

# The Church

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The belief that Jesus Christ is coming to claim His Church unites all Christian Churches. There are thousands of Christian denominations throughout the world, and it's estimated that the actual number may be as high as 45,000! That's a lot. I'll use 1,000 as the number of denominations for this discourse. Please understand that church denominations are created by men and not by Jesus or God. The Cambridge Dictionary defines denomination as a religious group that has slightly different beliefs from other groups that share the same religion.

## ***Ephesians 4:4-6***

**There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called in one hope of your calling; one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all.**

**There is one God, one truth, one word, and one faith under one Lord, united by the power of the Holy Spirit, which seals the salvation of all elect members of the Church.**

*(Imagine if every Christian church in the world united as one to serve Christ?)*

We begin with 1,000 Christian denominations on earth; many have slightly different beliefs. They're not united by one Word of God and are divided by doctrine and alternative versions of the Bible. For example, White Christian Nationalists believe skin color means something to God, and it doesn't. Some believe in this, and some believe in that, but they're never in complete agreement. Paul faced this problem in the early church at Corinth. The church was beginning to divide as people chose their favorite speakers, which led to comparisons of style and presentation rather than focusing on the message itself. This was the best work of Satan, and it worked!

The church should also reflect the demographics of its home by having a congregation of members that mirrors the surrounding community it serves; many do. However, there are churches where skin color, race, or social status determines whether you're welcomed as a brother or sister. Any church that practices this evil is not of God, but they exist! How do you know who is saved when churchgoers hide their sins and declare holiness with their mouths? Many Christians believe that you receive the Holy Spirit at baptism, and by that, you are 'saved' and 'sealed,' ensuring your salvation and entrance to Heaven. I don't hold that same belief based on my experience and scripture. I have discussed this topic in a separate discourse regarding how to obtain salvation.

In short, you receive the Holy Spirit sometime after baptism when you are committed to no longer sinning and to keeping your temple free from sin. Scripture is clear that when you receive the Holy Spirit, you no longer sin, which makes perfect sense to me based on the pattern of Jesus Christ. He received the Spirit at baptism because He was without sin and would never sin after baptism; that's the pattern. When He knows your heart has made that commitment from now until death, you receive the Holy Spirit, you never lose it, and you won't sin!

When Christ comes to claim His Church, will He choose all Christians?

No, He will select elect members with the Holy Spirit from the righteous!

Will everyone who's been baptized and believes in Jesus go to Heaven?

No, only those with the Holy Spirit enter the Kingdom of Heaven.

Will Jesus choose members based on race, skin color, or social status?

No, the Holy Spirit doesn't discriminate on race or skin color.

Who are the people Christ is coming to claim as His church?

All living and dead members of the Body of Christ with the Holy Spirit.

Do the martyred in Christ have all their sins forgiven? Yes

Do they join Christ in the Kingdom of Heaven? Yes

Jesus Christ was without any sin when he was baptized, receiving the Spirit at that moment. We also know that Jesus didn't sin after baptism; that's the example He provided for us. Christians can receive His Spirit when they're baptized, just like Jesus Christ, but the vast majority of believers do not! The evidence for this belief is that many Christians fall back into sin, which was a new revelation for me. Christians with the Holy Spirit will not sin! The inability to stop sinning is the primary obstacle to receiving the Holy Spirit, and the inability to genuinely repent with real sorrow, remorse, and shame for their sins is another.

**Acts 2:38**

**Then Peter said to them, "Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit."**

This is the single scripture that's used to support the claim that you receive the Holy Spirit at baptism. You're advised to read the entire chapter for context; Peter is speaking to the masses on Pentecost. I have an easier way to prove this. Jesus already knows if you will no longer sin after baptism; He reads your heart and mind. When you are joined with Christ as one, His Spirit dwells within you. The Holy Spirit guides and directs your path, preventing you from sinning. Many say they have the Holy Spirit, but their sin implies they don't, and that Jesus was sinning too. Think about it! Several scriptures say that you will not sin with the Holy Spirit within you. This should logically make sense to everyone, right?

**1 John 3:9**

**Whoever has been born of God does not sin, for His seed remains in him; and he cannot sin, because he has been born of God.**

How can the Holy Spirit of Christ sin with you? This feeds attacks from Satan if we allow people to believe these sinning Christians and clergy did it with the Spirit of Christ as their co-conspirator! Many baptized individuals persist in their sins, including myself, until they decide to stop! When I see a church leader sin from the pulpit, the Holy Spirit of Christ is far away from them, and they never had it to begin with. Believers on the path to righteousness will sin until they decide to stop and commit their hearts to serving the Lord. Sin is what separates the believer on the path to salvation from the Christian with the Holy Spirit.

## **1 John 1:5-10**

This is the message which we have heard from Him and declare to you, that God is light and in Him is no darkness at all. If we say that we have fellowship with Him, and walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin. If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar, and His word is not in us

If you hear someone say they don't need to repent or that they haven't done anything for which they need to ask God for forgiveness, please turn away from them; they are not speaking the truth according to scripture and are deceiving themselves and you. Avoid them! We all have sinned before the Lord!

