

## Thursday, May 28

That last element of Gateways to God mentioned in the Message was the “never too late” Gateway. Illustrating this Gateway were the lives of Malcom Muggeridge and Anne Rice, both accepting faith in God through Christ late in life. This “Never Too Late Gateway” should give hope to the church and encourages us to always and forever enable people to seek a relationship with God through Jesus the Christ, no matter their circumstances or age! However, some Christians resent and are suspicious of these later in life conversion experiences. Sometimes these experiences are referred to as “Deathbed Confessions.” Meditate on these thoughts and write your reflections here.

## Friday, May 29

Once more read Acts 2:1-21. That first Pentecost should make us away of the power and the breadth of the work of God’s Holy Spirit as many from many different regions experiences God’s presence. After all, God desires that all humanity be saved (I Timothy 2:4). How can the church facilitate the many Gateways to God? How should our worship, our programs, our media presence, our staffing reflect God’s desire? What Gateways are working for our local congregation? What more can Central Church do to create and facilitate Gateways to God? Think about these questions and write your ideas here.

## Message Notes May 24, 2026

### *Turning the Hole to Holy\**

- I. That term “\_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_” is sometimes attributed to Blaise Pascal.
  - A. We find essentially the same thought in the writings of \_\_\_\_\_, who was born in the 4<sup>th</sup> century.
    1. He prayed, “I call you into my soul, which you prepare to accept you by the \_\_\_\_\_ that you breathe into it.”
    2. The idea is that he viewed all people as having that \_\_\_\_\_.
  - B. Contemporary research suggests \_\_\_\_\_; that not all humanity feels a \_\_\_\_\_ for God...that “\_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_” in our hearts.
- II. Demographers and sociologists have been using the broad term “\_\_\_\_\_” to describe the religiously unaffiliated since the 1960s.
  - A. The Pew Research Center describe “nones” as people who describe themselves as \_\_\_\_\_, agnostic or “\_\_\_\_\_ in particular” when surveyed about their present \_\_\_\_\_.
  - B. Lately, surveyors have identified a subgroup of the \_\_\_\_\_ they are calling the “\_\_\_\_\_.”
    1. What is unique about these folks is that they don’t express any \_\_\_\_\_ for God.
    2. Others in this subgroup have never had a \_\_\_\_\_ with religion or spirituality.
- III. If there is one thing Pentecost teaches, it is that God is not limited to one human \_\_\_\_\_ — or \_\_\_\_\_ — to reach us where it matters.

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\*Acts 2:1-21

- A. We have several \_\_\_\_\_ through which the Holy Spirit can reach our innermost being.
- B. First, we human beings can come to a relationship with God primarily through the \_\_\_\_\_.

C. Second gateway; the \_\_\_\_\_ Gateway through which we humans connect with God.

D. Third, the \_\_\_\_\_ Gateway to God.

IV. The Holy Spirit can also enter our lives through our \_\_\_\_\_, our relationships with others, \_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_ moments in our lives, our choices, sudden \_\_\_\_\_, and so on.

A. The story of Pentecost is that the Spirit of God is not \_\_\_\_\_ by human barriers.

B. Thankfully, there is a \_\_\_\_\_ in \_\_\_\_\_ gateway to God!

C. Pentecost, it seems, has not been confined to the \_\_\_\_\_, but continues today, through God-shaped holes and other means.

## ***Daily Devotional Guide***

The following is a daily devotional and study guide meant to enhance your understanding of the message and grow as a Christian.

It is offered for your personal reflection or to share with others.

### **Monday, May 25**

Read Acts 8:26-40. The Message began with the illustrated that humans possess an innate longing or yearning for God. We look for something or someone greater than ourselves, a guiding spirit, a loving creator, some sort of spiritual presence. This concept is truly ancient as illustrated by the story of the Ethiopian Eunuch. Before that, God sought a man “after his own heart” to replace

King Saul (1 Samuel 13:14). What do you think? Do we humans have a God-Shaped Hole in our hearts? Do we have an innate longing or yearning for God? Contemplate these questions and write your reflections here.

### **Tuesday, May 26**

Recent research suggest that not all humanity feels a hunger for God. There have been “Nones” described since the 1960s. Then there are the Dones who regardless of their past experiences with or without the church are just done with the whole idea of God and the church. As was mentioned in the Message, a researcher wrote, “the Dones don’t yearn.” Do you have any thoughts about the Nones and Dones? Do you feel compassion for these people? Do you feel anything for these people? What do you believe God feels about the Nones and Dones? Meditate on these questions, think about how God might the church in interact with Nones and Dones. Write your thoughts here.

### **Wednesday, May 27**

Read carefully and deliberately Acts 2:1-21. The concept of Gateways to God was introduced during the Message. Do you see any gateways to God expressed with this passage from Acts? Several “Gateways” were explored and mentioned during the Message: Intellectual, Emotional, Social, our Conscience, painful or joyful moments in our lives and sudden revelations. Do you recognize any specific Gateways in your experience of God or in the church? Contemplate these thoughts and write your thoughts here.