Sunday, June 7, 2026 Bill Smith

Hope for the Struggling Church

Acts 1:1-8

1. God is sovereign over all humanity and especially over his church

2. We are utterly dependent on his Holy Spirit

3. Hardship is normal, not unusual

4. The mission of the church is unstoppable

Discussion Questions:

1. When you read/watch the news, how hard or easy is it for you to remember that God reigns over all the affairs of humanity and especially for his Church?
    a. How can you tell when you're struggling to believe that (i.e. what do you find yourself doing/thinking/feeling when you're less confident of his sovereignty)?

2. Can you share a time when you saw the power of the Holy Spirit at work in the mission of the Church and were amazed at what he did?
    a. Have you had experiences where you or others relied on something other than the Holy Spirit? If so, what was that like and how did that turn out?

3. Dealing with hardships is a normal part of life (Acts 14:22) that helps us see what we trust in to get us through life.
    a. What's been hard for you to deal with lately? What's that shown you about what you trust in?
    b. How has—or is—God using that to advance his kingdom in your life and in the lives of others?

4. As you look backwards through history at what has God already done through his Church, what stands out to you that encourages your faith to believe that by his power, his people will complete the mission that he's set out for them?
    a. Where do you see yourself taking the place or part that he's given you in what he's doing?