

Bancroft Mission
Sunday School Lessons

“Church”

CHURCH

Lesson 1

Introduction:

In these lessons we will study the church universal (Catholic, which means universal), and local. We will study the mission of both and how that mission is to be accomplished.

Let's first study the word "church" and how we Americans arrived at that word. We know the Greek word for church is "ekklesia" or "ecclesia" which means the called-out ones. "Ekklesia" comes from two Greek words: "Ek" which means "out of" (Strongs concordance G1537 and "kal-eh'-o" which means "to call" (Strongs G2564). Thus, the "called out ones." We will study this usage of "church" in future lessons.

Here's the question: When Jesus said in Matthew 16:18, "And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock **I will build My church**, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it" why didn't the translators translate this "I will build my called out ones?" For this we need to do a study of the English word "church."

It is derived from Old English "cirice," which in turn came from the German "kirika," which came from the Greek "kuriake," which means "of the Lord."

The translators understood that the word "church" referred to those who belonged to the Lord: Jesus.

Sometimes "church" is used to refer to a local body of believers and sometimes refers to the universal church. Each has to be taken in the proper context. However, the church is never referred to as a physical structure or building.

"Church" is used 77 times in the KJV and 73 times in the NKJV. We will not study each time it is used but those times as needed in these lessons.

All scripture is from the New King James Version unless otherwise indicated.

The Universal Church

I. The Catholic (universal—not to be mistaken as the Roman Catholic church) Church. We will use the word "universal" so as to not bring confusion.

A. Matthew 16:18, "And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build **My church**, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it."

1. This is the first time the word church is used.
2. It undoubtedly refers to the universal church.

3. Although sometimes they shutter their doors, the universal church, the church of the Lord Jesus Christ, will ALWAYS be victorious: “the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.”

B. Ephesians 1:19-23, “and what is the exceeding greatness of His power toward us who believe, according to the working of His mighty power 20 which He worked in Christ when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places, 21 far above all principality and power and might and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age but also in that which is to come. 22 And He put all things under His feet, and gave Him to be head over all things to the church, 23 which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all.”

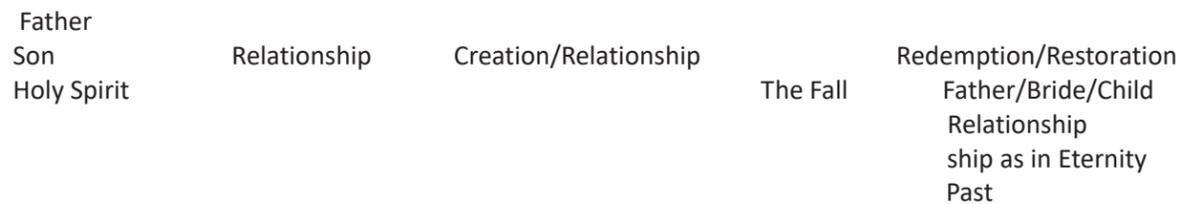
1. This refers to the universal church.
2. Jesus is the “Head” of His church.
3. We are His body.

II. Relational.

A. Ephesians 5:30-32, “For we are members of His body, of His flesh and of His bones. 31 *“For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.”* 32 This is a great mystery, but I speak concerning Christ and the church.”

B. The Father’s ultimate intention for mankind is to be in relationship as Father and Children or Husband and Bride.

Eternity Past



We see from this very crude illustration the ultimate intention of the Father and the purpose of His Redemption through Cross of Jesus Christ.

3. The Father desires a relationship with His children. The closest example is the relationship of husband and wife.

Adam Sigman brought a beautiful message to us about the woman at the well. (Go to bancroftmission.org and listen to the message on 11/15/23) He used John 4 as the text. Adam taught how the well, in the Old Testament was a place where many of the patriarchs met their wives. He went on to teach us that Jesus was offering the woman at the well a relationship of Spiritual intimacy; Just like He offers and desires for us today.

III. Functional.

As we have studied briefly in section “II”, the ultimate intention of the Father was to have an intimate relationship with His creation. His further intention was that His creation would function from this place of relationship.

A. Adam.

1. Genesis 2:15-17, “Then the LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to tend and keep it. 16 And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, “Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat; 17 “but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die.”

a. In these verses we see that God spoke with Adam—Relationship.

b. We also see that God had a function for Adam—“ Then the LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to tend and keep it.”

2. God and Adam had a relationship of trust. One that God allowed Adam to name the animal kingdom in which He had created.

Genesis 2:19&20, “Out of the ground the LORD God formed every beast of the field and every bird of the air, and brought *them* to Adam to see what he would call them. And whatever Adam called each living creature, that *was* its name. 20 So Adam gave names to all cattle, to the birds of the air, and to every beast of the field...”

B. Universal Church.

1. Matthew 28:18-20, “And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, “All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. 19 “Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 “teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, *even* to the end of the age.” Amen.”

2. Mark 16:14-18, “Later He appeared to the eleven as they sat at the table; and He rebuked their unbelief and hardness of heart, because they did not believe those who had seen Him after He had risen. 15 And He said to them, “Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. 16 “He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned. 17 “And these signs will follow those who believe: In My name they will cast out demons; they will speak with new tongues; 18 “they will take up serpents; and if they drink anything deadly, it will by no means hurt them; they will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover.”

Although Jesus was addressing the eleven remaining apostles, He was giving the universal church her commission: “Go into all the world” with the Good News. Later, we will see how Jesus commissioned the local church to function within each of their spheres/assigned areas.

3. Ephesians 3:8-11, “To me, who am less than the least of all the saints, this grace was given, that I should preach among the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ, 9 and to make **all see what is the fellowship of the mystery**, which from the beginning of the ages has been hidden in

God who created all things through Jesus Christ; 10 to the intent that now the manifold wisdom of God might be made known by the church to the principalities and powers in the heavenly *places*, 11 **according to the eternal purpose** which He accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord,”

Introduction:

We can clearly see that God has ordained, appointed, and anointed the Local Church. Paul's letters were addressed to local churches. The book of Revelation (See 1:4) was written to seven local churches.

Hopefully, every local church is part of the universal church. However, just because a building has the title “church” doesn't mean it is part of the universal church. A true local church is a body of “born again” people.

I. Purpose of the Local Church.

The church is described as the Body of the Lord, Jesus Christ—Romans 12:5, “so we, being many, are one body in Christ, and individually members of one another.” AND 1st Corinthians 12:27, “Now you are the body of Christ, and members individually.”

The Word of God has identified many purposes of the local church. In these lessons we will study just a few. **TEACHERS, FEEL FREE TO BE LED BY THE HOLY SPIRIT TO DISCUSS OTHER FUNCTIONS.**

The church is made up of believers from every walk of life; ethnically, socially, vocationally, etc. The important thing to always remember is, we are all one and are equal—Galatians 3:28, “There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus.” AND Ephesians 2:14, “For He Himself is our peace, who has made both one, and has broken down the middle wall of separation,”

A. Caring for each other.

When thinking of “care for the body” many believers defer this to the pastor. However, Father has called the local church to care for each other. We are all anointed and equipped for this precious endeavor.

1. 1st Corinthians 12:25&26, that there should be no schism in the body, but that the members should have the same care for one another. 26 And if one member suffers, all the members suffer with it; or if one member is honored, all the members rejoice with it.”

The NLT says it this way, “If one part suffers, all the parts suffer with it, and if one part is honored, all the parts are glad.”

2. Galatians 5:13&14, “For you, brethren, have been called to liberty; only do not use liberty as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another. 14 For all the law is fulfilled in one word, even in this: “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.”

3. Galatians 6:1&2, “Brethren, if a man is overtaken in any trespass, you who *are* spiritual **restore** such a one in a spirit of gentleness, considering yourself lest you also be tempted. 2 Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ.”

4. Ephesians 4:32, “And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you.”

5. Philippians 2:3, “Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each **esteem** others better than himself.”

B. When we think of purpose or function, we think of mission. Every local church has been assigned and anointed with “Evangelizing, Discipling, Training, and Releasing.” How that mission is carried out is discerned by the local body of believers.

1. Evangelize.

“Evangelize” means to spread the Good News. The good news that Jesus is the Savior of the world—that He died for our sins and was raised for our justification—Romans 4:25, “Who was delivered for our offences, and was raised again for our justification.”

