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# I Will Build My Church

## How do you get into the church?

### **Definition of Church**

**Ekklesia - The called out ones - a gathering**

### **Jesus said “I will build my church”**

Matthew 16:13-18 When Jesus came to the region of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, “Who do people say the Son of Man is?” 14 They replied, “Some say John the Baptist; others say Elijah; and still others, Jeremiah or one of the prophets.” 15 “But what about you?” he asked. “**Who do you say I am?**” 16 Simon Peter answered, “**You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.**” 17 Jesus replied, “Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah, for **this was not revealed to you by man, but by my Father in heaven.** 18 And I tell you that you are Peter, and **on this rock I will build my church**, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it.

- Simon had a revelation from the Father - that Jesus is the Christ - the Son of God
- Jesus essentially said - vs 18 “ you are petros [fem.- building stone]
- On **this Rock** [the revelation of who Jesus is] or petra [masc. immovable stone or foundation] I will build my church”.

### **The church is built on the revelation of Jesus - [ie people are built into the church when they “see” and accept who Jesus is]**

Romans 10:9-10 That if you confess with your mouth, “Jesus is Lord,” and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. 10 For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved.

### **Similar description here**

Ephesians 2:13-22 But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far away have been brought near through the blood of Christ.....19 Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and aliens, but fellow citizens with God’s people and members of God’s household, 20 **built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone.** 21 In him **the whole building is joined together** and rises to become a holy temple in the Lord. 22 And in him **you too are being built together** to become a dwelling in which God lives by his Spirit.

### **What happened on Pentecost? How Were they Added to the Church?**

Acts 2:36-41 “Therefore let all Israel be assured of this: God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ.” 37 When the people heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and the other apostles, “Brothers, what shall we do?” 38 Peter replied, “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. 39 The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off—for all whom the Lord our God will call.” 40 With many other words he warned them; and he pleaded with them, “Save yourselves from this corrupt generation.” 41 Those who accepted his message were baptized, and about three thousand were added to their number that day.

### **To Become Part of the Church [the called out ones] - to be BUILT into the church**

- acknowledgement of Jesus as Lord and Christ
- repentance and baptism
- those who accepted were baptized = and 3000 were added that day

## What Did They Do When They Got There?

### **“Devoted Themselves” To Continue**

**G4342** to be earnest towards, that is, (to a thing) to persevere, be constantly diligent, or (in a place) to attend assiduously all the exercises, or (to a person) to adhere closely to (as a servitor):—attend (give self) continually (upon), continue (in, instant in, with), wait on (continually).

### **To Continue in the Church**

Acts 2:42 They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.

## Devoted to Teaching

We are Called as Disciples - Learners

**Sound Doctrine - so that no one will malign the word of God...to make Christ’s teaching attractive**

Titus 2:1-15 You must teach what is in accord with sound doctrine.

2 Teach the older men to be temperate, worthy of respect, self-controlled, and sound in faith, in love and in endurance.

3 Likewise, teach the older women to be reverent in the way they live, not to be slanderers or addicted to much wine, but to teach what is good. 4 Then they can train the younger women to love their husbands and children, 5 to be self-controlled and pure, to be busy at home, to be kind, and to be subject to their husbands, so that no one will malign the word of God.

6 Similarly, encourage the young men to be self-controlled. 7 In everything set them an example by doing what is good. In your teaching show integrity, seriousness 8 and soundness of speech that cannot be condemned, so that those who oppose you may be ashamed because they have nothing bad to say about us.

9 Teach slaves to be subject to their masters in everything, to try to please them, not to talk back to them, 10 and not to steal from them, but to show that they can be fully trusted, so that in every way they will make the teaching about God our Savior attractive.

11 For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men. 12 It teaches us to say “No” to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age, 13 while we wait for the blessed hope—the glorious appearing of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ, 14 who gave himself for us to redeem us from all wickedness and to purify for himself a people that are his very own, eager to do what is good.

15 These, then, are the things you should teach. Encourage and rebuke with all authority. Do not let anyone despise you.

We are called to make disciples - “learners”

### **Antioch was birthed in evangelism, then established through teaching**

**Acts 11:25-26** Then Barnabas went to Tarsus to look for Saul, 26 and when he found him, he brought him to Antioch. So for a whole year Barnabas and Saul met with the church and taught great numbers of people. The disciples were called Christians first at Antioch.

### **Not Tossed about**

**Ephesians 4:14** Then we will no longer be infants, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of men in their deceitful scheming.

