

A Lot happened in Acts chapter 2-5 (about a 2 year period) - at this point the apostles were thrown in prison

## Speak to the people all the words of "This Life" (2 years)

- Act 5:19-20 ESV But during the night an angel of the Lord opened the prison doors and brought them out, and said, 20 "Go and stand in the temple and speak to the people ***all the words of this Life.***"

## Six places in Acts (from Ch 9 - 24) the movement was called "The Way" (6-27 yrs)

- Act 9:2 ESV and asked him for letters to the synagogues at Damascus, so that if he found any ***belonging to the Way***, men or women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem.

The end result of all that was happening in the church is that it produced an outcome - something that distinguished it in such a way that is was called "**The Way**" or "**This Life**"

## This Way or This Life was both (*organic*)

- Act 2:44-45 ESV And **all who believed were together and had all things in common.** 45 **And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need.**

## And it was at times (*organized*)

- Act 6:1-7 ESV Now in these days when the disciples were increasing in number, a complaint by the Hellenists arose against the Hebrews because their widows were being **neglected in the daily distribution.** 2 And the twelve summoned the full number of the disciples and said, "It is not right that we should give up preaching the word of God to serve tables. 3 Therefore, brothers, pick out from among you seven men of good repute, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom **we will appoint to this duty.**

## When we are born again we enter the Family of God

- Joh 1:12-13 ESV But to **all who did receive him, who believed in his name**, he gave the right to become ***children of God***, 13 **who were born**, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but **of God.**

## We become members of his household with all its privileges

- Eph 2:19 ESV So then you are **no longer strangers and aliens**, but you are **fellow citizens** with the saints and **members of the household of God**,

## We become members of his household will all its responsibilities

- Gal 6:10 ESV So then, as we have opportunity, let us do good to everyone, and **especially to those who are of the household of faith.**

## How can we live as part of the household of God?

- How do we connect to this "***family of God***"? --

- How do we continue to promote a faith that we could call **THE WAY** or we could describe it as **the WORDS OF THIS LIFE?**
- What does this life or this way look like?

I think it is largely about relationships and the care that flows between people who are growing in love for one another.....There are 59 “One Another” commands in the bible - this is how we function in the family

### Sometimes we connect organically around different elements

- A common interest
- Acts of charity (Kathi and Sue are serving Heidi Yeager)
- Stages of life

### Sometimes we connect organizationally

- Ministry teams (kids ministry, worship team)
- A small group or bible study

### **Perhaps you need to feel more connected to the family of God**

- If you are not connected, reach out (if you want friends show yourself friendly Prov 18:24 KJV)
- Who would you call if you need help doing something
- Who would you talk to when you are going through difficult times
- Who would you like to get to know

### **Perhaps you can help others be connected to the family of God**

- Someone is missing, call them reach out
- You see a need, see if you can meet it or organize others to help
- Create an opportunity for people to interact

### ENDING

- 1) God calls us to him as Father
- 2) This immediately puts us into family with all the **benefits, privileges and responsibilities**
- 3) Live so it could be said of you “He/She Lives in the WAY” - about the way of LIFE not just a Belief