In Acts 8:1-4 we read of a time of persecution, and the result.

a. Acts 8:1-4, “Now Saul was consenting to his death. At that time a great persecution arose against the church which was at Jerusalem; and they were all scattered throughout the regions of Judea and Samaria, except the apostles. 2 And devout men carried Stephen to his burial, and made great lamentation over him. 3 As for Saul, he made havoc of the church, entering every house, and dragging off men and women, committing them to prison. 4 Therefore those who were scattered went everywhere preaching the word.”

b. Notice in verse 1 that the **church** was scattered throughout while the Apostles stayed where they were.

c. Then, in verse 4, “those who were scattered went everywhere preaching the word.”

d. One of the ministry gifts in Ephesians 4:11 is “evangelist” (which we will study later). However, God has **anointed** each believer to share the Good News/Evangelize.

Many believers feel inadequate for this mission. We recently studied “Why We Believe.” In those lessons we were armed with ability to “give a reason for the hope that lies within us.” 1st Peter 3:15, “But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts, and always be ready to give a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear;”

Another great method of “evangelizing” is by simply sharing our testimonies.

2. Disciple.

At “face value” the word “disciple” simply means a follower of any teacher. But we know that there is a much richer understanding of discipling.

Discipling has to do with the work of the Holy Spirit in transforming us into the image of Christ.

a. 2nd Corinthians 3:18, “But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord.”

- The NLT says it this way, “So all of us who have had that veil removed can see and reflect the glory of the Lord. And the Lord—who is the Spirit—makes us more and more like him as we are changed into his glorious image.”
- The Message Bible says, “All of us! Nothing between us and God, our faces shining with the brightness of his face. And so we are transfigured much like the Messiah, our lives gradually becoming brighter and more beautiful as God enters our lives and we become like him.”
- The Amplified Classic Bible states, “And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit.”

THIS IS A WORK OF THE HOLY SPIRIT. HOWEVER, AS WITH EVERY “WORK” THERE MUST BE TOOLS. WE CANNOT SAW A BOARD WITHOUT A SAW. WE CANNOT SEW A BUTTON ON WITHOUT NEEDLE AND THREAD. WE ARE THE ONES THAT ARE TO PROVIDE TOOLS FOR THE HOLY SPIRIT TO DO THIS MIGHTY WORK IN THE LIVES OF FELLOW BELIEVERS.

b. Ephesians 4:11-16, “And He Himself gave some *to be* apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, 12 for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ, 13 till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ; 14 that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting, 15 but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head—Christ—16 from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love.”

- In verses 11&12 Paul says the “ministry gifts” are to equip the saints.
- Verse 12 says the saints are to do the “work of ministry” and the saints are to “edify the body of Christ.”
- Notice in verse 13, “...the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ;”
 - Paul’s use of the word “knowledge” means “correct understanding.”

- Paul also taught us in Colossians 2:2, “that their hearts may be encouraged, being knit together in love, and *attaining* to all riches of the full assurance of understanding, to the knowledge of the mystery of God, both of the Father and of Christ,”
- The “mystery of God” is this, Colossians 1:27, “To them God willed to make known what are the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles: which is **Christ in you**, the hope of glory.”

THE FIRST REALIZATION FOR EVERY BELIEVER IS TO KNOW THAT CHRIST IS IN THEM; WE ARE “NEW CREATURES IN CHRIST JESUS.” THE NEXT STEP IS TO PROVIDE THE “TOOLS” FOR THE HOLY SPIRIT TO USE TO BRING ALL BELIEVERS “TO A PERFECT (FULL MATURITY) MAN (PERSON), TO THE MEASURE OF THE STATURE OF THE FULLNESS OF CHRIST... (EPHESIANS 4:13).

NONE OF US WOULD A BRING A NEWBORN BABY HOME FROM THE HOSPITAL AND TELL HIM/HER, “I’LL SEE YOU AGAIN NEXT WEEK.” NO, WE WOULD NATURALLY CARE FOR THE CHILD AND BEGIN THE TASK OF BRINGING THIS CHILD INTO MATURITY.

BRINGING OTHERS INTO MATURITY—THIS IS THE WORK OF DISCIPLING.

- We disciple by “speaking the truth in love, (Ephesians 4:15).
- The result?—Ephesians 4:14-16, “that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting, 15 but, speaking the truth in love, 14 that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting, 15 but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head—Christ—16 from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love.”
- In all things into Him who is the head—Christ—16 from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love.”
 - Stability: “no longer children, tossed to and fro...”
 - Maturity: “may grow up...”
 - Productivity—“every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share”
 - Growth—“causes growth of the body...”
 - Edifying: “the edifying of itself in love.”

3. Training.

Just as all believers are in the process of being disciplined, we are all called and anointed to a specific task.

We are blessed with vocational schools. Schools that train people how to be plumbers, electricians, nurses, carpenters, etc.

A new hire on a job must learn how to do that job.

We have driver training schools to train people how operate a motor vehicle.

The military trains new recruits how to be soldiers; “Basic Training.” Then the soldier goes to “Advanced Individual Training” to learn how to accomplish their specific “Military Operational Status.”

Just as we are trained in the aforementioned vocations, we all have a spiritual vocation which requires training.

OUR SPECIFIC “SPIRITUAL VOCATION” IS NOT LIMITED TO WHAT WE DO INSIDE OF THE FOUR WALLS THAT HAS BECOME KNOWN AS THE CHURCH. IF THIS WERE TRUE, WE WOULD ONLY FUNCTION A COUPLE OF HOURS PER WEEK. TO MOST CHRISTIANS, WE FUNCTION IN THE “KINGDOM OF GOD” IN OUR DAILY LIVES, WHEREVER WE ARE: ON THE JOB, IN THE HOME, AT THE MARKETPLACE, ETC.

a. Ephesians 2:10, “For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.”

b. 1st Peter 4:10 NLT, “God has given each of you a gift from his great variety of spiritual gifts. Use them well to serve one another.”

JUST AS IN THIS PRESENT WORLD, THE PERSON DOING A JOB WILL SOMETIMES MAKE MISTAKES, WE SOMETIMES MAKE MISTAKES DOING OUR FUNCTION. DON’T GET DISCOURAGED, WE ARE ALL STILL IN TRAINING.

c. We are held accountable for carrying out our specific spiritual vocations.

- 1st Corinthians 3:12-15, “Now if anyone builds on this foundation *with* gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw, 13 each one’s work will become clear; for the Day will declare it, because it will be revealed by fire; and the fire will test each one’s work, of what sort it is. 14 If anyone’s work which he has built on *it* endures, he will receive a reward. 15 If anyone’s work is burned, he will suffer loss; but he himself will be saved, yet so as through fire.”
 - This is not referring to us “being” or staying “saved.”
 - This is referring to our service; are we following the Holy Spirit or following ourselves, or someone else?

- Matthew 25:20-28, “So he who had received five talents came and brought five other talents, saying, ‘Lord, you delivered to me five talents; look, I have gained five more talents besides them.’ 21 “His lord said to him, ‘Well *done*, good and faithful servant; you were faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord.’ 22 “He also who had received two talents came and said, ‘Lord, you delivered to me two talents; look, I have gained two more talents besides them.’ 23 “His lord said to him, ‘Well *done*, good and faithful servant; you have been faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord.’ 24 “Then he who had received the one talent came and said, ‘Lord, I knew you to be a hard man, reaping where you have not sown, and gathering where you have not scattered seed. 25 ‘And I was afraid, and went and hid your talent in the ground. Look, *there* you have *what is yours*.’ 26 “But his lord answered and said to him, ‘You wicked and lazy servant, you knew that I reap where I have not sown, and gather where I have not scattered seed. 27 ‘So you ought to have deposited my money with the bankers, and at my coming I would have received back my own with interest. 28 ‘Therefore take the talent from him, and give *it* to him who has ten talents.”

d. God will equip us to carry out His assignment.

THERE ARE MANY FUNCTIONS OF THE MIGHTY HOLY SPIRIT (WE WILL STUDY THESE IN FUTURE LESSONS IN THIS STUDY OF THE CHURCH). ONE OF WHICH IS TO EMPOWER GOD’S PEOPLE FOR SERVICE.

- Acts 1:8, ““But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me] in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”
- Ephesians 3:20, “Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us,”

e. One of the main essentials for “training” for a specific function is to remain **TEACHABLE AND CORRECTABLE**.

WHEN A BELIEVER BEGINS THEIR JOURNEY OF PRODUCTIVITY THEY MUST REMAIN TEACHABLE AND CORRECTABLE.

TO STOP BEING TEACHABLE IS TO SAY, “I HAVE LEARNED ALL THERE IS TO LEARN.”

TO STOP BEING CORRECTIBLE IS TO BECOME ARROGANT AND PRIDEFUL.

THE WORD OF GOD IS REplete WITH SCRIPTURES CONCERNING THESE TWO VIRTUES; WE WILL STUDY JUST A FEW.