### **Teach Faithful Men who will Teach Others**

**2 Timothy 2:2** And the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to reliable men who will also be qualified to teach others.

### **Paul taught at Ephesus and all of Asia heard the word**

Acts 19:9-10 But some of them became obstinate; they refused to believe and publicly maligned the Way. So Paul left them. He took the disciples with him and had discussions daily in the lecture hall of Tyrannus. 10 This went on for two years, so that all the Jews and Greeks who lived in the province of Asia heard the word of the Lord.

### **Deacons were ordained so the apostles could give themselves to prayer and ministry of the word**

Acts 6:7 So the word of God spread. The number of disciples in Jerusalem increased rapidly, and a large number of priests became obedient to the faith.

### **Our Children**

Psalms 78:5-8 He decreed statutes for Jacob and established the law in Israel, which he commanded our forefathers to teach their children, 6 so the next generation would know them, even the children yet to be born, and they in turn would tell their children. 7 Then they would put their trust in God and would not forget his deeds but would keep his commands. 8 They would not be like their forefathers—a stubborn and rebellious generation, whose hearts were not loyal to God, whose spirits were not faithful to him.

## **Devoted to the Fellowship**

### **We are Called As Laborers in His Field**

#### **We are called to be in partnership with Christ and His Enterprise**

#### **Fellowship - KOINONIA - Partnership - Sharing in Common**

1 Corinthians 1:7-9 Therefore you do not lack any spiritual gift as you eagerly wait for our Lord Jesus Christ to be revealed. 8 He will keep you strong to the end, so that you will be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. 9 God, who has called you into fellowship with his Son Jesus Christ our Lord, is faithful.

Romans 15:26 For Macedonia and Achaia were pleased to make a contribution for the poor among the saints in Jerusalem.

2 Corinthians 8:4 they urgently pleaded with us for the privilege of sharing in this service to the saints.

Galatians 2:8-9 For God, who was at work in the ministry of Peter as an apostle to the Jews, was also at work in my ministry as an apostle to the Gentiles. 9 James, Peter and John, those reputed to be pillars, gave me and Barnabas the right hand of fellowship when they recognized the grace given to me. They agreed that we should go to the Gentiles, and they to the Jews.

Philippians 1:3-6 I thank my God every time I remember you. 4 In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy 5 because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, 6 being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.

### **Similar to business partners**

Luke 5:9-10 For he and all his companions were astonished at the catch of fish they had taken, 10 and so were James and John, the sons of Zebedee, Simon's partners. Then Jesus said to Simon, "Don't be afraid; from now on you will catch men."

2 Corinthians 8:23-24 As for Titus, he is my partner and fellow worker among you; as for our brothers, they are representatives of the churches and an honor to Christ. 24 Therefore show these men the proof of your love and the reason for our pride in you, so that the churches can see it.

## **Devoted to Breaking Bread**

### **We Are Called As Members of One Another**

#### **Breaking Bread**

Eat together - a shared life - shared love - one another

Acts 2:46 Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts,

Acts 20:7 On the first day of the week we came together to break bread. Paul spoke to the people and, because he intended to leave the next day, kept on talking until midnight.

Acts 20:11 Then he went upstairs again and broke bread and ate. After talking until daylight, he left.

#### **They shared in the needs of one another**

Acts 2:44-45 All the believers were together and had everything in common. 45 Selling their possessions and goods, they gave to anyone as he had need.

# Devoted to Prayer

We are called into relationship with Him

We need the Lord - unless he builds the house it will not be built  
I am the vine - you are the branches - except you abide in me - no fruit.

**Ac 1:14** These all continued with one accord in prayer and supplication, with the women, and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with his brethren.

**Ac 2:42** And they continued stedfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers.

**Ac 6:4** But we will give ourselves continually to prayer, and to the ministry of the word.

**Col 4:2 Continue** in prayer, and watch in the same with thanksgiving;

## What Does This Devotion Produce?

### **This Devotion Paved the Way for a Healthy Environment**

Acts 2:43-47 Everyone was filled with awe, and many wonders and miraculous signs were done by the apostles. 44 All the believers were together and had everything in common. 45 Selling their possessions and goods, they gave to anyone as he had need. 46 Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, 47 praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.

### **A healthy church environment:**

- A healthy and proper fear of God - filled with awe
- A place for miraculous signs and wonders
- A sense of togetherness - koinonia - sharing in common
- A heart of giving
- A love for one another - continued to meet together
- Breaking bread in their homes with glad and sincere hearts
- Praise to God
- Favor of all the people
- Evangelism



