

July 27, 2025

## **The Church Jesus Built**

This week we will look at the very foundation of the church, according to Christ.

By understanding Christ's intent for the church, we can better understand our role as we await his return.

Throughout the centuries following Jesus's life on earth, many denominations of his followers have arisen.

There is, however, only one church, one body of Christ.

Though disagreements in particular practices or exact articulations of doctrine exist, we all agree on Christ. We should then do our best to understand the purpose of the church as shown in Acts so we can come together as the disciples and follow Christ's calling. This week, we look at Jesus's apparent singular concern for the disciples at the time of his ascension: the Holy Spirit.

### **Acts 1:6-8 ESV**

6 So when they had come together, they asked him, "Lord, will you at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?" 7 He said to them, "It is not for you to know times or seasons that the Father has fixed by his own authority. 8 But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."

The Holy Spirit came to complete Christ's work on earth. Jesus came to fulfill the Law, freeing us from its constraints and certain death

### **Matthew 5:17–20 ESV**

17 “Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them. 18 For truly, I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not an iota, not a dot, will pass from the Law until all is accomplished. 19 Therefore whoever relaxes one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do the same will be called least in the kingdom of heaven, but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. 20 For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven

### **Romans 8:13 ESV**

13 For if you live according to the flesh you will die, but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live.

The disciples in Acts 1 seem to believe Christ’s next step would be to restore the kingdom of Israel (Acts 1:6).

However, Christ has a completely different objective. He tells the disciples that they will receive power from the coming of the Holy Spirit (after his impending ascension). He then says something wholly unexpected: The disciples would become witnesses in Jerusalem, but also in Judea and Samaria; they would not be fixed within the Jewish community anymore.

### **Tell story of where I came from**

I honestly grew up in the Bronx and thought I would never leave the Bronx in my life.

But this is where I learned that when we become witnesses, we are no longer bound to these walls.

### **Acts 1:8 ESV**

**8** But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”

This passage tells us two main things.

First, the Holy Spirit is the basis of the church. The church is made up of followers of Christ, and we are made what we are by the presence of the Holy Spirit within us, empowering us to complete Christ’s work on earth.

Second, where Christ’s ministry focused on the Israelite population (Matthew 10:5–6; 15:24–25), the disciples, empowered by the Holy Spirit, should now turn their attention to the gentiles as well as the Jews. Christ shifts the focus from a local ministry among a small, specific people group to a global ministry including all people in all places (v. 8).

Our mission is the City of Peekskill, This is where we are “stationed”

But know we get to start spreading

We have been talking about The Missions with the kids and their barrels.

Kids in Kenya, Church in Guatemala

And this is just the beginning.

Our Job now is to spread the gospel,

When we talk about the Rock the Riverfront we talk about spreading the Gospel to hundreds of people that may or may not know Jesus.

I was up in fishkill last week. And I decided to talk to the Sam's club representative about a membership, only to end up finding out that he was at rock on the riverfront last year; our work is working.

As Christ finished passing these instructions and exhortations to his disciples, he ascended into the heavens, leaving them (and us) with a mission. But they had not yet received the power of the Holy Spirit, so they gathered, shored up what they could among themselves—restoring their number by selecting Matthias to replace Judas—and awaited the power that would propel them onward.

Much like a child, waiting for Christmas gifts, might set out cookies and milk and maybe even carrots for the reindeer in preparation for Santa's arrival, the disciples eagerly awaited what Christ had foretold.

This has a few rough parallels to the start of Christianity. The faith began with a “founder” starting a small operation in a small corner of the world. But it was never destined to stay in a small corner of the world. If the intent on staying right where they were, they may never have expanded. But Christ didn't mean for the disciples (and their message) to stay isolated, and the Holy Spirit doesn't exist within us to stay locked up within our preexisting notions of mission. In Christ's name, they expanded, going to the edges of the known world.

The message we preach today can not only stay in these four walls. It is intended to be heard across the nation. WE livestream for a reason. We have people all over the world watching our sermons. We have the tech, and soon we will be able to teach ourselves. So if you want to learn even more to spread the gospel, join us every Sunday morning, at 9am on the second floor.

As the church our foundation is and our job with the holy spirit is to spread the Gospel , this is the beginning of the Church. We are the Church and we are here to do God's will.