- Teachability.
 - Proverbs 5:12-14, “And say: “How I have hated instruction, And my heart despised correction! 13 I have not obeyed the voice of my teachers, Nor inclined my ear to those who instructed me! 14 I was on the verge of total ruin, In the midst of the assembly and congregation.”
 - Proverbs 15:32, “He who disdains instruction despises his own soul, But he who heeds rebuke gets understanding.”
 - 2nd Peter 3: You therefore, beloved, since you know *this* beforehand, beware lest you also fall from your own steadfastness, being led away with the error of the wicked; 18 but grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him *be* the glory both now and forever. Amen.”
- Correctability—The standard for correction is the Truth; the Word of God.
 - Proverbs 12:1, “Whoever loves instruction loves knowledge, But he who hates correction *is* stupid.”
 - James 5:19&20, “Brethren, if anyone among you wanders from the truth, and someone turns him back, 20 let him know that he who turns a sinner from the error of his way will save a soul from death and cover a multitude of sins.
 - Proverbs 13:18, “Poverty and shame *will come* to him who disdains correction, But he who regards a rebuke will be honored.”
 - Hebrews 12:11 NIV, “No discipline seems pleasant at the time, but painful. Later on, however, it produces a harvest of righteousness and peace for those who have been trained by it.”

4. Release.

We are all in the process of being “disciplined” and “trained.” There comes a time when we must actually “do” what we have been called and anointed to do.

Father has a mighty work He wants to accomplish. He has chosen His Body, the church, to fulfill His mission. Jesus proclaimed in John 14:12, “Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do he will do also; and greater *works* than these he will do, because I go to My Father.” The significance of His “going to the Father” was the Holy Spirit would come and empower His people. We will study this in the next lesson.

One of the greatest lessons that we will learn on our journey of serving the Lord is that He is in charge. Even Jesus said, “For I have come down from heaven, **not to do My own will**, but the will of Him who sent Me.” (John 6:38). In John 8:28 He said, “Then Jesus said to them, “When you lift up the Son of Man, then you will know that I am *He*, and *that* I do **nothing of Myself**; but as My Father taught Me, I speak these things.”

a. Acts 13:1-3, “Now in the church that was at Antioch there were certain prophets and teachers: Barnabas, Simeon who was called Niger, Lucius of Cyrene, Manaen who had been brought up with Herod the tetrarch, and Saul. 2 As they ministered to the Lord and fasted, the Holy Spirit said, “Now separate to Me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them.” 3 Then, having fasted and prayed, and laid hands on them, they sent them away.”

b. Ephesians 4:16, “From whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love.”

The Church and the Holy Spirit

In many areas the teaching and work of the Holy Spirit is controversial. However, it need not be. The scripture is clear about this vital “third Person of the Trinity.”

I. The Holy Spirit as a Person.

R. A. Torrey, “Before one can correctly understand the work of the Holy Spirit, he must first of all know the Spirit Himself. A frequent source of error and fanaticism about the work of the Holy Spirit is the attempt to study and understand His work without first of all coming to know Him as a Person.

It is of the highest importance from the standpoint of worship that we decide whether the Holy Spirit is a Divine Person, worthy to receive our adoration, our faith, our love, and our entire surrender to Himself, or whether it (He—my insert) is simply an influence emanating from God or a power or an illumination that God imparts to us. If the Holy Spirit is a person, and a Divine Person, and we do not know Him as such, then we are robbing a Divine Being of the worship and the faith and the love and the surrender to Himself which are His due.”

A. The Holy Spirit is not a person in the sense that He needs to breathe, eat, stay hydrated to exist.

B. The Holy Spirit is a person in that He has some of the characteristics that we have.

1. He can be grieved—Ephesians 4:30, “And do not **grieve** the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.”

2. He loves—Romans 15:30, “Now I beg you, brethren, through the Lord Jesus Christ, and through **the love of the Spirit**, that you strive together with me in prayers to God for me,”

3. He has a mind—Romans 8:27, “Now He who searches the hearts knows what **the mind of the Spirit** is, because He makes intercession for the saints according to the will of God.”

4. He has a will—1st Corinthians 12:11, “But one and the **same Spirit** works all these things, distributing to each one individually **as He wills.**”

5. He speaks—Acts 8:29, “Then **the Spirit said** to Philip, “Go near and overtake this chariot.”

6. He can be resisted—Acts 7:51, “*You* stiff-necked and uncircumcised in heart and ears! You always **resist the Holy Spirit**; as your fathers *did*, so *do* you.

7. He can be tested—Acts 5:9, “Then Peter said to her, “How is it that you have agreed together to **test** the Spirit of the Lord? Look, the feet of those who have buried your husband *are* at the door, and they will carry you out.”

II. The Holy Spirit is part of the Trinity.

A. The “Trinity” is made up of Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

B. Here are a number of references that point to the Holy Spirit’s divine characteristics:

1. He's called God—Acts 5:3&4, "But Peter said, Ananias, why hath Satan filled thine heart to **lie to the Holy Ghost**, and to keep back *part* of the price of the land? 4 Whiles it remained, was it not thine own? and after it was sold, was it not in thine own power? why hast thou conceived this thing in thine heart? **thou hast not lied unto men, but unto God.**

2. He's called the Spirit of God—1st Corinthians 12:3, "Therefore I make known to you that no one speaking by the **Spirit of God** calls Jesus accursed, and no one can say that Jesus is Lord except by the **Holy Spirit.**"

3. He is equal with the Father—Matthew 28:19, "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in **the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,**"

4. He is eternal—Hebrews 9:14, "How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through **the eternal Spirit** offered Himself without spot to God, cleanse your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?"

5. He's omnipresent—Psalms 139:7-9, "**Where can I go from Your Spirit?** Or where can I flee from Your presence? 8 If I ascend into heaven, You are there; If I make my bed in hell, behold, You are there. 9 If I take the wings of the morning, And dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea,"

6. He is omniscient—John 16:13, "However, when He, **the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth;** for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come."

III. The Holy Spirit's work in salvation.

Salvation is a wonderful experience. It is the beginning of Eternal Life for the believer.

Salvation has been described many ways in the Bible. Here are a few:

- Salvation is the deliverance of God's people from sin, evil, and death, and the restoration of their relationship with God.
- Salvation is the state of being saved or protected from harm or a dire situation.
- From Wikipedia: Salvation (from Latin: *salvatio*, from *salva*, 'safe, saved') is the state of being saved or protected from harm or a dire situation.^[1] In religion and theology, *salvation* generally refers to the deliverance of the soul from sin and its consequences.^{[2][3]} The academic study of salvation is called soteriology.

We see from this Wikipedia quote that one of the understandings of salvation is "saved." Saved is the usual term to describe one' "born again" experience.

- The Greek word for salvation is "Soteria." It is defined as: deliverance, preservation, safety, deliverance from the molestation of enemies.
- "Born Again" is the experience Jesus used when speaking with Nicodemus John 3:7, ""Do not marvel that I said to you, 'You must be born again.'"

A. Divine revelation of Jesus, our Savior.

1. 1st Corinthians 12:23, "Therefore I make known to you that no one speaking by the Spirit of God calls Jesus accursed, and no one can say that Jesus is Lord except by the Holy Spirit."

2. Sometimes we misquote a scripture concerning the "drawing" of the Holy Spirit. John 6:44, "No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me **draws** him; and I will raise him up at the last day."

a. Don't be confused by this.

b. John 6:44 states that the Father draws people to Jesus. However, as we study other scriptures, we discover that the Agent of the Father's drawing is the Holy Spirit.

3. John 16:13&14, "However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own *authority*, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come. 14 "He will glorify Me, for He will take of what is Mine and declare *it* to you."

B. Baptizing believers into the Body of Christ.

"Baptism" is more than baptizing with water after conversion. The Holy Spirit baptizes us into the Family of God—the Church.

1. 1st Corinthians 12:13, "For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free—and have all been made to drink into one Spirit."

2. Acts 11:11-17, ""At that very moment, three men stood before the house where I was, having been sent to me from Caesarea. 12 "Then the Spirit told me to go with them, doubting nothing. Moreover these six brethren accompanied me, and we entered the man's house. 13 "And he told us how he had seen an angel standing in his house, who said to him, 'Send men to Joppa, and call for Simon whose surname is Peter, 14 'who will tell you words by which you and all your household will be saved.' 15 "And as I began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell upon them, as upon us at the beginning. 16 "Then I remembered the word of the Lord, how He said, 'John indeed baptized with water, but you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit.' 17 "If therefore God gave them the same gift as *He gave* us when we believed on the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I that I could withstand God?"

