



LOCAL CHURCH | PT.2 TOGETHER | PASTOR RYAN ROBERTS

LAST SUNDAY... WE BEGIN TO LOOK AT THE BIBLE TO DEFINE "CHURCH" AND NOT RELIGIOSITY NOR FLESHLY TERMS.

! THE CHURCH IS MEANT TO BE A PLACE OF PEOPLE FROM DIVERSE BACKGROUNDS, WITH ONE HEARTBEAT, ONE LORD, ONE HOLY SPIRIT, ONE FAITH... THUS ALL THINGS SUBMIT TO THE LORD JESUS CHRIST.

EPHESIANS 1:21-23

THE CHURCH IS DEFINED AS ONE INTITY, WITH MULTIPLE PURPOSES... AND BRANCHES

CHURCH: "Ekklesia" (Greek: ἐκκλησία): "assembly" or "gathering."

CLASICAL GREEK: a summoned group of citizens convened for public considerations.

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITINGS: not just any gathering, but specifically the congregation of believers "called out" by God.

THE CHURCH IS THEOLOGICALLY A GATHERING OF PEOPLE CALLED OUT BY GOD.....

WHAT DOES THE GATHERING OF PEOPLE DO???

CALLED OUT TO BECOME WHAT???

JOHN 1:11-13

FELLOWSHIP:

ACTS 2:42

FELLOWSHIP “koinonia” (κοινωνία) originates from the Greek language, carrying the core idea of shared participation, mutual association, and fellowship.

SO, THE CHURCH IS PEOPLE WHO CALLED OUT TO

BECOME SOMETHING: HIS FAMILY

ACCOMPLISH SOMETHING: HIS WITNESSES

WHILE TOGETHER: HIS FELLOWSHIP

Koinonia places a practical call on followers to cultivate fellowship through:

1. **CARE:** Encouraging, praying for, and mentoring one another. Paul speaks of “building each other up” in passages such as [1 Thessalonians 5:11](#).
2. **SUPPORT:** Assisting and helping each other ([Romans 12:13](#)).
3. **ACCOUNTABILITY:** Genuine fellowship gently corrects and restores members who stray ([Galatians 6:1-2](#)).

EPHESIANS 2:19-22

ACTS 1:4-11

THE LORD'S INSTRUCTIONS: GATHER TOGETHER IN A PRAYER MEETING, TO WAIT

WITNESS: [martyres](#) (FROM Martus) 'one who testifies for one'

THERE IS NO INDICATION THAT THEY KNEW *EXACTLY* WHAT WAS GOING TO HAPPEN TO THEM...

ALL THEY KNOW IS THEY ARE TO GATHER IN ONE PLACE AND WAIT.

ACTS 2:1-4

PENTECOST IS THE GREEK WORD FOR SHAVUOT... BOTH MEAN 50TH...

EXODUS 19:10-12;16-20

WHAT DO YOU THINK GOD GIVES HIS PEOPLE... THE 10 COMMANDMENTS...

THE LORD GAVE SO THAT HE MAY DWELL WITH THEM... BUT FROM A DISTANCE...

MOSES SPENDS SOME TIME WITH GOD ON THE MOUNTAIN... AND WHEN HE RETURNS HE FINDS GOD'S PEOPLE WORSHIPPING A GOLDEN CALF!

EX 32:21;28

THREE THOUSAND MEN OF THE PEOPLE FELL.

ACTS 2:3-21; 37-47

THERE WERE ADDED THAT DAY ABOUT THREE THOUSAND SOULS

The Fellowship of the Believers

AND THE LORD ADDED TO THEIR NUMBER DAY BY DAY THOSE WHO WERE BEING SAVED.

WHAT DOES THIS HAVE TO DO WITH CHURCH???

