

The Church, The Whole Church, and Nothing But The Church,

So Help Us, God- Part 9

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There's one Church; *"In Christ, there's neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male or female, rich or poor"*, Baptist or Pentecostal. We're all one in Christ. So, the other expressions around our area, and in the world, really, that are gathering this morning, or Saturday night, or whenever they gather, are all part of the same mystical body. We're just one expression of the body of Christ in our region.

1 Corinthians 12:18, *"God has set the body parts, each one of them in the body, just as He pleased"*. So, your particular gifting, anointing, your talents, how God has blessed you, was something that God did, and not a matter of your own choosing.

God already has a gift set, a gift mix that He's already given you. I think the next question for those who really want to keep moving on and moving forward, the question would be, *"what do I do to find out what that is?"* Well, you have to get in the process of finding your place.

This is a really good, critical time right now to start finding your place, because right now, the Church is moving to the forefront, it's emerging from the ashes, if you will.

There's a shaking that's taking place. There's a lot of stuff happening right now that God is using to move you, move us, move people all over, into that place of function and anointing, so that the body of Christ can be what she's supposed to be.

People are going through some of the most trying circumstances they've ever gone through in their lives, and it's really easy to see the negative in that.

The bottom line of all that is it's driving people, or pulling people maybe, to a place of helplessness in their situation, so that they can turn to God and so that God can transform their situation and transform them.

You're not in a bad place. You're in a good place. The test is serious. It's that some of these things are make or break situations. The key is, again, to get your focus on the Lord. Walk in the Spirit, walk this thing out, and you'll come out better. You'll come out with a deeper understanding of who He is, which is key. The clearer you see Him, the clearer you're going to see your own self.

You are a body part, and if this is where God has you, there's a particular gifting and anointing that God has on you that He might not have on anybody else in the house, to do certain things.

I want you to come out of this thing knowing and understanding what the scope, the mission, and the mandate for the Church is. Not just our house, but for the Church and the times that we're living in. If you don't see that, you'll never be able to find your place of significance in that.

“The Church is an ever changing, ever evolving, supernatural, called out and victorious Kingdom family of like minded believers in Jesus, working together and known for their genuine faith and their love for one another. Bonded together by the common thread of agape love (that’s unconditional) and the unity of the Holy Spirit, who are commissioned and empowered by the Father with the authority to propagate and spread the good news by communicating (that is one way to do it), and demonstrating signs and wonders to the world, and to carry out the perfect will of Jesus to co-labor with Him as He establishes His Kingdom in the earth”.

The Church is at the center of God’s plan for what’s going on in the earth. The Church is the organism that will offset all the negative stuff that you hear. It’s the Church to give the world hope where there’s not much hope.

Jesus said, *“I will build My Church”*. He’s building it by instructions of the Father, and Jesus and the Holy Spirit. They’re all one. But if the true Church doesn’t rise up and rise up quickly, the human race is in for some tough times. It’s pretty serious. It’s pretty much crunch time for the Church.

The most important thing that I’m that I’m doing in my life right now is this listening. I’m listening. Listening for the voice of God. I’m listening to what God is saying for us, for me, for my family, for my house. That’s what I’m doing.

God is at work in your heart. He stands and the door. *“Behold, I stand at the door and knock”*, Jesus said. Let Him come in. He is knocking on your heart. You’ll find Him to be talkative if you’re spending time with Him.

If you want to learn a lot about the church and how the church should be, you need to read Paul’s letters. These letters were more often than not, read publicly back in the day. And it was a big deal. The people understood, when they heard these letters that Paul wrote, they understood that this was the voice of God. All scripture is given by inspiration of God. Holy men wrote as the Spirit guided them.

Do you realize that there were 17 other apostles listed in scripture, other than the 12 original ones? That probably is surprising to you.

Paul is a spiritual architect, and he worked heart to heart with Jesus. And the things that He said, did and implemented, were building a spiritual structure that would be something extra, extra special to the Father.

