

Welcome Home Church

A new day, A new way

Introduction - Jesus Builds His Church

Simon Peter answered, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God." Jesus replied, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah, for this was not revealed to you by flesh and blood, but by my Father in heaven. And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it **Matthew 16.16-18**

- The rock Jesus refers to is the revelation of Jesus as the Son of God
- The word "church" in the New Testament comes from the Greek term Ekklesia which is formed from two Greek words meaning "an assembly" and "to call out" or "called out ones."
- The New Testament church is a body of believers who have been called out from the world by God to live as his people under the authority of Jesus Christ
- Called out from one way of life
- Called out of the worlds ways of thinking
- Called into a New Family, a new community - The Church
- Called out under the revelation of Jesus as the Son of the living God

And he (Jesus) is the head of the body, the church; so that in everything he might have the supremacy. **Colossians 1.18**

And God placed all things under his feet and appointed him to be head over everything for the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills everything in every way. **Ephesians 1.22,23**

- Church referred to as a body and Jesus as head over that body
- Church is also called a bride and Jesus referred to as the bridegroom (Ephesians 5)

The Birth of The Church

When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. All of them

were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them. **Acts 2.1-4**

- They were all together
- They were all in one place
- A sound like the blowing of a violent wind filled the whole place
- Fire came upon them and they spoke in other tongues
- Their fear left and they spill out into the world around them
- They began speaking the good news of Jesus with hope, love, strength

New Day, The New Way

“Therefore let all Israel be assured of this: God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Messiah.” [37] When the people heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and the other apostles, “Brothers, what shall we do?” [38] Peter replied, “Repent and be baptised, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. [39] The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off---for all whom the Lord our God will call.” [40] With many other words he warned them; and he pleaded with them, “Save yourselves from this corrupt generation.” [41] Those who accepted his message were baptised, and about three thousand were added to their number that day. [42] They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. [43] Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles. [44] All the believers were together and had everything in common. [45] They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need. [46] Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, [47] praising God and enjoying the favour of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved. **Acts 2:36-47**

- This all began as they were filled with the Spirit and then spilled out into the streets and and community around them
- People saw the life of the spirit open them - some made fun and others were attracted to it

1. Jesus is both Lord and Messiah - Saviour and Master
 2. People repented, and were baptised - changed their thinking, turned kingdom ways
 3. Received the Holy Spirit - The promise, gift of God dwelling within humans
 4. They devoted themselves to the apostles teaching - Learning the ways of the Kingdom
 5. They devoted themselves to fellowship - Joining in the Spirit, Koinonia, Unity, Oneness, community centred around Christ
 6. They devoted themselves to the breaking of Bread - Centrality of Christ and his Cross
 7. They devoted themselves to prayer - Relationship to God, Breathing, talking, empowered
 - Prayed constantly, altogether in one place (chapter 1)
 - Prayed throughout the next few chapters
 8. Lord added to their number daily those being saved - Missional, outward focused
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- A new community, a heavenly idea - Ekklesia
 - A powerful non violent force that would change the world!

His intent was that now, through the church, the manifold wisdom of God should be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly realms.

Ephesians 3.10

Application - Devoted to Prayer

- All the above but with a special focus on prayer and fasting in this season
 - 21 days - download the reading plan
 - Turn into groups and pray with each other
- A. That Jesus would be Lord
 - B. That you would be filled with the Holy Spirit