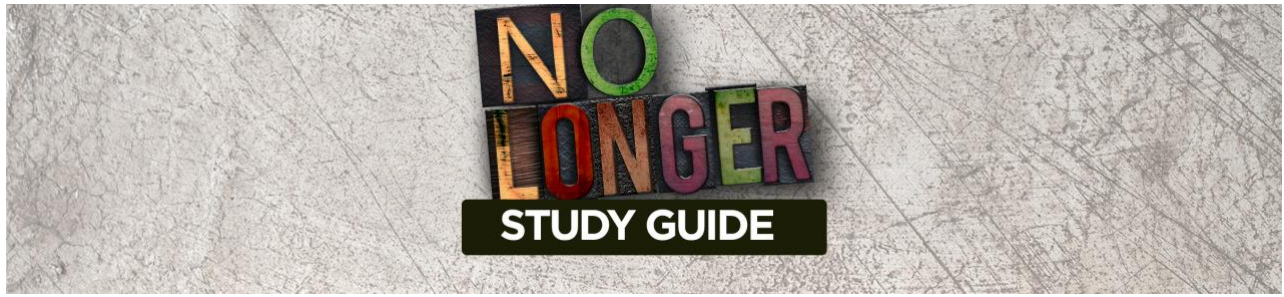


God Is Pulling It All Together

1. READ

Scripture: Acts 1:4-8 New King James Version (NKJV)

And being assembled together with *them*, He commanded them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the Promise of the Father, “which,” *He said*, “you have heard from Me; ⁵ for John truly baptized with water, but you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.” ⁶Therefore, when they had come together, they asked Him, saying, “Lord, will You at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?” ⁷ And He said to them, “It is not for you to know times or seasons which the Father has put in His own authority. ⁸ But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”



Suggested Chapters to Study This Week: Read Acts 1.

2. REFLECT

[Click the image to go to our YouTube page for more content!]



Pastor Watley is continuing in his sermon series “No Longer”. This series is designed to encourage us to trust God with the “no longer” moments of our lives. God will always show up in our lives even when it seems like we’re alone, because we are never alone. God will never leave us nor forsake us because we are now “no longer” the person we were in the past. As we get closer to Pentecost Sunday Pastor Watley continues to drive home the point of what God did on resurrection Sunday and how it relates to where we are now. This week Pastor’s sermon title is “Pulling It All Together”. The opening illustration from Pastor Watley dealt with a tapestry. We saw two sides of it, one side was nice, clean and clear, while the other side was a mess.

NO LONGER STUDY GUIDE

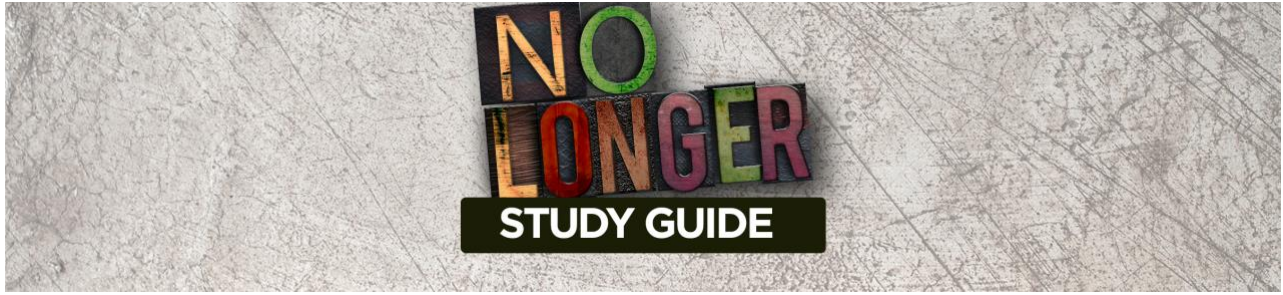


Pastor Watly encourages us to know that God works in making a mess into a masterpiece. No matter how much of a mess it looks like and how we could never make sense of it, God can do it but we have to have faith in God and God's plan. Pastor encourages us to "trust the weaver even when we can't trust the world." And the weaver of course is God. The best example of this mess to a masterpiece is the life and legacy of Jesus Christ. Pastor Watley talks us through those points in the life of Jesus.

- Jesus was born in controversy to a virgin
- Jesus performed signs and wonders but wasn't believed by those in His home team.
- Jesus wasn't letter at a university and did not have the money of someone who was King.
- Jesus was betrayed and lied on.
- But Jesus at the end of His earthly life came back and was raised from dead. The mess was made into a masterpiece.

Pastor Watley encourages us to know that we don't have to look far for an example of a masterpiece, we simply need to look to the life of Jesus. Jesus has a way to do this with everything in our lives. We're reminded at this point of the text in Acts 1:4 where Jesus was gathered together with "them". The point is that Jesus outlines the importance of the "Collective" gathering together. It is important for us to be together in the Name of Jesus. Jesus also "Commanded" them and instructed them on what to do. This shows that we in the Christian faith operate by the command and rule of Christ. Pastor outlines the other points of **Continuity, Comprehensive, Confidential** and the **Commissioning**. Jesus does all of these things to show us that He is pulling all of the strings together to get us to where He has already planned for us to be.

God is pulling it all together for our good and for His Glory.



3. RESPOND

Introspective Questions

- ï What are some ways that God has pulled it altogether in you life?
- ï What has God done for you and/or you family now that you see as great but during the moment you didn't realize it?

Discussion Questions

- ï How do you think the disciples felt when they heard and saw Jesus in this moment?
- ï What should other Christians expect for God to do now in their life based on what God has done in this scripture and in your life?