
The Lord God's Ekklesia

Part 1 – Discovering God's Purpose for the Church

EKKLESIA
THE CALLED OUT ONES

Acts 1:1-9

Acts 1:1

In my first book I told you,
Theophilus, about everything
Jesus began to do and teach

Acts 1:2

**until the day he was taken up to
heaven after giving his chosen
apostles further instructions
through the Holy Spirit.**

Acts 1:3

During the forty days after he suffered and died, he appeared to the apostles from time to time, and he proved to them in many ways that he was actually alive. And he talked to them about the Kingdom of God.

Acts 1:4

Once when he was eating with them, he commanded them, “Do not leave Jerusalem until the Father sends you the gift he promised, as I told you before.

Acts 1:5

John baptized with water, but in just a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.”

Acts 1:6

So when the apostles were with Jesus, they kept asking him, “Lord, has the time come for you to free Israel and restore our kingdom?”

Acts 1:7

He replied, “The Father alone has the authority to set those dates and times, and they are not for you to know.”

Acts 1:8

But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you. And you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”

Acts 1:9

After saying this, he was taken up into a cloud while they were watching, and they could no longer see him.

EKKLESIA

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The Use of *ekklesia*

- The word *ekklesia* is only used in the gospels 3 times, each of which was by Jesus.
 - Matt 16:18 and 18:17 (twice)
- In the book of Acts and the rest of the New Testament the word *ekklesia* is used over 110 times.

Principle #1

It is no coincidence that the life of the early church in Acts parallels and mirrors Jesus' early life in His public ministry.

Jesus and the Ekklesia

- **Baptism of the Spirit**
 - At Jesus' Baptism the Holy Spirit descended in a visible form (like a dove) – Luke 3:22
 - At Pentecost the Holy Spirit appeared in physical form (like tongues of fire) – Acts 2:3

Jesus and the Ekklesia

- **Ministry begins with a powerful declaration of the Word of God**
 - Jesus declares he's the fulfillment of Isaiah's prophecy - Luke 4:14-21
 - Peter preaches at Pentecost that Jesus is the Messiah – Acts 2:1-41

Jesus and the Ekklesia

- **Miraculous Events/Healing**
 - Jesus casts out a demon and heals many – Luke 4:31-41
 - Peter and John heal the crippled man – Acts 3:1-11 and the apostles heal many – Acts 5:12-16

Jesus and the Ekklesia

- **Conflict with religious order**
 - Luke 5:29-6:11, Acts 4:1-8:3
- **The appointing of leaders**
 - 12 Apostles - Luke 6:12-16
 - The 72 disciples - 10:1
 - 12th Apostle - Acts 1:12-26
 - The first “Deacons” - 6:1-6

Jesus and the Ekklesia

- **Witnesses are killed**
 - Christ is arrested, stands trial, is falsely accused by witnesses, but he proclaims that he is the Son of God. While he's dying Jesus asks God to forgive his murderers and He asks God to receive His Spirit- Luke 22 -23

Jesus and the Ekklesia

- **Witnesses are killed**
 - Stephen is arrested, stands trial, is falsely accused by witnesses, but proclaims Jesus is the Son of God. While he's being stoned to death he asks God to forgive his murderers and He asks Jesus to receive His Spirit – Acts 7

It is important to note that the early church was able to parallel and to mirror the very same things that Jesus said and did, because it is what they saw him do, because it was what they heard him teach, and because it is what they saw Him live out consistently for years.

Principle #2

Unfortunately, way too many local churches have lost sight of who they are, why they exist, what they are supposed to do, and who their Master is.

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If all you ever knew about God and the church was strictly based on the Bible, would walking into our church building and spending a few months time with us be exactly what you expected?

**If all a stranger ever knew about
God and the church was strictly
based on the Bible, would
walking into your house
unannounced be exactly what
they would expect of those who
declare that Jesus Christ is their
Lord and Savior?**

I believe that one reason why the church of God at this present moment has so little influence over the world is because the world has so much influence over the church.

- Charles Spurgeon

Principle #3

God purposed for Jesus' earthly ministry to continue through His Holy Spirit led *ekklesia* after Christ's ascension.

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Principle #4

The primary purpose of God's *ekklesia* is to become like Christ. By making that the primary focus, we will be able to parallel and mirror everything that Jesus thought, said, and did.

As we commit ourselves to this primary focus as individuals, we'll discover that worshipping God, edifying the believers, and reaching the lost will become a part of our God Breathed Identity as a church. More importantly, we will carry out each of those activities in ways that are truly honoring to God and consistent with His perfect will.

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