

Abundant Life: Ministry Partners (Part 1)

A church built and established on the love of God found in Jesus Christ.

The Real Love of God

“Make sure you have the real love of God because when you do it will cultivate desire.”

The real love of God is only given to the world through His Son.

John 3:16 New King James Version

16 For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.

“Make sure you have the real love of God because when you do it will cultivate desire.”

Cultivate - to help the growth or development of.

When you have the real love of God found in Jesus Christ, it will help the growth and development of your desire for Him.

Desire, Deny, Defer, Do

Matthew 16:24-25 New King James Version

24 Then Jesus said to His disciples, “If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me. 25 For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it.

- ***Only where there is a passionate desire to follow Christ, will there be a willingness to deny ourselves to the death, then defer to the divine by obeying His commands, so we can do what He does as imitators of Christ.***

- Where there is no desire, there is no love and where there's no love, there's no obedience. What is the fate of those who break His commands? Are we in the real love of God?
- Matthew 7:21-23 New Living Translation True Disciples
21 "Not everyone who calls out to me, 'Lord! Lord!' will enter the Kingdom of Heaven. Only those who actually do the will of my Father in heaven will enter. 22 On judgment day many will say to me, 'Lord! Lord! We prophesied in your name and cast out demons in your name and performed many miracles in your name.' 23 But I will reply, 'I never knew you. Get away from me, you who break God's laws.'

The Power of the Gospel

- Since the true love of God is found in Jesus, that's the love we share with the world through the gospel.
- A revelation of God's love, gives us empowerment in our identity, through a strategy of faith, bringing us triumph in our eternal purpose.
- Have you been saved by believing the gospel? Is the gospel what brought you here?

As Ministry Partners we are Christ Ambassadors and our message to the world is "Come back to God!" Within that invitation is the power of God called the good news or the gospel. Packaged inside the gospel is the power of God, and faith!

Romans 1:16 New Living Translation

16 For I am not ashamed of this Good News about Christ. It is the power of God at work, saving everyone who believes—the Jew first and also the Gentile.[a]

Romans 10:17 New Living Translation

So faith comes from hearing, that is, hearing the Good News about Christ.

1 Corinthians 1:21-31 New Living Translation

21 Since God in his wisdom saw to it that the world would never know him through human wisdom, he has used our foolish preaching to save those who believe.

- “He’s using my foolish preaching to save the world!”

22 It is foolish to the Jews, who ask for signs from heaven. And it is foolish to the Greeks, who seek human wisdom. 23 So when we preach that Christ was crucified, the Jews are offended and the Gentiles say it’s all nonsense. 24 But to those called by God to salvation, both Jews and Gentiles,[a] Christ is the power of God and the wisdom of God. 25 This foolish plan of God is wiser than the wisest of human plans, and God’s weakness is stronger than the greatest of human strength. 26 Remember, dear brothers and sisters, that few of you were wise in the world’s eyes or powerful or wealthy[b] when God called you. 27 Instead, God chose things the world considers foolish in order to shame those who think they are wise. And he chose things that are powerless to shame those who are powerful. 28 God chose things despised by the world,[c] things counted as nothing at all, and used them to bring to nothing what the world considers important. 29 As a result, no one can ever boast in the presence of God. 30 God has united you with Christ Jesus. For our benefit God made him to be wisdom itself. Christ made us right with God; he made us pure and holy, and he freed us from sin. 31 Therefore, as the Scriptures say, “If you want to boast, boast only about the Lord.”[d]

1 Corinthians 2:1-5 New Living Translation

2 When I first came to you, dear brothers and sisters,[a] I didn’t use lofty words and impressive wisdom to tell you God’s secret plan.[b] 2 For I decided that while I was with you I would forget everything except Jesus Christ, the one who was crucified. 3 I came to you in weakness—timid and trembling. 4 And my message and my preaching were very plain. Rather than using clever and persuasive speeches, I relied only on the power of the Holy Spirit. 5 I did this so you would trust not in human wisdom but in the power of God.

The Lord’s Church

Matthew 16:13-20 Amplified Bible Peter’s Confession of Christ

13 Now when Jesus went into the [a]region of Caesarea Philippi, He asked His disciples, “Who do people say that the Son of Man is?” 14 And they answered, “Some say John the Baptist; others, Elijah; and still others, Jeremiah, or [just]

one of the prophets.” 15 He said to them, “But who do you say that I am?” 16 Simon Peter replied, “You are the Christ (the Messiah, the Anointed), the Son of the living God.”

