Reformer- is someone who seeks to correct, renew, or restore something that has become corrupted, distorted, ineffective, or strayed from its original purpose.

Reformation- *a 16th-century movement for the reform of abuses in the Roman Catholic Church ending in the establishment of the Reformed and Protestant Churches.* **The Reformation began over 500 years ago in 1517.**

Jesus Church *had been reduced to people literally paying money to be forgiven through indulgences and purgatory, completely ignorant of Gods word, fully reliant on the pope for leadership*. To go against the order of the Catholic Church would mean to go against God and many were killed, burned at the stake for doings so. The church was misaligned to say the least.

October 31st 1517 Martin Luther a German Monk restored the truth of grace and made it public in his 95 Thesis. The reformers main focus come from

Romans 1:17 (NKJV) For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, "The just shall live by faith."

Ephesians summarizes his core theology. Ephesians 2:8-9For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, *it is* the gift of God; [9] not as a result of works, so that no one may boast.

"At last meditating day and night, by the mercy of God, I began to understand that the righteousness of God is that through which the righteous live by a gift of God, namely by faith. Here I felt as if I were entirely born again and had entered paradise itself through the gates that had been flung open." Martin Luther

- **So grace was re-discovered. We can imagine it felt so freeing** and the Spirit of God was moving mightily as the church stepped out of the shadow of the lie of salvation by works and into grace. Though this truth is incredible and worth thanking God for every day, it was but the beginning of God's full vision for the church. There Paul's be many more reformation movements following Martin Luther in which God would uncover foundational truth.

- **It is frightening what can get lost that is right in front of us written in the word of God.** *As we look around at many churches that no longer live by God's absolute truth and attempt to* ***deconstruct and redefine the Word of God,*** *we must commit ourselves to living by the Scriptures, the Gospel that is eternal. There is much that needs to be restored back to its rightful place.*

- **The grace of God saves us but also equips us to live out the life of Christ**.The re-formation of the church has not ended. Holy Spirit will continue to transform His bride until we reach the full measure of the stature of Jesus Christ ***Eph. 4:13*** *till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ;*

Forerunners or Pioneers are individuals who are dissatisfied with the status quo. Pioneers have a vision of something better beyond their immediate world and ways because they believe in what is unseen.

Pioneers are among the first to explore or settle a new country or area. The Church in the West that has settled and stopped advancing into the full expression of God's kingdom here on earth as it is in heaven has become more of a cultural expression instead of a heavenly one.

You could say that one of the major themes/calling of God beginning with Adam was like that of a pioneer.

Original commission

Genesis 1:28 – Then God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth."

Great commission.

Matthew 28:18-20- *18 And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. 19* ***Go*** *therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." Amen.*

Go into all the nations sounds like a battle cry for pioneers who will do whatever it takes to disciple as many people in Jesus Christ as possible. Interwoven in the church body should be a pioneering spirit to go where others are not willing. We need less settlers and more pioneers.

The major difference between pioneers and settlers. Pioneers are explorers, seeking to go where no one had gone before. Settlers seek safety. They avoid risking life and limb preferring the shelter and security of the settlement to the adventurous danger of uncharted territories.

- **We are meant to be more of a pioneer movement than we are settlers.** This means we will be required to keep moving forward not fully knowing whats ahead but keeping our eyes upon the One whose leadership is perfect.
- **We will only fully experience Jesus leadership as we are established by the word of God and the Holy Spirit. We redig the ancient wells of truth until they are established.**

- Part of the reason we love and respect people who are willing to go somewhere no one else will is because inside we wish we would have that kind of boldness. *Those who are led by the Spirit of God into specific unchartered areas spur others to do the same. They carry awakening, fire, passion etc.*

His Presence is more important than preservation. When preservation is the highest goal we miss what God wants to do. **One of the most dangerous thing from keeping us moving forward into a fresh move of God is how we limit God based upon our current understanding.** *Our belief about God (Theology) must be Jesus centered and our eyes kept upon Him.*

Each denomination or movement has celebrated pioneers and we should honor those who have gone before in boldness.

