

GROWTH GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Fall 2023 – Acts Sermon Series - “Witness”

Week of Oct. 8 (Week 5)

QUESTION #1: In the sermon a point was made that God’s word *can*, *AND should*, be rationally engaged with by our minds. Have you ever thought about this idea before? Is this something new to you? Why is this important?

QUESTION #2: It was said in the sermon that the rotten-fruit of a closed-mind is becoming so afraid to lose control that it becomes more about winning than finding the truth. Discussion therefore, is no longer a path to truth, but an opportunity to win and when you see yourself losing the grip on the competition, you abandon rationality and you’ll do anything to squash the opponent and win. Have you ever been on the giving and/or receiving end of something like this? What was that experience like? Why is it so dangerous to do this with God’s word?

QUESTION #3: Towards the end of the sermon we heard three practical ways to practice open-mindedness towards God’s word: Time, Temperature, & Trust. (#1) Time: Slow down your time in God’s word, (#2) Temperature: Come hot to God’s word, come with eager expectation, (#3) Trust: Trust that the Holy Spirit will help you see as you study God’s word. Of these three, which stood out the most to you or impacted you the most and why?

QUESTION #4: At the end of the sermon we heard an important point about reason and open-mindedness: Reason and being open-minded can only take us so far. These alone can not save us. Rationale, reasoning, humility, open-mindedness: these things alone can not make us see the divine truth. Why is this such an important point of emphasis and so important to remember?

QUESTION #5: The sermon closed by pointing out that the written word can only condemn us. This is why Jesus says that the written word all points to him. The written word is meant to point us to the-living-word-made-flesh who was crucified for us. God gave us his word in the flesh and our prideful, close-mindedness refused to submit to him and instead we crucified him. The word made flesh, Jesus Christ, is the only one that has the power to truly break the stubbornness of our minds and truly submit to the truth. What stubbornness do you hold or have in your mind that you need the power of Jesus to break today?