- Jesus is the cornerstone and that confession is the rock His church is built upon.
- That agreement provides our cohesiveness as the body of Christ.

17 Then Jesus answered him, “Blessed [happy, spiritually secure, favored by God] are you, Simon son of Jonah, because flesh and blood (mortal man) did not reveal this to you, but My Father who is in heaven. 18 And I say to you that you are [b]Peter, and on this [c]rock I will build My church; and the [d]gates of Hades (death) will not overpower it [by preventing the resurrection of the Christ].

- Peter the rock, by divine revelation revealed Jesus as the rock.
- **“You are the Christ (the Messiah, the Anointed), the Son of the living God.”**
- Jesus is building His church on Himself, the rock, and on the rock of truth that Peter proclaimed!

19 I will give you the keys (authority) of the kingdom of heaven; and whatever you bind [forbid, declare to be improper and unlawful] on earth [e]will have [already] been bound in heaven, and whatever you loose [permit, declare lawful] on earth [f]will have [already] been loosed in heaven.” 20 Then He gave the disciples strict orders to tell no one that He was the Christ (the Messiah, the Anointed).

- Peter addresses the crowd after the death of Jesus and the outpouring of the Holy Spirit.
- The rock, shares the rock, the Gospel!

Acts 2:14-41 New Living Translation Peter Preaches to the Crowd

14 Then Peter stepped forward with the eleven other apostles and shouted to the crowd, “Listen carefully, all of you, fellow Jews and residents of Jerusalem! Make no mistake about this. 15 These people are not drunk, as some of you are assuming. Nine o’clock in the morning is much too early for that. 16 No, what you see was predicted long ago by the prophet Joel:

17 'In the last days,' God says,
 'I will pour out my Spirit upon all people.
Your sons and daughters will prophesy.
 Your young men will see visions,
 and your old men will dream dreams.
18 In those days I will pour out my Spirit
 even on my servants—men and women alike—
 and they will prophesy.
19 And I will cause wonders in the heavens above
 and signs on the earth below—
 blood and fire and clouds of smoke.
20 The sun will become dark,
 and the moon will turn blood red
 before that great and glorious day of the Lord arrives.
21 But everyone who calls on the name of the Lord
 will be saved.'[a]

22 "People of Israel, listen! God publicly endorsed Jesus the Nazarene[b] by doing powerful miracles, wonders, and signs through him, as you well know. 23 But God knew what would happen, and his prearranged plan was carried out when Jesus was betrayed. With the help of lawless Gentiles, you nailed him to a cross and killed him. 24 But God released him from the horrors of death and raised him back to life, for death could not keep him in its grip. 25 King David said this about him: 'I see that the Lord is always with me. I will not be shaken, for he is right beside me. 26 No wonder my heart is glad, and my tongue shouts his praises! My body rests in hope. 27 For you will not leave my soul among the dead[c] or allow your Holy One to rot in the grave. 28 You have shown me the way of life, and you will fill me with the joy of your presence.'[d] 29 "Dear brothers, think about this! You can be sure that the patriarch David wasn't referring to himself, for he died and was buried, and his tomb is still here among us. 30 But he was a prophet, and he knew God had promised with an oath that one of David's own descendants would sit on his throne. 31 David was looking into the future and speaking of the Messiah's resurrection. He was saying that God would not leave him among the dead or allow his body to rot in the grave. 32 "God raised Jesus from the dead, and we are all witnesses of this. 33 Now he is exalted to the place of highest honor in heaven, at God's right hand. And the

Father, as he had promised, gave him the Holy Spirit to pour out upon us, just as you see and hear today. 34 For David himself never ascended into heaven, yet he said, ‘The Lord said to my Lord, “Sit in the place of honor at my right hand 35 until I humble your enemies, making them a footstool under your feet.”’[e]36 “So let everyone in Israel know for certain that God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, to be both Lord and Messiah!” 37 Peter’s words pierced their hearts, and they said to him and to the other apostles, “Brothers, what should we do?” 38 Peter replied, “Each of you must repent of your sins and turn to God, and be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. Then you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. 39 This promise is to you, to your children, and to those far away[f]—all who have been called by the Lord our God.” 40 Then Peter continued preaching for a long time, strongly urging all his listeners, “Save yourselves from this crooked generation!” 41 Those who believed what Peter said were baptized and added to the church that day—about 3,000 in all.