing Mission

- The means of transformation: "*the word of the cross*" (*1 Cor 1:18-31*)
- The first steps of transformation: "*buried therefore with him*" (*Rom 6:1-4*)
- The fruit of transformation: "*fully convinced*" (*Rom 4:20-25*)
- The aim of transformation: "*the praise of his glory*" (*Eph 1:13-14*)