Matthew 11: 27, *“All things have been delivered to Me by My Father”*. The Father has this plan. Jesus started implementing that plan in His time here on earth. Now it’s up to the Holy Spirit and obedient believers to carry out the plan of God, the plans for building the Church. God’s going to give, in real time, to those who are serious about hearing what He says.

The fullness of God is to be evident and expressed by the Church, the body of Christ. That’s what the body of Christ is. It’s the picture. It’s the image of God, in the earth. That’s why it’s so serious and important.

So why is the Church so important to the Father? Together, with the obedient saints, Jesus would build an organism that looks like, sounds like, loves like and changes the world in a better way, like They do...

The Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. The promise of Jesus was this, *“Wherever two or three are gathered together in My name, I’m there in the midst of them”*. Matthew 18:20.

From God’s perspective, it’s always been about yours and His relationship with one another.

The more time you spend with the Word, the more you’re going to love the Word. Those of you who are getting in the Word are going to understand more than you’ve ever understood before. You have to do it. You have to apply yourself. You have to open the book, or listen to it, however you choose to do that.

Some people say, *“well yeah, I know Him”*. But you have to be in the process of **keeping on** knowing Him, because there’s a lot to know. You may know Him as your savior, but there’s a lot more to be known about the Father than just about the fact that Jesus is your savior.

It’s giving Him access to your life. It’s simple. It’s just surprising how many people don’t do it. To know Him is to spend time with Him, to listen to Him, to pour your petitions out to Him. You’ll learn more listening than you will talking.

The Kingdom of God already exists in perfection and in its fullness right now. All of that hasn’t manifested in the natural yet, and won’t until the people of God begin to cooperate with the plan of God, what God is doing and saying today.

Every time you listen to what the Spirit of God says to you. Every time you show an act of love. Every time you pray over someone to be healed, set free, bondage broken. Every time you do that, the Kingdom of God is manifested a little more.

It’s the Church’s responsibility to cooperate with Jesus as He establishes His Kingdom. That’s a big deal. And that will give you something to do for the rest of your life.

The most obvious thing you’re going to learn about the Father, as you spend time with Him, Jesus and the Holy Spirit, is you’re going to see how much God loves you. And that’s a transforming thing that happens for you.

You might say, *“I wish you’d quit harping on that”*. Well, it’s just such a simple thing to do, but I find that there’s not a herd of people doing it. It’s the key for what God is doing in the earth right now, what God’s talking about, what’s on God’s mind. That’s why I just keep harping on it.

The thing that you notice most in your devotion to God, spending time with Him, is how much He loves you. You can’t miss that. That’s what transforms your heart and your mind, your soul, and it works out through your body.

The revelation of the love of God, the love of the Father, only comes through personal interaction with Him.

Psalm 34:8, *“Taste and see that the Lord is good”*. Until you yourself taste and see that the Lord is good, you won’t experience the transformative factors- until you give Him access to your life.

You have to taste for yourself and see the whole Bible. It serves as an invitation to all of mankind to come to experience the love of the Father. That’s what the Bible is about. It’s not a substitute for a

relationship with God. The best thing that can happen is it (the Bible) would lead us into an encounter with God.

The people whom He is going to do most in and through are the people who are determined, desperate to have encounters with Him. Don't make that difficult, because He's made it easy, so easy that a lot of people just don't do it.

1 Corinthians 2:16, *"We have the mind of Christ"*. Philippians 2:5, *"Let this mind be in you, which is also in Christ Jesus"*. If you are born again, you have the mind of Christ right now, present and dwelling in you, in your spirit, because the Holy Spirit lives in your spirit.

You have the mind of Christ. But you have to let the mind of Christ overtake your mind in all these critical things, and change your mind to be like His. You have to let Him do that. He won't force that on you.

If you want to hear God, then you have to apply yourself to that. So we have the mind, but we have to let the mind of Christ be in us.

1 John 4:17, *"As He is (as Jesus is), so are we in the world"*. We're to be what Jesus was when He was here in the flesh.

