

All This Matters

There's So Much More To Following Jesus

May 15, 2022

Daily habits & practices of being a Jesus follower. A disciple.

A disciple is a learner, an apprentice, a pupil, a follower.

2 Corinthians 3:16 Whenever someone turns to the Lord, the veil is taken away.¹⁷ The Lord is the Spirit & wherever the Spirit of the Lord is, there's freedom.¹⁸ All of us who've had that veil removed can see & reflect the glory of the Lord. And the Lord, who is the Spirit, makes us more & more like Him as we're changed into His glorious image.

God is counting us to show the world's people His love & goodness!

Disciples are Jesus followers who are looking for direction from their Master, and we learn to do what the Master does.

Come - Near to Jesus; **Hear** - Pay Attention; **Do** - Obey, Practice,

1 Timothy 4:7b ...train yourself to be godly.

THE CHURCH

People think of the CHURCH as small, poor, silly, not relevant, uncool... & absolutely no one full of the Holy Spirit to reach the unchurched.

Well...we're here to change that!

Most church people have lowered their life to just surviving & hanging on; we're just living life so defeated & down & weak!!

Matthew 16:15 ... **“But who do you say I am?”** ¹⁶ Simon Peter said, **“You're the Messiah, (the Christ, anointed one) the Son of the living God.”** ¹⁷ Jesus said **“You're blessed Simon, because My Father in heaven has revealed this to you. You didn't learn this from any human being. ¹⁸ Now I say to you that you are Peter/Rock & upon this rock I will build My church & all the powers of hell will not conquer it. ¹⁹ And I will give you the keys of the Kingdom of Heaven...”**

Hell will not prevail against the protection of a strong church. His Church cannot fail! The powers of hell will not prevail against us!

The negative, sick, death environment we live in, keeps us confused!

Ephesians 1:22 God's put all things under the authority of Christ & has made Him head over all things for the benefit of the church. 23 The church is His body; it is made full & complete by Christ, who fills all things everywhere w/ Himself. **WE ARE THE CHURCH!!**

The Church takes dominion over the devil's works in Jesus' name.

On the offense, not the defense! The head, not the tail. Above, not beneath.

Greater is God who is in us than he, the devil, who is in the world.

We're overcomers and more than conquerors!!

We need His power! We need His presence! We need an experience!
Not just words; Not just an explanation; Not just routines & religion.

God uses churches to heal & strengthen His people.

Christians, *all people*, who don't have a church home are in an unsafe place. *Christians who don't have a church home are on their own.

Ephesians 4:11 These are the gifts Christ gave to the church: apostles prophets evangelists pastors teachers Their responsibility is to equip God's people to do His work & build up the church, the body of Christ.

Being grounded in a local church is vital to spiritual & emotional health.

Psalms 92:13 NKJV Those who are planted in the house of the Lord - Shall flourish in the courts of our God. 14 They'll still bear fruit in old age; They'll be fresh & flourishing,

***As we're planted in God's house, the Church of Jesus, we can be flourishing in all areas of our life & able to love others well.*

How should church feel? What should our attitude be about church?

Psalms 27:4 The one thing I ask of the Lord-the thing I seek most-is to live in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, delighting in the Lord's perfections & meditating in His Temple.

Psalms 84:10a A single day in Your courts is better than a thousand anywhere else!

Psalm 122:1 I was *glad* when they said to me, “Let us go to the house of the Lord.” *MSG* When they said, “Let’s go to the house of God,” my heart leaped for joy!

1. Anointed music & worship

John 4:23 But the time is coming—indeed it’s here now—when true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and in truth. The Father is looking for those who will worship Him that way.

2. A Spirit/attitude of faith; encouraging, empowering people in Jesus

1 Timothy 6:12a NKJV Fight the good fight of faith...

1 John 5:4 For every child of God defeats this evil world, & we achieve this victory through our faith.

2 Corinthians 5:7 NKJV For we walk by faith, not by sight.

3. Prayer for the physical, emotional, & mental needs of the church

James 5:14 Are any of you sick? You should call for the elders of the church to come & pray over you, anointing you w/ oil in the name of the Lord. 15 Such a prayer offered in faith will heal the sick, & the Lord will make you well...

4. The Word of God spoken in power to equip the body of Christ.

Romans 1:16 For I am not ashamed of this Good News (*Gospel*) about Christ. It is the power of God at work, saving everyone who believes.

Hebrews 4:12a For the word of God is alive & powerful. It’s sharper than the sharpest two-edged sword...

5. Spiritual wisdom that moves you toward practical growth in God.

Romans 12:2 Don’t copy the behavior & customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you’ll learn to know God’s will for you, which is good & pleasing & perfect.

6. Training to take the Gospel to the community & bring in the lost.

Proverbs 11:30b NKJV ...he who wins souls is wise. **AMP**...he who is wise captures human lives for God, as a fisher of men—he gathers & receives them for eternity.

Kings Circle – This is Our Church

To impact & influence the city of Corvallis, *surrounding communities* & online by building a Christ-centered, Bible-based church; equipping & empowering people to passionately love Jesus & love people. Jesus is our Head; the Holy Spirit is our Helper, & the Great Commission is our focus.

I see *our church* as understanding worship as a lifestyle; daily loving God through an intimate relationship w/ Jesus; lifting people & exalting the magnificence of Jesus w/ powerful, heartfelt songs of faith & hope.

I see *our church* valuing families & children; a thriving, flourishing children's ministry; knowing what it means to leave & live a multigenerational legacy; training/mentoring families to be successful; constantly looking toward the future

I see *our church* being fathered & shepherded, making Biblical disciples through mentoring for transformation & lifting to abundant life. I see myself as a spiritual overseer/caretaker/visionary of our people in our church, communicating a clear message of the gospel.

I see *our church* living a lifestyle of evangelism, reaching the unchurched by daily loving w/ action; a church full w/ repentant sinners responding to Christ's call to salvation. We're a church so committed to empowering a generation to reap the end-time harvest that our building struggles to contain the increase of all that God's doing.

I see *our church* as a compassionate community living by faith w/ a conviction & a sincere trust in Jesus; generous at heart; youthful in spirit; full of people who are dependent on the Holy Spirit where they find grace, acceptance, & a home.

This is who we are; it's what we do; it's how we live. This is **Our Church!**