



# Spirit Empowered C H U R C H

Spirit Empowered Church

Part 4

July 10, 2022

Acts 2:41-47, <sup>41</sup> So those who received his word were baptized, and there were added that day about three thousand souls. <sup>42</sup> And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. <sup>43</sup> And awe came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. <sup>44</sup> And all who believed were together and had all things in common. <sup>45</sup> And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to

all, as any had need. <sup>46</sup> And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts, <sup>47</sup> 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 We must be a Spirit Empowered Church as well if we intend to be empowered to be a part of the End Time Harvest before the Coming of the Lord! And a vital part of being Spirit Empowered is being mirroring and implementing what sustained the First Century Church.

As I stated a few weeks ago, I believe that it bears repeating. The church model of growth and sustainability is fundamentally found in one passage of text recorded in Acts 2:42-43, "<sup>42</sup> 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). <sup>43</sup> And awe came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles.

A Church's overall health is determined by these four facets of the Early Church noted in Acts 2: Doctrinally Sound, Relationally Connected, Building Community, and Spiritually Developing. 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 vitally important for us as Christians.

Now with that said, there seems to be this ideology that is infiltrating the Church, even by way of some pulpits, that state things such as this, "It's not about the Religion, it's about the Relationship!" "It's not about doctrine, it's all about loving Jesus" "It's not about how you live, it's about what you believe!"

Sadly, these statements have been propagated from laity and clergy and this is the byproduct of poor theology, poor biblical understanding, and poor preaching and teaching. Church family, it matters how you live. It matters what you believe. It matters what doctrines you embrace. It matters about your religious affiliation. We embrace statements as I previously noted without fully thinking about what we are saying nor what we are embracing. So with that said, Point #1...

## 1. A Spirit Empowered Church is Submitted to Apostolic Authority

- a. 1 Corinthians 14:37-38, <sup>37</sup>“If anyone thinks that he is a prophet, or spiritual, he should acknowledge that the things I am writing to you are a command of the Lord. <sup>38</sup>If anyone does not recognize this, he is not recognized.”
- b. If we refuse to acknowledge and support the teachings of the Apostles found within the Bible then we are in error. The First Century Church honored and supported and submitted to Apostolic Authority and Apostolic Teaching.
- c. Just as noted in 1 Corinthians 14, Paul is making it clear that his teachings and directives are authoritative in nature and if anyone claims to be spiritual then they will acknowledge and support Apostolic Teaching. If anyone does not recognize this then he is not to be recognized; to be given a seat of power in the church nor given influence.
- d. Ephesians 2:18-22, <sup>18</sup>“For through him we both have access in one Spirit to the Father. <sup>19</sup>So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, <sup>20</sup>built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone, <sup>21</sup>in whom the whole structure, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord. <sup>22</sup>In him you also

are being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit.”

- e. Note verse 19-20, “<sup>19</sup> So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, <sup>20</sup> built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone,”
- f. The household of God is built upon the foundation of the Apostles and the Prophets and if we strive to dismantle Apostolic doctrine and teaching then this is the equivalence to removing the foundation upon which we stand!
- g. A Spirit Empower Church is an Apostolically Authoritative Church but a Flesh Lead Church is an Apostate Church!
- h. Apostate defined means to abandon religious belief or principle. And the Church becomes Apostate when we abandon Apostolic Teaching and Doctrine and pursue doctrines of devils!
- i. 2 Timothy 4:3-4, “<sup>3</sup> For the time is coming when people will not endure sound teaching, but having itching ears they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own passions, <sup>4</sup> and will turn away from listening to the truth and wander off into myths.”

- j. Church, what you believe matters, what your doctrine is matters and who you listen to preach matters. It is not whether it sounds good or not; the question is whether it is biblical or not!
- k. Remember, A Spirit Empowered Church is Submitted to Apostolic Authority!
- l. Point #2...

## 2. A Spirit Empowered Church is a Scripturally Sound Church

- a. 2 Timothy 3:16-17, “<sup>16</sup>All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, <sup>17</sup>that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.”
- b. Teaching, Reproof, Correction, and Training
- c. As a Spirit Empower Church and a Scripturally Sound Church, we allow the Word of God to teach us, reproof us, correct us, and train us in Righteousness!
- d. We need to know the Word but also let the Word know us by submitting ourselves to its correction. A fatal mistake of many Christians is they view their life, their sexuality, their actions through the Word. Simply put, they try to justify their actions by the Word rather than allow the Word to justify not doing such actions.

- e. “Well, we are all sinners...”; “No one is perfect”; “Everyone sins but thank God for Jesus”. Church family, it’s not about perfection; it’s about being a disciple of Christ. And as a disciple of Christ, there are just some things that we just don’t do.
- f. It’s not about being sinless but rather about being disciplined in the Word and allowing the Word to correct our lives rather than trying to use the Word to justify our spiritual condition.
- g. 1 John 1:5-10, **“<sup>5</sup>This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all. <sup>6</sup>If we say we have fellowship with him while we walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. <sup>7</sup>But 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. <sup>8</sup>If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. <sup>9</sup>If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. <sup>10</sup>If we say we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.”**
- h. Church, there is a difference between having sin and living in sin; making a mistake versus perpetuating a mistake. And if we are Biblically sound then we will be spiritually sound and in order.

- i. Remember, A Spirit Empowered Church is a Scripturally Sound Church!
- j. Point #3...

### 3. A Spirit Empowered Church is Embracing of Biblical Teaching and Fundamentalism

- a. Ephesians 4:11-16, <sup>11</sup>And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, <sup>12</sup>to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, <sup>13</sup>until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ, <sup>14</sup>so 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. <sup>15</sup>Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, <sup>16</sup>from 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.”
- b. The Impact of Teaching, Doctrine, and Biblical development is paramount to the purpose and function on this side of eternity!
- c. Breakdown the pattern...



- d. <sup>11</sup> And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, <sup>12</sup> to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, <sup>13</sup> until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ,
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- f. <sup>15</sup> Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, <sup>16</sup> from 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. Remember, A Spirit Empowered Church is Embracing of Biblical Teaching and Fundamentalism!