

## Equipping the Saints for the Work of the Ministry #14

### June 22, 2025

#### Elements of Our Spiritual DNA

- The Kingdom
  - *“A Kingdom person: Someone who knows the Father, walks with Him, carries His heart, and advances His purposes on earth” AT*
  - *“Kingdom is like”: 1) A field 2) Pearl*
    - *It's the writers way of saying, “THIS is EVERYTHING”!*
- Relationship with the Father - Sets everything else in order
- Grace
- Family & Relationships
- Equipping the Saints
- Signs and Wonders
- The Poor

#### Last Week: The Jethro Principle - Exodus 18

- The pattern of how the apostolic works
- Moses = God's man for the job
- Jethro - Moses' father-in-law
- *“What is thing you're doing?” - \*(All day long listening to problems)*
- *“Surely you and the people will wear yourselves out”*
- Moses heeded the counsel of Jethro -
- Stand before God; Teach them the statutes and the laws; Show them in the way in which they must walk; And the work they must do; Select from all the people able men: Fear God, men of truth, hating covetousness
  - **Numbers 11:16-17** - *“I will take of the Spirit that is upon you and will put the same upon them”*
  - **Numbers 11:25**: *“Then the Lord came down in the cloud, and spoke to him, and took of the Spirit that was upon him, and placed the same upon the seventy elders...”*
- If Moses was actually going to Lead God's people, he'd need to make some major adjustments - Better for him - Better for the people

## Church Government - How the Church is to be Governed

- Acts 6
- Church History
- Day of Pentecost - Jerusalem *\*(Population doubled; 200K)*
- **Luke 24:49** - *“Behold, I send the Promise of My Father upon you; but tarry in the city of Jerusalem until you are endued with power from on high.”*
- 120 people in an upper room
- Praying and in one accord - Same mind, same heart, no division, no one jockeying for power *\*(like your might see in the American Church these days);* No one with their own agenda of how it should be
- Same mind, same heart believing God would produce what Jesus said
- Sound of a *‘rushing, mighty wind’*
- Multitude of people in Jerusalem to celebrate the feast of Pentecost
- **Gen 1** - Spirit = ruach = breath
- With Adam - man became a living soul when God breathed
- Abram - Ham Sarai - Sarah
- **Ezekiel 37** - Valley of dry bones - God breathed life into them and they became a great, exceeding army
- **John 7:37-39** - *“On the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried out, saying, **“If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink. He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.”** But this He spoke concerning the Spirit, whom those believing in Him would receive; for the Holy Spirit was not yet given, because Jesus was not yet glorified.*
- Jesus - John 20 - Jesus breathed on them and said, “Receive the Holy Spirit”

## Acts 2 - The Church is Birthed!

### The Growth of the Jerusalem Church

- $120 + 3000 + 5000 = 8,120$
- **What they didn't have:**
  - Pastor - *\*(In fact, there's no man in the Bible referred to as 'the pastor')*

- Building - Apostles taught on the back of the temple, called Solomon's Porch
- No Bible; no rulebook on how to do things
- **What they did have:**
  - The Holy Spirit *\*(and people who were willing to follow Him!)*
  - Life - True spiritual life that comes from trusting the leading of God, and loving people
    - Organic
    - Some dwellings = 60 people
    - Messy, challenging, obstacles, problems of every kind
  - Tests of every kind imaginable - Learning how to love
  - 3000 - on the Day of Pentecost
  - 5000 - few days later
  - **Acts 2:42-45** - *"And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers. Then fear came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were done through the apostles. Now all who believed were together, and had all things in common, and sold their possessions and goods, and divided them among all, as anyone had need."*
  - Apostles doctrine - The testimony of those who had been with Jesus
  - **Acts 2:46** - *"So continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they ate their food with gladness and simplicity of heart, praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved."*
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  - **Acts 5:40-42** - *"And they agreed with him, and when they had called for the apostles and beaten them, they commanded that they should not speak in the name of Jesus, and let them go. So they departed from the presence of the council, rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer shame for His name. And daily in the temple, and in every house, they did not cease teaching and preaching Jesus as the Christ."*
  - You should know that the True Church didn't just happen; Extreme sacrifices were made so the world could have something genuine!
  - We have tremendous responsibility and an opportunity like never before
  - To keep it real; God's doing something that hasn't been seen before and He's chosen you to be alive during this critical time

## Acts 6

- Encountered a problem with the Hellenistic Jewish widows
- **Acts 6:1-7** - *“Now in those days, when the number of the disciples was multiplying, there arose a complaint against the Hebrews by the Hellenists, because their widows were neglected in the daily distribution. Then the twelve summoned the multitude of the disciples and said, “It is not desirable that we should leave the word of God and serve tables. Therefore, brethren, seek out from among you seven men of good reputation, full of the Holy Spirit and wisdom, whom we may appoint over this business; but we will give ourselves continually to prayer and to the ministry of the word.” And the saying pleased the whole multitude. And they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and the Holy Spirit, and Philip, Prochorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolas, a proselyte from Antioch, whom they set before the apostles; and when they had prayed, they laid hands on them. Then the word of God spread, and the number of the disciples multiplied greatly in Jerusalem, and a great many of the priests were obedient to the faith.”*
- **What happened there?**
  - The apostles - Not too good to do the work
  - Getting in the place of their anointing
  - Elders - Primarily given to spiritual needs
  - Deacons - Primarily given to natural needs *\*(not a ‘lesser’ call!!)*
  - **Acts 6:8** - *“And Stephen, full of faith and power, did great wonders and signs among the people”*
  - **Acts 8 - Phillip** - The Ethiopian Eunuch - Ensuing transformation of an entire nation
  - All apostles are elders, but not all elders are apostles
  - This adjustment brought some structure, but structure that enhanced *(and cooperated)* the work of the Holy Spirit and didn’t hinder IT!
  - Today you can see where the church is over structured
  - Some have actually structured the Holy Spirit completely out of the picture - Deadly mistake
  - Stagnation will start to set in - Church goes into maintenance mode

**Can you see how doing it God’s way makes all the difference?**