

The Church- the Jesus Experience

Main Scripture: Acts 2:40-45

Supporting Scriptures: John 1: 1-4; Acts 4: 4; Acts 6:7; John 11:25; Romans 10: 18; Luke 1:50; Acts 10:35; Psalm 62:10; Luke 19:8-10; James 2:18; John 6:51; John 14:26; Luke 24:47

Notes:

God comes to give abundant life. I'm so grateful for what God has done in my life. God has forgiven me of much and washed me of my sins and gave me an opportunity to be one of his children. It's a privilege to be in God. Many pass through life and die without knowing who God is. Many have designed their own religion but I thank God for the message of the kingdom of God a message of repentance a message that calls men to bow their hearts to the King of kings and I thank God I am a recipient of that message. Anything I can glow in is to be a recipient of the cross and Jesus' death, purchasing men with his death. This worship of Jesus is a bloody environment, every chance you call on his name the blood of Jesus is bought into remembrance. Every time we bow on our knees to pray the blood of Jesus is brought into remembrance. He is our high priest making intercession for us. This church experience is a bloody situation not bought by men, He came into this world to die for our sins. Every boy every girl every man and woman will have to answer to the blood that was spilled. The man who cried out in agony in a place of shame pure blood was shed that even the earth refuse and shook in a great earthquake. AS I begin to reflect on the precious gift that we have been granted from above, the word of God that became flesh we are privilege to be apart of this body, and in this body he demands purity, love, and fellowship. Every man will have to give an account of everything they have done.

Let us look at Acts 2 talking about the church experience and what is the attitude of the church.

Looking at a reversal of the curse on the Tower of Babel and men spoke different languages spoke in tongues and magnify the name of Jesus and those who came to search out this great noise every man heard and understood them in their own language. The language was not divided then in this experience there was unity.

When God gives us a miracle or sign it brings an offense and shows us that we don't understand everything and rather than seek to know we are quick to condemn. This shows the pride of man and that it has no answer to the signs of God and so they said that these men are drunk.

But no one is serving wine at that time this is an experience from above and Peter preached the message of Jesus Christ how a man approved of God performed wonders and signs but was rejected by men and was crucified by the determinate counsel of God and was resurrected showing the victory of death and hell.

When the word is taught men ought to exercise patience.

The church experience - generosity

It must be noted, of the experience that everyone shared in the fellowship of the believers, we find certain traits that form the character of the church. Some which have gone real silent in our modern-day. To some, we don't realize how far removed we are from what was handed down to us. We don't recognize that maybe our experience was foreign to what was the generation of their time. In Verse 41 we see a people who received the word gladly. At first, they questioned and criticized but after Peter preached the devoted men that came to the feast listened to what Peter had to say, and when they recognized they have crucified their messiah they asked what shall we do? Peter then preached repentance and pointed them to receive the message of Jesus and 3000 gladly received the word.

When it comes to the word of God, whether it cuts us, works on us, exposes us, brethren accept the word gladly. Because we cannot fight against God's word. Paul in his zeal for his religious beliefs fought against the church and then recognized its impossible to fight against God (Acts 9:4)

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There was nothing new to discover outside of what was given by the apostles they continued steadfastly in that doctrine

Traits of the Church (Acts 2:41-46)

Receive the word gladly (41)

An attitude of Steadfastness (42)

Fear of God (43)

Unity (44)

Worship (46)

The Love of God demands unity and teaches us to esteem others higher than ourselves it shows us how to love a brother even as Christ Loves us. People together sharing everything that they had I know we quickly glance over these things but everything (not what we thought we can give) they shared. The church understood that possession will take away the man's heart from God so they were quick to give to others. We are talking about needs here not wants. A quick look at our brothers' needs and once we have the ability to assist with those needs the church acted. There were no hoarders in the Church the spirit of covetousness had no place in the assembly no man kept back any portion and not have an answer to the need of our brothers and sisters. How different it is today, where we have reserved funds for retirement, rainy da— how spiritual. And we see the need for a brother or sister and instead of answering the need, we pray. That was not the experience of the church. We don't pray about things that the word of God needs you to act on.