When a person receives Jesus as his Savior, the Holy Spirit does a miracle; He "baptizes" that person into the Body of Christ—the family of believers.

IV. The Holy Spirit's work in empowering for service.

Acts 1:8, ""But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."

When a person receives Jesus as Savior they are as saved as they are ever going to be. They receive eternal life are in the Family of God.

However, subsequent to the born-again experience, the Holy Spirit desires to "baptize" with His power for service. Many of the mighty people of God, on whose "shoulders we stand" today tell of the awesome experience of being empowered by the Holy Spirit.

- D. L. Moody, "According to Moody's son, a very intense hunger and thirst for spiritual power was aroused in him. [30] Of this hunger, Moody says, "I began to cry as I never did before. I really felt that I did not want to live if I could not have this power for service." Torrey describes what happened to Moody shortly afterward as he was walking up Wall Street in New York City.

In the midst of the bustle and hurry of that city his prayer was answered; the power of God fell upon him as he walked up the street and he had to hurry off to the house of a friend and ask that he might have a room by himself, and in that room he stayed alone for hours; and the Holy Ghost came upon him, filling his soul with such joy that at last he had to ask God to withhold his hand, lest he die on the spot from very joy. He went out from that place with the power of the Holy Ghost upon him.

Moody notes that the effects of his preaching after this encounter were significantly enhanced, that hundreds now began to be saved. He also said that this experience he had was beyond description, and that it was so sacred to him that he rarely spoke of it.

The Spirit Within and the Spirit Upon

As a Spirit-anointed evangelist, Moody led untold thousands to Christ. He also shared frequently about the Source of divine power who was at work in his life, enabling him to be an effective ambassador of Heaven. He was adamant that it was one thing to have the Holy Spirit inwardly, in the sense of being a child of God, but that there is a definite and subsequent experience of being filled with the power of the Spirit for service. For example, in *Secret Power*, Moody writes:

I think it is clearly taught in the Scripture that every believer has the Holy Ghost dwelling in him. He may be quenching the Spirit of God, and he may not glorify God as he should, but if he is a believer on the Lord Jesus Christ, the Holy Ghost dwells in him. But I want to call your attention to another fact. I believe today, that though Christian men and women have the Holy Spirit dwelling in them, yet He is not dwelling within them in power; in other words, God has a great many sons and daughters without power.

- C. H. Spurgeon, "Study your great Exemplar, and be filled with his Spirit. Remember that you need much teaching, much upholding, much grace, and much humility, if your witnessing is to be to your Master's glory." AND
 "The gospel is preached in the ears of all; it only comes with power to some. The power that is in the gospel does not lie in the eloquence of the preacher; otherwise men would be converters of souls. Nor does it lie in the preacher's learning; otherwise it would consist in the wisdom of men. We might preach till our tongues rotted, till we should exhaust our lungs and die, but never a soul would be converted unless there were a mysterious power going with it the Holy Ghost changing the will of man. Oh Sirs! We might as well preach to stone walls as preach to humanity unless the Holy Ghost be with the Word to give it power to convert the soul."

- R. A. Torrey, "Torrey was "known to distrust excessive emotion," he did not shy away from speaking of his own experience. Torrey describes coming "to the place where I saw that I had no right to preach until I was definitely baptized with the Holy Ghost." He declared to a friend that he would not enter the pulpit again "until I have been baptized with the Holy Spirit and know it..." Torrey then shut himself up in his study and on his knees prayed fervently, asking God to baptize him with the Holy Spirit. Several days passed and his prayers had not been answered. He was tempted to consider what might happen if Sunday came and he still had not received the promise. Yet he resolved not to preach until he had received power from on high. "But," Torrey writes, "Sunday did not come before the blessing came." It happened in a manner quite different from what he expected. "It was a very quiet moment, one of the most quiet moments I ever knew....God simply said to me, not in any audible voice, but in my heart, 'It's yours. Now go and preach'....I went and preached, and I have been a new minister from that day to this."
 AND

"Torrey was unequivocal when it came to the purpose of the baptism with the Holy Spirit. "The baptism with the Holy Spirit," Torrey declared, "is always connected with testimony and service." While most of his contemporaries suggested that baptism with the Holy Spirit was at least partially connected to sanctification, Torrey would not be diverted from what he felt was the clear teaching of the Book of Acts. "Look carefully at every passage in which the baptism with the Holy Spirit is mentioned and you will see it is connected with and is for the purpose of testimony and service (for example, Acts 1:5, 8; 2:4; 4:31, 33)." Furthermore, Torrey noted that while "there is a work of the Holy Spirit of such a character that the believer is 'made...free from the laws of sin and death' (Rom. 8:2)," he emphatically declared, "But this is not the baptism with the Spirit; neither is it the eradication of a sinful nature...it is something that must be momentarily maintained." Repeatedly, Torrey drives home his point, "The baptism with the Holy Spirit is not for the purpose of cleansing from sin, but for the purpose of empowering for service." The specificity and clarity of Torrey's vision sets him apart from all of his contemporaries. As we have noted, many others spoke of baptism with the Holy Spirit as a definite experience, distinct from conversion. But, almost without exception, these colleagues connected this experience in some manner with sanctification.

- Charles G. Finney, "*But as I turned and was about to take a seat by the fire, I received a mighty baptism of the Holy Ghost. Without any expectation of it, without ever having the thought in my mind that there was any such thing for me, without my recollection that I had ever heard the thing mentioned by any person in the world, the Holy Ghost descended on me in a manner that seemed to go through me, body and soul. I could feel the impression, like a wave of electricity, going through and through me. Indeed it seemed to come in waves and waves of liquid love; for I could not express it in any other way. It seemed like the very breath of God. I can recollect distinctly that it seemed to fan me, like immense wings.*
 No words can express the wonderful love that was shed abroad in my heart. I wept aloud with joy and love; and I do not know but I should say, I literally bellowed out the

unutterable gushings of my heart. The waves came over me, and over me, one after the other, until I recollect I cried out, "I shall die if these waves continue to pass over me." I said, "Lord, I cannot bear any more"; yet I had no fear of death.

How long I continued in this state, with this baptism continuing to roll over me and go through me, I do not know. But I know it was late in the evening when a member of my choir—for I was the leader of the choir—came into the office to see me in this state of loud weeping, and said to me, "Mr. Finney, what ails you?" I could make him no answer for some time. He then said, "Are you in pain?" I gathered myself up as best I could, and replied, "No, but so happy that I cannot live."

He turned and left the office, and in a few minutes returned with one of the elders of the church, whose shop was nearly across the way from our office. This elder was a very serious man; and in my presence had been very watchful, and I had scarcely ever seen him laugh. When he came in, I was very much in the state in which I was when the young man went out to call him. He asked me how I felt, and I began to tell him. Instead of saying anything, he fell into a most spasmodic laughter. It seemed as if it was impossible for him to keep from laughing from the very bottom of his heart." — Charles G. Finney

- A. B. Simpson, "Ye shall receive power after the Holy Ghost is come upon you." He is the Spirit of power. Not only does He give the newborn soul power to receive Christ and turn from sin, but He also enters the consecrated heart as a personal guest and guide. The gift of the Holy Ghost is a distinct experience from regeneration. It is one thing for me to build a house, and another to go and reside in it personally. In regeneration the Holy Spirit builds the house. In consecration He enters it as a personal guest and makes it His permanent abode, directing and using the whole being as it is offered to Him. His coming brings power:"
- Rees Howells, "Within an hour the Third Person of the Godhead had come in. He gave Rees that word in Hebrews 10:19, "Having therefore boldness to enter into the Holiest by the blood of Jesus." "Immediately," said Rees, "I was transported into another realm, within that sacred veil where the Father, the Savior and the Holy Ghost live. There I heard God speaking to me, and I have lived there ever since. When the Holy Ghost enters, He comes in to 'abide for ever.' To the Blood be the glory! "How I adored the grace of God! It is God who goes so far as to give us repentance. It was God who helped me to give up my will. There were some things He had asked for during the week that I was able to give, because I was the master of them; but when He asked me to give up my self and my will, I found I could not—until He pulled me through." An eyewitness tells us that no words can describe the little meeting in the house that night; the glory of God came down. Rees started the chorus: "There's power in the Blood," and they couldn't stop singing for two hours! Then from 9 p.m. to 2:30 a.m. it was "nothing but the Holy Ghost speaking things I had never dreamed of and exalting the Savior." When he awoke next morning he said, "I realized that the Holy Ghost had come in to 'abide for ever.' The feeling I had was that 'He brought me to the banqueting house, and His banner over me was love.' It is impossible to describe the floods of joy that followed." Rees Howells was not a person who was given to public speaking; he was naturally quiet

and retiring. But when the Holy Ghost entered, He loosed his tongue and brought His own boldness in. There was a praise meeting that morning in the Convention Tent with about a thousand present, including some two hundred ministers. The first person Rees saw there was his own minister, and if anything could have stopped him speaking, it was the fact of his presence. But during the meeting Rees stood up and told them clearly and calmly that he was calling them to be witnesses that the Holy Ghost, who had entered the Apostles on the day of Pentecost, had entered him and would produce similar results. The effect was so great that during the next week, when crowds had gathered to hear messages from a famous speaker, literally hundreds came to ask Rees how the Holy Ghost had entered him. It was the first stream of those promised rivers which, as Jesus said, flow out of those in whom the Spirit dwells."