- **Unfortunately overemphasizing heroes is often our biggest obstacles to overcome when traveling in unchartered territory** Over Reverence for our heroes can have a counterintuitive effect on us and rather then help us move forward trap us into the revelation that God released in their day. **We can be in danger of becoming over dependent and subservient to their work rather then keeping our eyes fully on Jesus and the current revelation that He is releasing upon His bride from His word.**
- We must be careful not to rebuild institutional boundaries and limitations that closely resemble the structures that pioneers had to overcome in the first place.
- **In essence we are called to be a church that is continuing into His reformation until Christ is formed in us!*Galatians 4:19***

We need to embrace what God is currently doing. He wants to takes us deeper, He wants to take us further which means if we only hang on to an old experience, an old way of thinking that is not actually Biblical then we will miss the fullness of how He wants to use us in this hour.

Our full return to alignment will include allowing the kingdom of God, His government and perfect leadership to be in full operation with His body.

- **As a pioneer/reformation/renewal movement we must not be afraid of critique,. Do not try to maintain peace from any other source than the Prince of Peace Himself, culture and even other Christians will not always agree with you. Let scriptural aches move you closer to Christ.**
- **Remember that Jesus was crucified outside the camp. Hebrews 13:12-13** 12 Therefore Jesus also, that He might sanctify the people with His own blood, suffered outside the gate. 13 Therefore let us go forth to Him, outside the camp, bearing His reproach.

- A Spirit filled believer is capable of establishing himself in barren places bringing life where there is death. **We must continue in a missional mindset that does not wait for someone else to do what we are called to do**. Our response to the voice of Jesus through Holy Spirit will bring many others into their destiny.

Jesus wants His body back! **Step by step God has been working to bring His body back into alignment for the grand display of His glory that will be fully manifest on His wedding day.**

God is bringing further reformation in this hour that will precede the second coming of Christ and bring the greatest harvest the world has ever seen. ***He is calling the bride into Throne room to behold Him in all His glory. Just as the power of God was released upon the Apostolic age of the church, Jesus will return to a church that is moving in Bridal love and Apostolic power.***

As we look at the picture in Ezekiel 47 the river begins to flow from the inner court and works out.

Ezekiel 47:1a- Then he brought me back to the door of the temple; and there was water, flowing from under the threshold of the temple toward the east,

As you read on about the move of the Holy Spirit in Ezekiel 47 the water gets deeper and deeper into a river that no one can cross and whatever it touches is healed and restored. It all begins in the inner room and works out, while often the bride has neglected this high priestly ministry.

Reformation was meant to get us into the throne room. Grace is the threshold, the entry point. Our Bridegroom King Jesus did not want us to just get in, He paid the price to usher us all the way into the Holy of Holies. **For some reason the most difficult place for the bride to remain is the most important place.** *Jesus paid the price and fought for His bride to enter into this High priestly function of ministering to the Lord and many are content with life as usual in the outer courts. We are not just saved from hell we are propelled into the Bridal Chamber.*

True reformation moves from a pulpit and pew to a throne and an alter where everyone brings their incense and fire. Under the blood of Jesus we get to bring our incense with His fire into the Holy of Holies.

Do we really understand that Holy Spirit in this hour is wanting to bring the entire-bride into the Holy of Holies to re-establish this New Covenant priestly ministry to the Lord establishing first love-on earth as it is in heaven.

Home group questions

Discuss how we are still in the midst of a reformation. What does that mean to you?

How do we honor pioneers and reformers without being confined to further growth in the Holy Spirit?

Discuss the difference between a pioneer and a settler? How do you relate to both and where is Holy Spirit leading you to be a pioneer/forerunner?

Discuss he following -Reformation is meant to get the entire church (bride of Christ), into the throne room not just over the threshold of grace.

Discuss the wineskin that Holy Spirit is forming in our day.