My spirit is troubled and I am repenting before eGod. The Church did not have a plan for the future as it relates to being comfortable in this world. Oftentimes theologians will criticize the experience sharing here but we see the heart of God manifested in men. Because Jesus himself when it was time to pay the taxes he was found penny-less this Christ who everything exists in him he took a miracle to pay his taxes.

We recognize from this text how much we are covered with a blanket of covetousness that has blinded us. As I meditated on the Lord the thought came to me I believe in a gospel that has the potential to make you poor in this world. And I mean financially poor in this world. But will reward you with riches in the world to come. I sat just reading this passage and thought what will our answer be? Many of us have carved out a plan for every area of our lives. How much I need to retire? How much I need to make sure I can live a comfortable life? How much I need if I become critically ill? What type of insurance will give me a good quality of life and save me from certain things?

We are driven by this mentality and everything that concerns God is relegated to the background. But I believe in a God that says no idolator will inherit the kingdom of God. If we don't move with the current of the Spirit of the church and not driven by a lifestyle driven by the holy ghost we don't recognize that satan has the ability to fill our hearts in the midst of the church. It's either we are full of the Holy Ghost or we make room for satan.

Another trait is one of worship

They worshipped together not thinking about where one is from or how they look. I am not afraid to say it if we carefully analyze this text it would seem as if we are foreigners to the Jesus experience recorded not the pages of God's word. We are critical of one another. If one shouts too loud the next one is offended (carnal) One jumps with emotion and exuberance and the other is critical. But we don't understand that men act out in different ways when they understand how much they have been forgiven.

It pays to serve Jesus I speak from my heart.

He understands the attitude that is required because he knows how broken we were.

The song written continues I will be a true soldier and die at my post.

Hoarding has taken our minds from God preventing us from manifesting these traits of the church of God. The word defined the church that's why the church believers spent time in the word. They were not a singing generation they spent time in the scriptures. They understood that the church wasn't just a building or a social club but a body of Christ and what they got was the word of God. They did not receive rules of man's thoughts and opinions what they Got was the revelation of God himself. God revealed himself in flesh Jesus Christ the Lamb of God. We received the living word, not rules. The bread of Life. They gladly received the word (not what was just written on pages) but the revelation of the living word - God becoming flesh. God so loved the world...

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The apostolic church has the WORD of God. God becoming flesh. That's, why the church can not be defeated because to defeat the church, means that you would have to defeat God himself.

Our institutions are so dormant because it's a house of confusion because there is an indifference to the word of God.

When you receive the word you receive the revelation of God all that God has to say was revealed in Jesus Christ.

The Church gladly received the word not just to hear or to listen they received the word of God by allowing the word to affect every fiber of their being the word became a lifestyle. When we receive the word we believe it, holds on to it, hunger it and practice it. We share it to rejoice in it. Gladly receiving the word. In Acts 4:4 - they increased to 5000

Acts 6: 7 many more beloved.

We are indifferent to the word and selective when it comes to the word and here we have erred in a great way because the word is ONE

We don't have the ability to hear one part and not hear another part. We can not select what we desire and reject what offends us. (John 11:25)

Romans 10:18

It is impossible to receive and believe the word and not receive eternal life.

The deception of the Hour is that God will not manifest himself, or show forth his wonders to his believers except there be an attitude of one gladly receiving the word of God and allowing it to penetrate our hearts and minds and making a foundation in our hearts so we don't need to be deceived by signs and wonders and they are indifferent to the word of God. Signs don't validate who a believer is, it is the word of God. A Holy or reverential fear fell on the people. We see men and their indifference to the presence of the Lord not showing reverence to the things of God. Not recognizing that to refuse to reverence the preteens of the Lord is to place oneself in a position of judgment. One has now removed himself to walk the lonely road of death. For where there is an absence of the fear of God we find men of that mindset are reserved for judgment.

