

# But God

Week 7 – When the game changes.

## But God:

Review:

God loves to show off His love.

We are in a series called “But God.” History is full of moments where it looked like all was lost and the love of God stepped in.

I believe this is still true today. I believe it is true for you and true for me.

Over the last few weeks we have covered:

1. How do we wait well? Week one.
2. The power and importance of your private life. Week two.
3. What if God doesn’t work? Week three.
4. What if you have already lost? Week four.
5. What if you caused the pain? We looked at the story of Joseph.
6. Andy brought an awesome message out of Mary’s song.

I would encourage you to go look them up at

<https://www.encountertrinity.com/messages/#but-god>

Opening:

When the whole game changes.

One of my heroes of the faith was Ravi Zacharias. He had the amazing way of changing the game or shifting a perspective that changed everything.

Here is one.

He was once asked, if God is loving and all powerful why would he allow his followers to suffer?

Ravi responded by questioning the rules of the game. “Why are those the only ingredients in the equation? I believe another is he is all knowing.” He went on to tell the story of his rejection into the Indian military and how deep that rejection was felt. Yet, it was this that opened the door for his lifelong ministry.

You may not yet understand the current chapter in your life but you know how good, understanding, and loving the author is.

To the Text:

Today we will look at Acts 2. There is a greater story. Look at it from their perspective. They had lost the temple as the place where God was speaking, 400 years of silence leading up to Christ. They had lost divine favor from God. Roman conquest. They had now lost Jesus. It’s all loss.

From their perspective, every time they connect with God it’s broken.

Acts 2:1–4 (ESV)

When the day of Pentecost arrived, they were all together in one place. 2 And suddenly there came from heaven a sound like a mighty rushing wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. 3 And divided tongues as of fire appeared to them and rested on each one of them. 4 And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance.

- Acts 2:3 (FSB): Fire is often used to describe God's holy presence and His ability to purify (e.g., Exod 3:2; 13:21; Mark 9:49; 1 Pet 1:7)
  - The temple was the place where the presence of God was. In the New Covenant the presence of God is with people. In the Old Covenant you go to where the presence of God is. In the New Covenant the presence of God goes with his people.
- Acts 2:3 (FSB): The reference to tongues or languages indicates that this is a reversal of the Tower of Babel, where God confused the languages of those who rebelled against Him (Gen 11:7; see note on Acts 2:6).
  - At the table of nations selfishness and a heart of rebellion split humanity. Love will unify it. Moreover, the presence of God will now go with all these missionaries back to their homes. The presence of God goes with them.
- In the wake of so much loss something amazing happens. The spirit of God rests on them. God will now go with them. The narrative of finding or going to God was flipped upside down.

## What does this mean for us?

About 15 years ago I wanted to quit the ministry and go work at the university. I had an interview that I thought went really well. We even started talking future plans and a potential visit. I thought it was a done deal. Then, silence. I never heard back. The door was shut. I didn't know if I should fight for what I believed was right or just... let it go.

The closed door for me ended up being one of the reasons I didn't quit the ministry. I would have never come here and never had the incredible honor to pastor in Indy with you. The feeling of a lost future was only because I couldn't see yet the amazing one God had for me.

- You may not yet understand the current chapter in your life but you know how good, understanding and loving the author is.

## Where is Jesus in this?

- He is writing your story. You know his nature. His relentless love. That is writing your story.
- When you can't see, trust in the one who can.

### Questions:

1. What do you need to trust God with?
2. How does one trust in God while they wait? (You can refer to week one of this series if you don't have an answer.)