- Charles Stanley, "Seek to Be Filled with the Holy Spirit" Early in his letter to the believers in Ephesus, the apostle Paul remembers how, "when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, [you] were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit" (Eph. 1:13). Then a couple of chapters later, he says that he is asking God, "that according to the riches of his glory he may grant you to be strengthened with power through his Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith—that you, being rooted and grounded in love may have strength to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God" (Eph. 3:16–19). This remarkable prayer for a deeper experience of the Spirit and the love of Christ certainly shows that we cannot rest on one experience of the Spirit at conversion. This prayer should be a top concern for every disciple of Jesus, not only for oneself but for others in the church. Paul has yet more to say to the Ephesians, "do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery, but be filled with the Spirit" (5:18). The Greek verb for be filled is present tense, plural, passive voice, and imperative mood. In this text, the present imperative is a command to continuous action. Thus, Paul is commanding (imperative mood) the entire congregation (plural) to "allow yourself (passive voice) to be continuously (present tense) filled with the Holy Spirit." What does this mean in daily life? It has often been pointed out that when a glass is filled with water there is room for nothing else; the water is in full possession of the glass. It is the same with us and the Spirit; to be filled with the Holy Spirit is to give him full possession of our lives."

There are many, many more but we will not take the time to name them. We encourage you to read of these great people.

A. One of the best ways to understand this very important teaching is by examining three different baptisms identified in the Word of God. All three of these have three components: Baptizer, Subject, and Substance.

1. Baptism into the Family of God—1st Corinthians 12:13, “For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free—and have all been made to drink into one Spirit.

- a. Baptizer=Holy Spirit.
- b. Subject=the believer.
- c. Substance=one body.

2. Baptism in water—Acts 8:36-38, “Now as they went down the road, they came to some water. And the eunuch said, “See, here is water. What hinders me from being baptized?” 37 Then Philip said, “If you believe with all your heart, you may.” And he answered and said, “I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.” 38 So he commanded the chariot to stand still. And both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water, and he baptized him.”

- a. Baptizer=Philip/Person
- b. Subject=Eunuch/believer.
- c. Substance=water.

3. Baptism with the Holy Spirit—Matthew 3:11, ““I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance, but He who is coming after me is mightier than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.”

- a. Baptizer=Jesus.
- b. Subject=believer.
- c. Substance=Holy Spirit.

B. Luke 11:13, “If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him!”

C. Acts 8:12-17, “But when they believed Philip as he preached the things concerning the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, both men and women were baptized. 13 Then Simon himself also believed; and when he was baptized he continued with Philip, and was amazed, seeing the miracles and signs which were done. 14 Now when the apostles who were at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them, 15 who, when they had come down, prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit. 16 For as yet He had fallen upon none of them. They had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. 17 Then they laid hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.”

D. Acts 19:1-6, “And it happened, while Apollos was at Corinth, that Paul, having passed through the upper regions, came to Ephesus. And finding some disciples 2 he said to them, “**Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?**” So they said to him, “We have not so much as heard whether there is a Holy Spirit.” 3 And he said to them, “Into what then were you baptized?” So they said, “Into John’s baptism.” 4 Then Paul said, “John indeed baptized with a baptism of repentance, saying to the people that they should believe on Him who would come after him, that is, on Christ Jesus.” 5 When they heard *this*, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. 6 And when Paul had laid hands on them, the Holy Spirit came upon them, and they spoke with tongues and prophesied.”

E. Evidence of being Empowered by the Holy Spirit.

Many denominations teach the evidence of the baptism in the Holy Spirit is speaking in other tongues. However, this is not consistent with scripture.

Let’s not categorize the “Baptism with the Spirit” into a particular denomination. As the testimonies above indicate, this “experience” has occurred in several denominations.

With the understanding of the purpose of this baptism is service, the evidence must in alignment with this.

1. Sensitivity to the Holy Spirit—Romans 8:14, “For **as many as are led** by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God.”

2. Fruit of the Spirit—Galatians 5:22&23, “But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law.

Notice “fruit of the Spirit”, not fruit of ourselves.

3. Serving in our calling beyond our natural ability—Ephesians 3:20, “Now to Him who is able **to do** exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, **according to the power that works in us,**”

4. Humility—As the Holy Spirit does His work in us, changing our nature into the nature of Jesus, we “act” like Jesus. John 13:12-16, So when He had washed their feet, taken His garments, and sat down again, He said to them, “Do you know what I have done to you? 13 “You call Me Teacher and Lord, and you say well, for so I am. 14 “If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another’s feet. 15 “For I have given you an example, that you should do as I have done to you. 16 “Most assuredly, I say to you, a servant is not greater than his master; nor is he who is sent greater than he who sent him.”

Important note: The empowerment of the Holy Spirit, or baptism with the Holy Spirit, is vital to the servant of God. However, this mighty work does not elevate us but rather humbles us. This endowment also does not bring us to a place of never sinning. This great work does not make us more saved. **The baptism of the Holy Spirit is for service; to cause us to go to a greater level in our dedication of service to our Lord.**

5. Courage and power to share the Gospel, or Witness of Jesus—Acts 1:8, ““But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”

A great example is Peter. In just a few short days he came from being afraid of a young girl (Mark 14:66-68) to declaring to all that Jesus is the only way to be saved (Acts 2:36).

V. The Holy Spirit and the Word of God.

A. 2nd Timothy 3:16, “All Scripture *is* given by inspiration of God, and *is* profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness,”

B. 2nd Peter 1:21, “for prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke *as they were* moved by the Holy Spirit.”

The Holy Bible was written over a period of about 1500 years with 40 different authors. The same Holy Spirit that led them to write is the same Holy Spirit that gives us Divine revelation.

1. 1st John 2:27, “But the anointing which you have received from Him abides in you, and you do not need that anyone teach you; but as the same anointing teaches you concerning all things, and is true, and is not a lie, and just as it has taught you, you will abide in Him.”

2. **When we read the Word of God or listen to teaching of the Word of God ALWAYS rely on the anointing/the Holy Spirit to reveal truth.**

3. John 16:13, “However, when He, the Spirit of **truth**, has come, He will **guide you into all truth**; for He will not speak on His own *authority*, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell **you** things to come.”

Many times, when we study the Bible, or hear it taught, we tend to reject, or accept, things with our mind. Maybe it is different than what we presently believe. The Holy Spirit will bear witness in our hearts that something is true.

Sometimes we think, “I can’t accept that, that’s Baptist, or Methodist, or Pentecostal, or Nazarene, or Lutheran, or Catholic, or or or or...”

Other times we believe something because that’s we were always taught, “This is what my dad believed, or

what grandma believed, or what pastor so and so believed, or or or or...

Please use the following for discernment:

1). Never reject something because it is new to you.

2). Never receive something because it “feels” right—1st John 4:1, “Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits, whether they are of God; because many false prophets have gone out into the world.”

3). Ask for wisdom—James 1:5, “If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him.”

4). Prayerfully get alone and study; always relying on the anointing and other scriptures for revelation (2nd Peter 1:20, “knowing this first, that no prophecy of Scripture is of any private interpretation.”).

VI. The Gifts of the Holy Spirit.

There are at least 21 Divine endowments of the Holy Spirit to the Body of Christ. Some of these are classified as “callings”, some are classified as “personality gifts”, and some are classified as “manifestations.”

A. Callings.

God has so uniquely designed His Body by His own wisdom.

1). 2nd Timothy 3:17, “that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.”

2). Ephesians 4:12-16, “or the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ, 13 till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to

a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ; 14 that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting, 15 but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head—Christ— 16 from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love.”

The Body of Christ is to have Peace and Productivity. One of the ways He accomplishes this is by gifting the church with what has been called *Five-Fold Ministry*. These ministry gifts are found in Ephesians 4:11, “And He Himself gave some *to be* apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers,” These men and women are to be respected but never worshipped. They are humans and are subject to failure and mistake. **Jesus, and only Jesus, is our Lord.**

While the entire “church world” recognizes the calling of Evangelist, Pastors, and Teachers, many do not recognize the calling of Apostles and Prophets. There is absolutely no reason for this, and the local church is missing a tremendous blessing and wonderful opportunities for growth and understanding by receiving these two callings into their congregations.