LET'S DO A QUICK COMPARISON:

AT MT. SINAI	THE DAY AT PENTECOST
FIRE AT A DISTANCE, EX.18:18	TONGUES (AS OF) FIRE RESTED ON EACH ONE
GOD SPOKE TO MOSES, TO THE PEOPLE IT SOUNDS LIKE THUNDER-ONE MAN CAN TRULY HEAR	EVERYONE HEARS THE GOSPEL/WONDERS OF GOD IN THEIR OWN LANGUAGE
3,000 ARE KILLED OFF DUE TO SIN: DEVINE JUDGEMENT	3,000 ARE ADDED THAT DAY: JUDGEMENT REVERSED TO HARVEST
STONE TABLETS, RITUALS, ANIMAL SACRIFICE	TABLETS OF THE HEART, FREEDOM FROM RELIGION, ONE PERMANENT SACRIFICE

AGAIN, WHAT DOES THIS HAVE TO DO WITH CHURCH????

THE DAY AND AGE THAT JESUS CHRIST CAME INTO:

ISRAEL HAD BEEN OVERTHROWN

**NO KING, NO PROPHETIC VOICE, NO SUPERNATURAL
OCCURANCE... THEY HAD NO REAL AUTHORITY OR
POWER. THEY DID HAVE THE LAW, AND THE TEMPLE...**

BUT THEY LOST THE PRESENCE OF GOD.

THE SADDUCEES

THEY DENY **RESURRECTION**, THEY DENY **ANGELS AND DEMONS**, THEY DENY AN **AFTERLIFE** ALL TOGETHER... THIS WAS THE RULING RELIGIOUS CLASS... THEY SPENT A LOT OF TIME BUDDYING UP TO THE ROMANS.

THE PHARISEES

THEY RATED THE ORAL TRADITION AS THE SAME AS THE **LAW OF GOD!** THEY WERE STRICT AND **BIG ON PERSONAL PIETY...** THEY WERE **PRIDEFUL, ARROGANT, AND THOUGH HIGHLY OF THEMSELVES...** THEY BELIEVED IN AN **AFTERLIFE... BUT FOCUSED ON WHAT THEY COULD GAIN IN THIS WORLD.**

THESE GROUPS TOOK GOD-GIVEN INSTRUCTION AND TURNED IT INTO WORLDLY, AND PERSONAL GAIN...

PERHAPS THEY THOUGHT THEY HAD KILLED OFF JESUS, AND SCARED HIS FOLLOWERS INTO HIDING...

MAYBE THEY TOOK A SIGH OF RELIEF, GETTING ON WITH THE RELIGIOUS DUTY OF PENTECOST.

MAYBE THIS MOVEMENT WAS FINALLY SCATTERED APART...

WHAT THEY DID NOT KNOW IS THE CHURCH WASN'T HIDING... THEY WERE WAITING!

TRUTH: SEE GOD'S PRESENCE IS REVEALED IN A MIGHTY WAY WITHIN COMMUNITY... THE CHURCH!

TRUTH: GOD HAD BROKEN ALL THE SOCIAL RULES WHEN HE Poured OUT HIS SPIRIT THIS WAY.

THE BAPTISM OF THE HOLY SPIRIT, THE BIRTH OF THE CHURCH, WAS ONE OF THE MOST UNIFYING AND ONE OF THE MOST DIVIDING EVENTS THAT HAS EVER HAPPENED.

THE HOLY SPIRIT CAME AND Poured OUT NOT ON A BUILDING, BUT WAS Poured OUT ON PEOPLE.

Smith Wigglesworth, is quoted as saying: he could never let a day pass without bringing someone to an experience of God.

“People say they want Smith Wigglesworth’s mantle... but they really just need his revelation.” -Lilian de Fin

SO MANY ARE CHASING METHODS, AND FORMULAS... OR THEY ARE LIVING IN DOUBT THAT THEY TOO CAN ENCOUNTER THE LORD.

BUT WE HAVE THE KEY TO GOD’S POWERFUL PRESENCE:

120 people in the Upper Room did these 3 things...

- They obeyed**
- They unified**
- They prayed**

AND WHEN THINGS GOT HARD, THEY DID IT AGAIN...

ACTS 4:1-33

**THERE ARE TIMES WHEN WE, AS HIS CHURCH, ARE TO
COME TOGETHER... IN UNITY AND SIMPLY PRAY.**