

BELONGING

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LIFE IN A DIFFERENT KINGDOM!

These are great days to be alive! All over the world, millions of people are deciding to follow Jesus, and are experiencing peace with God and a brand new start as they begin to live as He always intended!

When we are 'born again' in this way (Jn 3:3-6), we are radically transferred out of our old way of life and into "the kingdom of the Son" (Col 1:13) - God's Kingdom in which Jesus is "King of kings and Lord of lords" (Rev 19:16).

The Kingdom of God is 'the rule or reign of God in action'; it exists wherever His will is done here on earth as in heaven (Mt 6:9-10), and when we begin to follow Christ we surrender our lives to His rule and reign - he becomes our King and Lord. This changes absolutely everything: we become citizens of this new Kingdom, and it's the most profound and radical shift that could ever happen in our lives!

TWO CONVERSIONS

How does this dramatic change happen? It's the result of two 'conversions', the first is personal and the second involves our relationships with other people!

The first and 'personal' conversion is described in Acts 2:36-4, where the apostles make clear to the crowd that if they want to make Jesus Lord and Christ they must each (personally and individually) repent, be baptised and receive the Holy Spirit (Ac 2:38). This they gladly do and 3000 people are added to the church that day (Ac 2:41)!

The second 'conversion' is the corporate one, and is described in the following verses (Ac 2:42-47), where we read of the life-changing way in which 3000 individuals ceased to be part of a "crowd" and began to share their lives together in such a way that they became a harmonious, unified, powerful, fruitful, grace-filled *community* - the world's first Spirit-filled church!

GOD WANTS US TO BELONG!

God doesn't want any of us to live isolated and independent lives; rather, He wants us

to experience the joy of being part of His Church - a loving, supportive and growing family. He wants us to really 'BELONG', in a church family where we can find our place and play our part, being supported and encouraged to grow in our faith. The real church is never a building or place we attend; it is a body of people we're *part of*, and God wants us to be *participants*, not onlookers. The church needs you just as much as you need the church.

At Living Rock we want all our members to experience not just the personal conversion that saves us from an eternal separation from God but the 'corporate' conversion that enables us to participate fully in the life of the church and be more fruitful and fulfilled than ever!

BELONGING

This 'BELONGING' Course is designed to help you do just that! It is designed around the wonderful description of the first church found in Ac 2:42-47.

'Those who believed were added to the church that day. All the believers devoted themselves to the apostles teaching...the apostles performed many miraculous signs and wonders...all the believers met in one place and shared everything they had. They sold their property and possessions... They worshipped together at the Temple each day and met in homes...'

This Course focuses on six key aspects that are as vital now as they were then:

1. **Church** - its true nature and mission.
2. **Word** - the authority and power of the Bible.
3. **Leadership** - the nature and role of biblical leaders and ministries.
4. **Covenant** - sharing our lives together as God's people.
5. **Stewardship** - handling our resources properly.
6. **Gatherings** - biblical instructions about our large and small-group gatherings.

We hope you will really enjoy BELONGING!