1. Apostles.

Some denominations teach that apostles were done away with when the Bible was complete; that there were/are only twelve apostles. While there were twelve original apostles, the Bible records at least 21. They are listed here (please look at these scriptures).

- Matthew 10: 2-4 list the original twelve, “Now the names of the twelve apostles are these: first, **Simon, who is called Peter**, and **Andrew** his brother; **James the son of Zebedee**, and **John** his brother; 3 **Philip** and **Bartholomew**; **Thomas** and **Matthew** the tax collector; **James the son of Alphaeus**, and **Lebbaeus, whose surname was Thaddaeus**; 4 **Simon the Cananite**, and **Judas Iscariot, who also betrayed Him.**”
- 13. MATTHIAS—Acts 1:26.
- 14. PAUL—Romans 1:1.
- 15. BARNABAS—Acts 14:14
- 16. EPAPHRODITUS—Philippians 2:25 YLT (messenger in the Greek is “Apostolos” which is translated apostle when referring to the twelve [listed above] and Paul [numerous places].
- 17. JAMES—Galatians 1:19.
- 18. SILVANUS, called Silas—1st Thessalonians 1:1 with 2:6.
- 19. TIMOTHY—1st Thessalonians 1:1 with 2:6.
- 20. APOLLOS—1st Corinthians 4:6-9.
- 21. Jesus—Hebrews 3:1.

a. The first twelve “apostles of the Lamb” were used of the Holy Spirit to build the foundation of the church—Revelation 21:4, “Now the wall of the city had twelve foundations, and on them were the names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb.”

b. Apostles today are focused on the foundation of the church; that the church continue to stay on the foundation of Jesus—1st Corinthians 3:10&11, “According to the grace of God which was given to me, as a wise master builder I have laid the foundation, and another builds on it. But let each one take heed how he builds on it. 11 For no other foundation can anyone lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ.”

2. Prophets.

The Bible records many prophets in the Old Testament but also records many in the New Testament. Not only were the Apostles foundation builders, so were the Prophets—Ephesians 2:19&20, “Now, therefore, you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, 20 having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone,”

Notice in Acts 11:27 “prophets” = plural, “And in these days prophets came from Jerusalem to Antioch.”

a. New Testament prophets.

- Silas—Acts 15:32.
- Judas—Acts 15:32.
- Agabus—Acts 21:10.
- And just to “mess” everyone up, Philipp had four **daughters** that prophesied—Acts 21:8&9.

b. The New Testament prophets were foundation builders. Their focus today is not so much to “foretell” but to keep the church focused on truth. This calling is concerned with Divine order in the local church. They grieve when there is disorder.

c. This “calling” is not to be confused with the “gift of prophesy”, which we will study later in these lessons.

3. Evangelist.

While the evangelist does “hold revivals” this calling is also needed in the local church. Ephesians 4:11&12 states that they are called to “the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ.” Their calling is not just to unbelievers but to saints also.

a. Evangelist literally means “the proclaimer of Good News (the Gospel).”

b. Their function in the local church is to encourage the saints to also be proclaimers of the Good News. They also lead the saints in outreach ministry.

4. Pastor.

Another name for Pastor is Shepherd. Matthew 2:6 gives us some insight as to the calling of the Shepherd, “But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, Are not the least among the rulers of Judah; For out of you shall come a **Ruler Who will shepherd** My people Israel.” The church, both Universal and

Local, finds its headship under Jesus the Chief Shepherd (1st Peter 5:4, “and when the **Chief Shepherd** appears, you will receive the crown of glory that does not fade away.”). The Pastor/Shepherd is the under-shepherd of Jesus; they operate in “secondary authority.” Because the pastor has responsibility for the safety of the saints under his “charge”, they determine the teaching and leading of the local church. The pastor utilizes the other callings in the local church under the direction of the Holy Spirit. **Nowhere in the Bible, for Genesis to Revelation, does a “board” lead the church.**

a. Isaiah 40:11 gives us the role of the shepherd, “He will **feed His flock** like a shepherd; He will **gather the lambs** with His arm, And **carry them in His bosom**, And gently **lead those who are with young.**”

- Feed his flock. The local church shepherd is not the only one that “feeds the flock.” However, he does determine what is taught.
- Gather the lambs. This has to do with discipling and discipline. Again, he does not necessarily do all of the discipling and discipline, but he is responsible for it being done.
- Carry them in his bosom. This shows us the heart of the shepherd. He is personally involved with the sheep. Someone has said that the pastor “should smell like sheep.”
- Lead those who are young. As with the other items mentioned in 1-3, this is spiritually speaking. The shepherd shows the sheep the correct direction. They warn the sheep of dangers ahead, doctrinally speaking.

b. The shepherd “stands at the gate” of the local church and thwarts off all spiritual enemies. He then turns inward and brings truth, or assures the church of truth, so that the saints can experience peace, safety, and productivity as a lifestyle.

5. Teacher.

The called teacher in the Body of Christ has been relegated to the Sunday School classroom only. Many times, they are not given the respect of the other four gifts. A study of Ephesians 4:11-16 shows us the calling of teacher is not lesser or greater than the other callings.

The teacher is concerned with the accuracy of the scripture being maintained. This calling is so vital to the Body, especially in days when there are so many false teachings in the world (2nd Timothy 4:3, “For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, *because* they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves **teachers**); AND (2nd Peter 2:1, “But there were also false prophets among the people, even as there will be false **teachers** among you, who will secretly bring in destructive heresies, even denying the Lord who bought them, *and* bring on themselves swift destruction.”)

The Old Testament forbade the Israelites from planting two seeds in the same garden. Deuteronomy 22:9, “You shall not sow your vineyard with different kinds of seed, lest the yield of the seed which you have sown and the fruit of your vineyard be defiled.” The significance of this in the Local Church is to preserve the purity of the Word of God and produce a Pure Fruit.

a. Warning to teachers—James 3:1, “My brethren, let not many of you become **teachers**, knowing that we shall receive a stricter judgment.”

b. Root determines Fruit—Isaiah 37:31, “And the remnant who have escaped of the house of Judah Shall again take **root downward**, And **bear fruit upward.**”

B. Personality/Motivational Gifts.

What motivates us to do and act as we do? What causes us to become excited about something or to have little or no interest? Why do some get very upset, even angry, when error is in the local church while others shrug their shoulders and say, “it shouldn’t be like this?”

We all want to achieve maximum effectiveness with minimum weariness. This is accomplished when we understand our God-given Motivational Gift.

Romans 12:4-8 gives us seven gifts we are recognizing as Personality or Motivational Gifts, “For as we have many members in one body, but all the members do not have the same function, 5 so we, being many, are one body in Christ, and individually members of one another. 6 Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, let us use them: if **prophecy**, let us prophesy in proportion to our faith; 7 or **ministry**, let us use it in our ministering; he who **teaches**, in teaching; 8 he who **exhorts**, in exhortation; he who **gives**, with liberality; he who **leads**, with diligence; he who **shows mercy**, with cheerfulness.”

(Pastor Charles Stanley has an in-depth teaching on these personality gifts. You can check the archives of InTouch Ministries and find this).

For this study we will look at each one and discuss the positives and negatives; when the person with this gifting is “walking in the Spirit” or “walking in the flesh.” Unlike Pastor Stanley, we will not go into each of these in-depth.

As we study these, we will discover ourselves; “Oh, so this is why I get excited.” We will also see others around us and better understand them.

1. Prophecy (we have studied the ministry gift of the Prophet, later we will study the Spiritual gift of prophecy).

a. Positives.

- They see things as “black and white”, no gray areas.
- Believers with the motivational gift of prophecy are the “seers” or “eyes” of the body. They have insight, foresight, and act like watch dogs.
- They warn of sin or reveal sin. They are usually very verbal and may come across as judgmental and impersonal; they are serious, dedicated, and loyal to truth even over friendship.

b. Negatives.

- They can sometimes be very critical.

- They give very little grace.
- Their motivation to “see” when things are not in sync with the Word of God can cause them to be very moody and temperamental.

2. Ministry/Serving.

While we are all called to serve, the believer with the Motivational gift of serving goes beyond what another believer would.

a. Positives.

- They are happiest and most fulfilled when meeting the practical needs of others.
- They see things that need to be done and do them without complaint.
- They show up first at “work parties.”

b. Negatives.

- They may tend to over commit.
- They get very upset when they feel others are not doing their part.

