



Spirit Empowered CHURCH

Spirit Empowered Church

Part 3

June 26, 2022

Acts 2:36-47, “³⁶Let all the house of Israel therefore know for certain that God has made him both Lord and Christ, this Jesus whom you crucified.” ³⁷Now when they heard this they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, “Brothers, what shall we do?” ³⁸And Peter said to them, “Repent and be baptized 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.” ³⁹For the promise is for you and for

your children and for all who are far off, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to himself.”⁴⁰ And with many other words he bore witness and continued to exhort them, saying, “Save yourselves from this crooked generation.”⁴¹ So those who received his word were baptized, and there were added that day about three thousand souls.⁴² And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.⁴³ And awe came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles.⁴⁴ And all who believed were together and had all things in common.⁴⁵ And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need.⁴⁶ And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts,⁴⁷ praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved.”

May the Lord add His Blessing to the Reading and the Hearing of His Word. Amen. You may be seated...

Today we will be continuing our series addressing the need to be a “Spirit Empowered Church”. As I have stated many times already; The First Century Church was a Spirit Empowered Church and the End Time Church must be a Spirit Empowered Church as well. And a vital part of being Spirit Empowered is being Relationally Interconnected.

The church model of growth and sustainability is fundamentally found in one passage of text recorded in Acts 2:42-43, “⁴² And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching (DOCTRINALLY SOUND) and the fellowship (RELATIONALLY CONNECTED), to the breaking of bread (BUILDING COMMUNITY) and the prayers (SPIRITUALLY DEVELOPING). ⁴³ And awe came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. (MIRACLES MANIFESTED AFTER DIVINE ALIGNMENT MANIFESTED).

It is my honest opinion and my Biblical position that a Church's overall health is determined by these four facets of the Early Church: Doctrinally Sound, Relationally Connected, Building Community, and Spiritually Developing. Furthermore, it is my firm belief that when these four facets are in operation that the church will see miracles and the Move of the Spirit as common place and not as rare experiences.

I want to draw our attention to one specific central thread in the tapestry of this text; every aspect of these four points are directly tied to relationships and connections with others. Our doctrine, our connections, our community and our spiritual development are not lone wolf practices but rather in seeing the value of connection and relationship.

If God stated that it was not good for Adam to be alone, in spite of the fact that God was with Adam every day, then do not fall into the trap of thinking that you don't need the church, or relationships with other Christians because, and I quote, "All I need is Jesus".

It is true that you don't have to go to Church to become a Christian, the Church is not who died for you, but, as a Christian, you need to go to Church because you are a Christian not because you are trying to become a Christian. A duck doesn't quack to prove it's a duck; it's a duck thus it quacks. You don't go to church to prove you are a Christian; you go because you are a Christian. Church attendance is absolutely necessary; its not optional. Nowhere in the Scripture does it make the gathering of the Saints optional! If you are born again, you will desire to be with those of like precious faith!

1. A Spirit Empowered Church is a Gathering Centric Partnership

a. A Spirit Empowered Church sees the value of relationship with others who are of like Precious Faith!

b. Hebrews 10:19-25, ¹⁹Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the holy places by the blood of Jesus, ²⁰by the new and living way that he opened for us through the curtain, that is, through his flesh, ²¹and since we have a great priest over the

house of God, ²² let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. ²³ Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful. ²⁴ And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, ²⁵ not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.”

- c. I honestly believe that if we all, myself included, realized just how late of an hour that we are living in that we would be all the more motivated to get our hearts right with the Father, choose to serve Christ all the days of our lives and be faithful to His Church in our attendance, in our support and in our invitations to friends and loved ones to come gather with us.
- d. There are 168 hours a week (24 hours x 7 Days) and, as your Pastor, I am asking for you to be faithful to 4 of those being invested here in your attendance, participation and support. I am asking for you to commit 2% of your time...

- e. If we are going to be a Spirit Empowered Church then we must be a Church that sees church attendance as a necessity and not an option. If we cannot be faithful to the House of God then how can we ever be faithful to the things of God?
- f. Ephesians 4:14-16, “¹⁴so that we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes.
¹⁵Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, ¹⁶from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love.”
- g. Notice the end of this text... “when each part is working properly, makes the body grow...”
- h. And the Church works properly when the Church values the Gathering of the Church
- i. Remember, A Spirit Empowered Church is a Gathering Centric Partnership. Point #2...

2. A Spirit Empowered Church is a Community Driven Church

- a. 1 John 1:6-7, “⁶If we say we have fellowship with him while we walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. ⁷But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin.”
- b. Though our faith may grow through several avenues, one of the most vitally important aspects of our faith walk is walking with others of faith. The philosophy of not needing anyone else other than Jesus is unbiblical and naive.
- c. It is through our relationship with Christ that our relationships with others become all the more vital because as the text noted, as we walk in the light, we will also walk with one another in fellowship with Christ and each other. We were made for community; common unity.
- d. Galatians 6:1-2, “Brothers, if anyone is caught in any transgression, you who are spiritual should restore him in a spirit of gentleness. Keep watch on yourself, lest you too be tempted. ²Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ.”

- e. In light of my previous statement that we were made for community, it is impossible to bear one another's burdens, as the text requires of us to do, if we refuse to gather together much less walk with one another. Sure, relationships with others come with risk and the fear of betrayal etc.; however, a life lived apart from relationship is void of life itself.
- f. Our modern prison systems understand the toll that being alone inflicts on the psyche and soul of a person thus they utilize solitary confinement as a form of punishment, as a tool, to get unruly individuals under control because even the prison system understands the Genesis 2 principle. It is not good for a human to be alone.
- g. Remember, A Spirit Empowered Church is a Community Driven Church. Point #3...

3. A Spirit Empowered Church is a Relationally Healthy Fellowship

- a. Psalm 133:1-3, "Behold, how good and pleasant it is when brothers dwell in unity! ²It is like the precious oil on the head, running down on the beard, on the beard of Aaron, running down on the collar of his robes! ³It is like the dew of Hermon, which

falls on the mountains of Zion! For there the Lord has commanded the blessing, life forevermore.”

- b. According to this passage of Scripture, the Lord commands His blessing, life forevermore, to the place of Unity amongst brethren. The Lord will never bless a house of rebellion or a house of disunity.
- c. And if we truly desire the Blessing of the Lord then we must also truly desire Unity in His House amongst the Saints of God! No Unity; No Blessing. Just because we may not always agree doesn't mean we can't walk together in unity.
- d. 1 Thessalonians 5:9-11, “⁹For God has not destined us for wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, ¹⁰who died for us so that whether we are awake or asleep we might live with him. ¹¹Therefore encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing.”
- e. Why is unity so important you may ask? Along with unity bringing blessing from the Lord, we can't encourage nor build one another up if we are not in unity.

- f. Our connection with one another makes encouraging and building up one another possible. We need one another more than we realize; you were never meant to walk through life nor walk in your faith alone.
- g. It's just as Hebrews 10:25 records, **"²⁵ not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near."**
- h. No one crosses the finish line alone; may we, today, choose to lock arms in unity and cross the finish line together! God is calling us to a deeper relationship with Him and with one another.
- i. Remember, A Spirit Empowered Church is a Relationally Healthy Fellowship

Church family...

- A Spirit Empowered Church is a Gathering Centric Partnership
- A Spirit Empowered Church is a Community Driven Church
- A Spirit Empowered Church is a Relationally Healthy Fellowship

And I know by the unction of the Holy Spirit that this is what the Lord is calling us to!