God loves to use the unqualified to do the impossible. He doesn't always pick the obvious person. More often than not, He picks a person whom everybody wonders about; *"why did He pick that person"?*

To the religious sector, Jesus was the wrong guy. He was an illegitimate son of a carpenter. That's all they could see in the natural, but the common people gladly heard Jesus. They could see who He was.

Religion gets in your way. You will have to watch during this move, what God's doing now, not to let religion get in your way, because it will if it can. The enemy will use whatever he can to stall you out, to get you in a place where you're not catching what God is doing. So heads up!

Can you start to see a glimpse that the church is at the center of what's happening in society and culture, in the whole world right now? Can you see where the church, at its best, can make a difference in the world? Ephesians 3:10, *"that now the manifold wisdom of God might be made known by the church to the principalities and powers in the heavenly places"*. We're about to have a throw-down with the enemy.

There's a clashing of kingdoms coming together. It's the kingdom of darkness versus the Kingdom of light. It would be through this living, evolving organism, the Church, that the supernatural power of God would be manifested. We are in a time where the world needs to see the supernatural power of God.

God is waiting on you, me, the church overall. He's waiting for us to get in a place where He can trust us with this broad display of signs and wonders, of people being miraculously healed.

Matthew 10:8, *"Freely you have received, freely give"*. You have to allow the Spirit of God to get your attention when there's a situation where you need to speak life into, where you need to pray for someone to be healed, or you need to break a demonic bondage of alcoholism, or drug addiction or pornography. Just be aware, and let the Spirit of God lead you into those things.

You say, *“Well, I am just not used to praying for someone”*. Let’s say you and your buddy are in a pickup, driving down the road, and he got a bad report from the doctor. You could just say this, *“Listen, man, I don’t even know how to do this. I’ve never done it before. We talk about it in church, but I believe God can heal you. So Lord, Your Word says that You want us to prosper, and be in health, even as our soul prospers. So I just, I just pray for Joe Bob. Lord, I just pray that You’d heal him. You’d fix that thing”*.

You’re going to be surprised what God does when you do that. A lot of stuff is going to happen at the church house when you come together, but most of it is going to happen out there.

John 4:35, Jesus said, *“The fields are white unto harvest”*. There are people out there ready to give their lives to the Lord. Not because you’re an expert in leading someone to the Lord. It’s that God has already done the work in their heart, and all it takes is someone obedient, someone who will step across the line of faith and pray with someone.

Mark 16: 17-18, *“These signs will follow those who believe. In my name, they will cast out demons. They will speak with new tongues. They will take up serpents. And if they drink anything deadly, it’ll by no means hurt them. They will lay hands of the sick and they will recover”*.

John 14: 12, *“Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, and the works that I do, he will do also. And greater works than these will he do, because I go to My Father”*.

I still don’t think probably any of us, myself included, that we have the full revelation of that. But you carry more than you think you do. You carry God’s presence in with you, and that presence settles the spiritual atmosphere, and then, that atmosphere changes.

There’s a trend going on and I see it. Not limited to couples. And I used this age frame: up from about 30 to 35, to about 40 to 45. One of the things I see is God is dealing with couples. And, some of them are going through make or break situations. Some of the hardest things they’ve ever gone through before.

The circumstances that you’re going through, that’s proportionate to: 1. The call of God on your life, and 2. It’s proportionate to the glory of God that’s going to come out of your situation. So, if you’re getting tested to the core, getting tested beyond anything you’ve ever been tested before, God’s going to bless you greater than you’ve ever been blessed before, as you come through this.

People are going through these make or break circumstances. All you can see a lot of times are the problems and the challenges, but God is at the root of all that. He’s teaching you to overcome and is maturing you.

He’s maturing you. He’s seasoning you. And the ones who are going to be most effective in this move of God are the mature sons and daughters who understand the call of God on their life, so you can be a functional contributor to what God is doing.

The most important thing that I’m doing in my life right now is listening. And I want to speak that over you. Be a better listener to what God has to say.