3. Teacher (This is a “Motivational” gift and is different than a ministry gift.)

a. Positives.

- They emphasize accuracy of words and love to study.
- They delight in research to validate truth.
- They are extremely detail oriented.

b. Negatives.

- They become very upset when things are not clearly defined.
- When an error is discovered, they tend to reject the entirety of what is taught.

4. Exhorter.

a. Positives.

- They are cheerleaders.
- They encourage other believers and are motivated by a desire to see people grow and mature in the Lord.
- They are practical and positive and they seek positive responses.

b. Negatives.

- They can become very critical when are not trying their best.
- They tend to “give up” on people.

5. Giving (We are all expected to contribute but those with this Motivational gift go above and beyond in their giving.)

a. Positives.

- They truly enjoy reaching out in giving.
- They are excited by the prospect of blessing others.
- They desire to give quietly, in secret, but will also motivate others to give.
- They are alert to people's needs; they give cheerfully and always give the best that they can.

b. Negative.

- While “walking in the Spirit” they enjoy giving but can become very “tight fisted” when in the flesh.
- As with the other Motivational gifts, they become very critical when others do not give.
- They have the tendency to believe that they are the “key” to the financial needs of a project; “it can’t be done without me.”

6. Leads/Organizes.

a. Positives.

- They have the ability to see the overall picture and set long-term goals. They are good organizers and find efficient ways of getting work done.
- Although they may not seek leadership, they will assume it when no leader is available.
- They receive fulfillment when others come together to complete a task.

b. Negatives.

- They tend to say by their actions, “there is your way, their way, and the right way—which is my way.”
- When one thing is out of order, they scrap the whole project.
- They get discombobulated when directions or orders are not clear.

7. Mercy (one of the beatitudes is merciful. However, this is a Motivational gift).

a. Positives.

- They easily sense joy or distress in other people and are sensitive to feelings and needs.
- They are attracted to and patient with people in need, motivated by a desire to see people healed of hurts.

- They are truly meek in nature and avoid firmness.
- They tend to take in every stray puppy or person.
- They are extremely tender hearted.

(Side note: when a person with the Motivational gift of Prophecy and one with Mercy are together, there can be a negative reaction).

b. Negatives.

- They get their feelings hurt very easily.
- They will not “deal” with things unless they absolutely must—they shy away from all confrontation.
- They are easily taken advantage of.

C. Spiritual Gifts.

1st Corinthians 12:1-11, “Now concerning spiritual gifts, brethren, I do not want you to be ignorant: 2 You know that you were Gentiles, carried away to these dumb idols, however you were led. 3 Therefore I make known to you that no one speaking by the Spirit of God calls Jesus accursed, and no one can say that Jesus is Lord except by the Holy Spirit. 4 There are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit. 5 There are differences of ministries, but the same Lord. 6 And there are diversities of activities, but it is the same God who works all in all. 7 But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one for the profit of all: 8 for to one is given the word of wisdom through the Spirit, to another the word of knowledge through the same Spirit, 9 to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healings by the same Spirit, 10 to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another discerning of spirits, to another different kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. 11 But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually as He wills.”

Before we begin this study, **which is unnecessarily controversial**, let us examine a few important components.

1. Don't reject these gifts because they are “Pentecostal” or “Charismatic.” Remember, Paul, the Apostle, was not either. Dividing certain doctrines into denominations is not of God. There is One Body and One Spirit.
2. Verse 1, “I do not want you to be ignorant.” To be “ignorant” is to be without understanding. Let's study this with a Spiritual mind.
3. Verse 7 declares the “manifestation” of the Spirit. **THESE GIFTS BELONG TO THE SPIRIT, NOT TO MAN.**
4. He manifests them as He wills.
5. The purpose is the “profit or good of all”—verse 7.
6. **These are gifts of the Spirit. Something that cannot be known, done, or said without Him.**

Introduction. These gifts are divided into three categories:

1. Gifts that “know” something—Word of Wisdom, Word of Knowledge, and Discerning of spirits.
 2. Gifts that “do” something—Gifts of Healing, Working of Miracles, and Faith.
 3. Gifts that “say” something—Tongues, Interpretation of Tongues, and Prophecy.
- A. Gifts that “know” something.
1. Word of Wisdom— The supernatural application of knowledge

Most of us learned in our early education that a sentence is a complete thought. A word is part of a complete sentence. Therefore, God does not give us all of His wisdom, just a part as He wills for the good of His Body.

- a. There are times when Father will reveal to us what He would say, do, react, be pro-active, go, etc.
 - b. Perhaps we need a solution to a problem, for ourselves or someone else—we need wisdom.
 - c. Wisdom is gained by experience. However, sometimes we are completely out of our field of experience.
 - d. This gift of the Holy Spirit works with the word of knowledge. It gives you the ability and understanding of how to apply the word of knowledge.
2. Word of Knowledge— God-given disclosures.

Just as with the Word of Wisdom, Father does not tell us all that He knows, just a part.

- a. This gift of the Holy Spirit is knowing something you cannot know based on your human intelligence.
 - b. To give insight and understanding of what is ahead in the purposes of God.
 - c. The Word of Knowledge is a supernatural revelation of Divine knowledge or insight in the Divine mind, will or plan, to know things that could not be known of oneself.
3. Discerning of Spirits—Insight into the supernatural world. The Gift is to enable the person to know the motivation behind a situation or person.
 - a. This is a supernatural revelation or insight into the realm of spirits to detect their presence and plans.
 - b. Sometimes situations seem to be “good”, but they are not “God.” A perfect example of this is found in Acts 16:16-18, “Now it happened, as we went to prayer, that a certain slave girl possessed with a spirit of divination met us, who brought her masters much profit by fortune-telling. 17 This girl followed Paul and us, and cried out, saying, “These men are the servants of the Most

High God, who proclaim to us the way of salvation.” 18 And this she did for many days. But Paul, greatly annoyed, turned and said to the spirit, “I command you in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her.” And he came out that very hour.”

- What she was saying was true, these men were “servants of the Most High God, who proclaim to us the way of salvation.”
- However, this was identifying the Real Spirit with a demon spirit.
- Paul “discerned” this and cast the demon out.

Dr. Lester Sumrall was ministering in the Mountains of Tibet. During the night he was awakened by the shaking of the cot on which he was sleeping. Immediately recognizing it as demonic activity, he commanded the demons to leave. Realizing that they had shaken his cot into the middle of the floor he said, “wait, come back, put my bed back.” His bed immediately began to shake back into its original location. Then he went back to sleep.

B. Gifts that “do” something.

1. Gifts of Healing— To supernaturally bring cure for the sick, physical, spiritual and emotional; to make whole in the fullest sense of the word; saving from disease and its effects.

- a. We truly praise God for doctors and others in the medical field. However, this is a gift of the Spirit; something that could not be done without the Spirit. Some very talented people in the medical field are atheists.
- b. This is healing without the aid of modern medicine.
- c. Most of these gifts operate in conjunction with one another. In this case, the Word of Wisdom operates with the Gift of Healing. “What does God want to do?” Also, this is a gift of the Spirit, not of man. If man possessed this gift, without the wisdom of God, He could empty every hospital and sick bed.
- d. **NO ONE KNOWS WHY FATHER HEALS ONE AND NOT THE OTHER. HOWEVER, WE ARE THANKFUL FOR THE ONE THAT HE DOES HEAL.**

Our friend and missionary to Haiti, John Hanson, was not progressing much in the area of Boutin, Haiti. One night he heard a loud noise outside of his very modest home. He went outside and found a group of people from Boutin with a voodoo priest holding his dead child. The child had been cut, burned, and other voodoo practices but to no avail. They wanted to know what his God could do. John took the child in his arms, held him up to the heavens and called on the Most High God. Father raised that child back to life and John handed him back to his “ex voodoo” priest father. Needless to say, a mighty evangelistic meeting broke out in Boutin.

2. Working of Miracles— Is supernatural power to intervene in the ordinary course of nature and to counteract natural laws if necessary.

- a. Special miraculous power.
- b. Re-read the story of John Hanson above. This was both a Gift of Healing and Working of Miracles.

c. God can make the sun stand still; he can make donkey’s talk. Sometimes He will divinely intervene in the lives of man to supersede or override the natural course of things.

3. Faith— This is a supernatural ability to believe God without human doubt, unbelief, and reasonings.

Paul tells us in his letter to the Romans that we all have faith; Romans 12:3, “For I say, through the grace given to me, to everyone who is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think soberly, as God has dealt to each one a measure of faith.”

We are reminded in Hebrews 11:6 that, “without faith it is impossible to please Him.”

