

Go Forward
Who?
John 17, Matthew 28, Acts 1-2, Ephesians 2-4

[*Legend of Jesus returning to heaven after resurrection...no Plan B*]

I. Go Forward: 4 Simple Questions

- A. Who?
- B. Why?
- C. Where?
- D. How?

II. Who?

- A. What Jesus told God the Father (John 17)
 - John 17:18
 - Themes of the passage; theme statement
- B. What Jesus told the disciples (Matthew 28, Acts 1)
 - Go make disciples; Be my witnesses
- C. What the disciples told the people (Acts 2)
 - Gospel proclamation
- D. What happened and what it looks like (Acts 2, Ephesians 2-4)
 - People saved
 - Churches form
 - Body of Christ at work
- E. What it looks like at FBC - Tell the story
 - Steve Alleman

III. Go Forward

- Historical/Current Picture; Going Forward Picture
- Love and obedience to our Master/King/Head, Jesus Christ
 - John 14:15 (Love); Luke 6:46 (Obedience)
- Platt/Radical ("We are the plan of God, and there is no plan B."); Romans 10:14-15; pp. 159-160.
- Closing Reflection and Prayer

Go Forward

1. Answer the *Who* question personally. Are you a member of THE Body? Are you a member of this body? These are the first steps. Pray about this. Talk to a pastor, elder or L2L leader if you have further questions.

2. If your answers to the questions above are Yes, what has God called you to do as a Body member? Be sure it aligns with the big picture outlined above.

3. Begin to pray about and ponder the *Why* question. What is your answer to *Why* personally? What should be our answer to *Why* corporately?

As You sent Me into the world, I also have sent them into the world. (John 17:18)

But the eleven disciples proceeded to Galilee, to the mountain which Jesus had designated. When they saw Him, they worshiped Him; but some were doubtful. And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." (Matthew 28:16-20)

So when they had come together, they were asking Him, saying, "Lord, is it at this time You are restoring the kingdom to Israel?" He said to them, "It is not for you to know times or epochs which the Father has fixed by His own authority; but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth." (Acts 1:6-8)

"Men of Israel, listen to these words: Jesus the Nazarene, a man attested to you by God with miracles and wonders and signs which God performed through Him in your midst, just as you yourselves know - this Man, delivered over by the predetermined plan and foreknowledge of God, you nailed to a cross by the hands of godless men and put Him to death. But God raised Him up again, putting an end to the agony of death, since it was impossible for Him to be held in its power.... This Jesus God raised up again, to which we are all witnesses. Therefore having been exalted to the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, He has poured forth this which you both see and hear.... Therefore let all the house of Israel know for certain that God has made Him both Lord and Christ - this Jesus whom you crucified." (Acts 2:22-24,32-33,36)

So then, those who had received his word were baptized; and that day there were added about three thousand souls. They were continually devoting themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. Everyone kept feeling a sense of awe; and many wonders and signs were taking place through the apostles. And all those who had believed were together and had all things in common; and they began selling their property and possessions and were sharing them with all, as anyone might have need. Day by day continuing with one mind in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they were taking their meals together with gladness and sincerity of heart, praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord was adding to their number day by day those who were being saved. (Acts 2:41-47 NASB)

"If you love Me, you will keep My commandments." (John 14:15)

"Why do you call Me, 'Lord, Lord,' and do not do what I say?" (Luke 6:46)

For the Scripture says, "Whoever believes in Him will not be disappointed." For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; for the same Lord is Lord of all, abounding in riches for all who call on Him; for "Whoever will call on the name of the Lord will be saved." How then will they call on Him in whom they have not believed? How will they believe in Him whom they have not heard? And how will they hear without a preacher? How will they preach unless they are sent?" (Romans 10:11-15a)