What is godly fear?

When we have it recognize the things that displease God and that there is a coming judgment that every act of man will be judged

We recognized his awesome presence and how frail we are.

It's a consciousness that God is actively working in the church. Some folks are so carnal they fight against everything God is doing and they don't even know. When God sits in the fear of God we know that God is present with his church and reverence God for what is happening. I know that his mercy is on them that dear him. So to have that reverence is to sit outside of judgment and under his wings of mercy. (Luke 1:50; Acts 10: 25;) This gospel was designed to make you unselfish because every one of us carries a selfish trait but the word of God changes us. SO you can't help but give if you have the mind of God. In the Jesus experience, there are no takers everyone is a giver, freely receive freely give. The man who breaks that giving cycle is an idolator and an offense to God. Believers, together we find them in the upper room, one mind one place, when you look on your brother or sister you see yourself because we are many members but one body.

So the church sold their possessions and goods and gave money to the poor. They gave some of the most expensive gifts to the church not to be hoarded in the bank account but to meet the needs of brothers and sisters in the faith. Based on what we see here the church did not practice owning several houses with the aim to become a millionaire or establish barns to be filled to satisfy the covetousness of men but gladly receiving the word of God they recognize what is demanded. The living word had an answer for the young ruler who satisfied all the commandments, but the word that searches the hearts looked on him and said but I command you to sell all your possessions and give to the poor. That is a command to the church. I am not speaking now to men I am reflecting on my own life, have I kept back apart for myself is there anything in-reservation that will speak to a trait of greed, not concerned about my brother or sister. Sold their possessions what money they got they used it to minister to the poor. Why? Not for a feel-good experience but a command. Jesus wanted the church to understand that everyone had the ability to ensure

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the needs of the brothers and sisters were met (if riches increase do not set your heart of on it - Psalm 62:10)

Seek the kingdom of God first (Luke 12: 31)

Zacchaeus met the Lord and came in contact with the revelation of God and said half of my goods I will give to the poor and if I have taken anything I will restore 4 fold (Luke 19:8-10)

If the word is not established and received by believers there can be no sharing no breaking of bread no fellowship.

Cant, you see why we are so confused and divided in our purpose for life not having a single mind or heart that's after God. We seek to divide God's word to be selective in our approach but the Jesus experience understands that the living word is given precedence above everything in life. They recognize that without the word there is no life. It's fake, without a life that is experiencing the word of God, everything is fake and will be brought to naught. We will recognize with shame that what we purpose our life here is fake. John says love not the world nor the things in the world. For if any man (pastor, elder missionary, etc.) the love of the Father is not in him and the church needs to believe that. Any man who is attached to the world does not have the Love of the Father in him. Doesn't matter how we can explain the things of God is the t love of this world is clinging to our heart the love of God is not clinging to us.

We see folks who lead the church and don't show up in services because they are driven by businesses have an empty life and have not come to the knowledge of who Jesus is. God will not bless you that will take your mind from him.

Some folks shout and are excited in t

I'm not talking about sometimes when you have to work on a Sunday - no I m talking about a lifestyle that is choosing to work overtime to make money when they should be in service.

The word of God must be established in our hearts until we see the right attitude.

How prosperous can a man be when his mind is taken away from the word of God. Every man wants comfort and luxury and we don't recognize we sit like a frog in a pot warmed with fire, not recognizing we are in the process of death. Too many of us met death on our way out of this world and recognize we are facing hell.

Any man who eats of this bread shall never hunger or thirst. - John 6:51

Immerse yourself into the living world.

Whatsoever things I have taught you the Holy Ghost will bring it back to your remembrance. (John 14:26)

Why stumble at baptism? - the name of the word is Jesus (Luke 24:47)