The Spiritual gift of Faith is when the Holy Spirit imparts to us, for a specific function, the same faith that God has: WOW! Wouldn’t it be great to have this all of the time???

a. The mysterious surge of confidence which sometimes arises within a person faced with a specific situation or need” (the late John Wimber).

b. It is when we know, that we know, that we know, that we have heard from God and forge ahead without doubting regardless of the outlook or situation.

C. Gifts that “say” something—1st Corinthians 12:10, “to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another discerning of spirits, to another different kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues.”

1. Prophecy-Prophecy is the supernatural utterance in the native tongue. It is a miracle of divine utterance, not conceived by human thought or reasoning. It includes speaking unto men to edification, exhortation, and comfort.

a. 1st Corinthians 14:1-5, “Pursue love, and desire spiritual gifts, but especially that you may prophesy. 2 For he who speaks in a tongue does not speak to men but to God, for no one understands him; however, in the spirit he speaks mysteries. 3 But he who prophesies speaks edification and exhortation and comfort to men. 4 He who speaks in a tongue edifies himself, but he who prophesies edifies the church. 5 I wish you all spoke with tongues, but even more that you prophesied; for he who prophesies is greater than he who speaks with tongues, unless indeed he interprets, that the church may receive edification.”

b. The Holy Spirit will sometimes speak through believers for the purpose of edifying (building up), exhorting (encouraging) and/or comforting other believers.

c. Because this is a “Spiritual Gift” the speaker will utter things that could not have been known by any other source.

The New Covenant Spiritual Gift of prophecy is different than the Old Testament prophet. Old Testament prophets were primarily “seers.” Although there are times when the Holy Spirit will cause a person to “see”, he/she will speak to edification, exhortation, and/or comfort.

2. Tongues—The supernatural utterance in other languages that are not known to the speaker.

Do not be afraid of “tongues”, it is a gift of the Spirit. Paul said he spoke in tongues more than anyone (1st Corinthians 14:18, “I thank my God I speak with tongues more than you all;”

Remember, all things are to be in decency and in order (1st Corinthians 14:40, “Let all things be done decently and in order.”) Because “tongues” are so misunderstood, many local churches do not allow this “gift” to manifest.

Paul also gave this instruction: 1st Corinthians 14:39, “Therefore, brethren, desire earnestly to prophesy, and **do not forbid to speak with tongues.**”

Jesus prophesied that believers would speak with tongues: Mark 16:17, “And these signs will follow those who believe: In My name they will cast out demons; they will speak with new tongues;”

- a. There are many applications of tongues.
 - Speaking at a public gathering (always requires and interpretation)
 - Praying in private or where intercession is involved.
 - Singing.
 - Sometimes the “tongue” is a language known to others but unknown to the speaker. If it is a learned language, it is not a Spiritual gift; it can be spoken without the Holy Spirit.
 - Sometimes it is a “tongue of angels”—1st Corinthians 13:1, “Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I have become sounding brass or a clanging cymbal.”
- b. Speaking at a public gathering.
 - Tongues and interpretation is equal to prophecy—1st Corinthians 14:5, “I wish you all spoke with tongues, but even more that you prophesied; for he who prophesies *is* greater than he who speaks with tongues, unless indeed he interprets, that the church may receive edification.”
 - A natural question arises, “If tongues and interpretation are equal to prophecy, why tongues? Paul covered this in 1st Corinthians 14:22, “Therefore tongues are for a sign, not to those who believe but to unbelievers; but prophesying is not for unbelievers but for those who believe.”
- c. Prayer.
 - 1st Corinthians 14:14 NIV, “For if I pray in a tongue, my spirit prays, but my mind is unfruitful.”
 - Praying in tongues builds up our faith—Jude 1:20, “But you, beloved, building yourselves up on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Spirit,”
- d. Singing/Worshipping.

- 1st Corinthians 14:15, “What is *the conclusion* then? I will pray with the spirit, and I will also pray with the understanding. I will sing with the spirit, and I will also sing with the understanding.”
- Singing with the spirit is singing from our spirit directly to Father. Songs of such praise and adoration that we do not understand in our natural minds. The Holy Spirit knows our heart and interprets these “songs of the spirit” straight to Father.

3. Interpretation of tongues—The supernatural ability to interpret in the native tongue what is uttered in other languages not known by the one who interprets by the Spirit.

- This is easily understood; the Holy Spirit Divinely gives an interpretation of what was spoken in a language that he/she does not know.
- 1st Corinthians 14:5, “I wish you all spoke with tongues, but even more that you prophesied; for he who prophesies *is* greater than he who speaks with tongues, unless indeed he interprets, that the church may receive edification.
- 1st Corinthians 14:26-28, “How is it then, brethren? Whenever you come together, each of you has a psalm, has a teaching, has a tongue, has a revelation, has an interpretation. Let all things be done for edification. 27 If anyone speaks in a tongue, let there be two or at the most three, each in turn, and let one interpret. 28 But if there is no interpreter, let him keep silent in church, and let him speak to himself and to God.”

Lesson 11

The Gathering of the Local Church

Introduction:

Because the church continued to grow numerically, it became necessary for her to gather in buildings other than homes. **ALWAYS REMEMBER, THE BUILDING IS NOT THE CHURCH BUT A LOCATION IN WHICH THE CHURCH GATHERS.**

When the church, the Body of Christ, focuses on “going” to church rather than “being” the church, it causes tremendous problems. The early Body of Christ went forth in the power of the Holy Spirit. Salvations, healing, miracles occurred. When the Church began to meet in buildings in about 330 AD, it wasn’t long until the focus shifted from “being” to “going.” The world went into a period of Spiritual darkness for about 1000 years (historically called the “dark ages.”). When ministers such as:

Martin Luther—the one who nailed the Ninety-Five Theses on the church door.

Philipp Melanchthon—brought Christianity into the public school system.

John Calvin—brought a systematic study of the Bible.

John Knox

Thomas Cranmer—One of the martyrs who was burned at the stake for his teachings.

The list could go on. These ministers, and others, brought the gospel to the masses. They brought the Bible back into the homes. They brought Christianity into the marketplace and into everyday life.

Over the years, as the church gradually began to focus on “going” rather than “being” there has always been a cultural, social, educational, and family decline.

We surely need to gather, as we will study in this lesson, but never never “just” gather; always “be.”

The scripture never tells us how we are to gather or gives us guidelines as to ways to conduct a gathering. The scripture does tell us we are to gather.

I. The necessity of gathering.

A. Notice “when you come together” not “if” you come together.

1. 1st Corinthians 11:18, “For first of all, **when you come together** as a church, I hear that there are divisions among **you**, and in part I believe it.”

2. 1st Corinthians 11:20, “Therefore **when you come together** in one place, it is not to eat the Lord’s Supper.”

3. 1st Corinthians 11:33, “Therefore, my brethren, **when you come together** to eat, wait for one another.”

4. 1st Corinthians 5:4, “In the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, **when you are gathered together**, along with my spirit, with the power of our Lord Jesus Christ,

B. Hebrews 10:25, “not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as *is* the manner of some, but exhorting *one another*, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching.”

II. When do we gather.

Some “churches” gather on Sunday morning and Sunday night. Some gather on Wednesday. Some only on Sunday morning while others gather on Sunday evening. Some gather on Tuesday, some on Saturday, and some gather once a year. There are no guidelines for when to gather. The early believers gathered on Sunday, but some gathered every day.

A. Sunday/First day of the week.

1. Acts 20:7, “Now on **the first day of the week**, when **the** disciples came together to break bread, Paul, ready to depart **the next day**, spoke to them and continued his message until midnight.”

2. 1st Corinthians 16:2, “On **the first day of the week** let each one of you lay something aside, storing up as he may prosper, that there be no collections when I come.”

The reason they gathered on the First Day of the Week was that was the day Jesus arose from the dead.

B. Every day—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,”

III. What happens at the gathering.

Every church has a routine. It usually goes something like this: Greeting, opening prayer, singing, offering, and teaching/preaching. There are a few mentions of conduct at gatherings.

A. Fellowship. It seems that fellowship was vital to the early church. Acts 2:42 and 46. 42, “And they continued steadfastly in the apostles’ doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers.” 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,”

“Breaking of bread” is sometimes referred to as communion (the Lord’s supper) sometimes to nourishment for the body. **The main point is they were part of each other’s lives.**

B. Sharing of the Word—Teaching/preaching.

1. Acts 2:42, “And they continued steadfastly in the apostles’ doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers.”

2. 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. 2 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.** 3 “Therefore, brethren, seek out from among you seven men of good reputation, full of the Holy Spirit and wisdom, whom we may

