****Jan 15, 2017**

**Forward Focus 2017: God’s Blueprint**

*(The People: Carriers of His presence)*

**Acts 2:42**

When God enters the equation of our lives, everything changes

**Earlier, Jesus emphasized lifestyle**

* The story of the woman at the well.

 -Jesus showed that the time is now that worship is a lifestyle.

**John 4:21-23**

The church: people connecting in worship with God, not buildings, places & times.

**The People: *Carriers of His presence***

* Carrying a Big Bible to ‘straighten’ out the wrong doers … or

 … Carrying His ‘presence’ to ‘save the lost & needy

**Example:** Peter & John at the Gate Beautiful. **Acts 3:6** I

Not perfect doctrine, but presence

We too are privileged to be carriers of His presence.

**But that was the apostles!?**

* They didn’t start out that way:

 *‘God qualifies the called’*, not the other way round.

* Fisherman, shepherds, local folk…

What makes us extra ordinary change agents is His presence in us.

The Holy Spirit makes all the difference.

**Before Pentecost Jesus made a promise…& fulfilled it.**

**Promise made: John 16:7**

**Fulfilled on Pentecost: Acts 2:1-4**

Nothing Jesus gifts to us is weird, … just wonderful !

**Phillip – just an ordinary church ‘guy’**

* The people now had the **substance**: the presence of God
* They now needed **structure** in their group.

**Acts 6:1-7**

**Final Take Away**

* Ask the Lord what He has planned for you personally this year.

 -He will not force it on you, so be in peace.

 -He’s looking for availability, not inherent ability.

* ‘Desire … and expectation’ – keys

**Notes:**