I'm aware of all the sins I have committed throughout my life, and they have weighed heavily on me for many years. I know that accusing others of sin will expose me for my sins, and I won't hide from any sin because Jesus has approved me. Before I bowed before the Lord and repented for my sins, I was ashamed of the person I was. The heavy burden of my sin was lifted from me when God forgave me, but there are conditions for salvation while we still live on earth. You must stop sinning, which is easy with His Spirit, and you must serve the body of Christ, continuing the humanitarian mission started by our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. He wants to put us to work! Jesus empowers EVERY member of His Church to serve His purpose, regardless of which church you belong to.

## **Matthew 25:37-40**

**"Then the righteous will answer Him, saying, 'Lord, when did we see You hungry and feed You, or thirsty and give You drink? When did we see You a stranger and take You in, or naked and clothe You? Or when did we see You sick, or in prison, and come to You?' And the King will answer and say to them, 'Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these My brethren, you did it to Me.'**

I'm 100% convinced that Jesus didn't want a 2-hour church service on the Sabbath to be a substitute for the real mission of His Church. It isn't to build massive houses of God to collect more tithes from the flock, enriching the shepherds, who seem to receive their blessings first! If that big house of God is feeding, sheltering, and providing for the needs of the surrounding community and its members, I offer all the praise to them. I reject any church that preaches a false doctrine of prosperity. I applaud all churches that fellowship on Saturday or Sunday and continue to serve the body of Christ throughout the week. The Church was commanded to be united as ONE. Can you imagine the combined power and wealth of the members using the teachings of Christ to eliminate hunger, poverty, and sickness? But sadly, we're divided into our comfortable silos of faith, all speaking with different tongues, confused about the Word of God.

## **James 1:12**

**Blessed is the man who endures temptation; for when he has been approved, he will receive the crown of life which the Lord has promised to those who love Him.**

The Holy Spirit is an invisible seal of salvation for Christians without any mark or physical feature on the believer indicating its presence. I can't know who has the Holy Spirit based on what I see with my eyes. The external appearance, social status, or religious authority of a person is never an indication of holiness within them. However, I can observe their words, actions, and deeds and know if they're of God. It's difficult to discern good from evil, light from darkness, or truth from lies. I know that many people do good in the Lord's name in public while hiding their sins in private. Such behavior is a fact of our times and is used as a shield for sin. Sadly, they're often allowed to continue in sin because the good they do outweighs their evil, or it destroys the institutions they serve. From the pulpit, these wolves, adorned in the robes of Christ bearing His cross, have deceived many believers! These man made false church doctrines will not stand and fall.

## **2 Corinthians 11:13-15**

**For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into apostles of Christ. And no wonder! For Satan himself transforms himself into an angel of light. Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also transform themselves into ministers of righteousness, whose end will be according to their works.**

These ministers of the wicked one reveal themselves by their words and sin, not by their visible works. Jesus Christ chooses members of His Church when He approves you, not because you proclaim it with your mouth. The Spirit will help you discern light from darkness; it's difficult for evil to hide its true face, and they'll reveal themselves because they're flesh without the Spirit! Christians with the Holy Spirit will not sin or harm others; they aren't perfect like Christ, but they always make righteous choices. They'll never lie, kill, cheat, steal, or commit sexual sin, for example. They obey the golden rule and serve others without self-promotion or fanfare. These are the Christians that walk in the light of Christ.

Every Christian church should have believers possessing the Holy Spirit. When Christ comes to claim His Church, He'll resurrect all of the dead in Christ, those who believed in Him before they died. Then He'll gather His first fruits, the 144,000 sealed servants of Christ from the 12 tribes of Israel. Then, He will gather those who are alive with the Holy Spirit from all nations and churches worldwide. This is the Church Jesus Christ will rapture before the seven bowls of wrath are; it's important to know exactly who Christ is coming to claim. You want to be one of the elect! These are the souls that are given new bodies and eternal life, and they reign with Christ for 1,000 years in the Millennial Kingdom. The rest of the dead sleep until the final judgment, when they face God and Jesus Christ. I imagine their sins will be weighed against their good deeds to enter Heaven, but that isn't in scripture and isn't important for believers seeking salvation!

## **1 Thessalonians 4:15-18**

**For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord will by no means precede those who are asleep. For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord. Therefore comfort one another with these words.**

This scripture is often incorrectly interpreted. Many Christians believe that the Church will be raptured before the Tribulation; this misconception is due to a lack of knowledge. The seventh trumpet occurs after the seven seals and the first six trumpets. This means that the Church will still be on earth during the Tribulation. The angels reap the earth before unleashing the seven bowls of wrath upon the world. I've written about this scenario in my discourse, Revelation and the Rapture. The point I want to make here is that the Church will experience this horrible time. If you understand scripture, you know that God will provide and protect His Church during the tribulation, and we'll have everything we need!

## **Matthew 24:29-31**

**"Immediately after the tribulation of those days the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light; the stars will fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken. Then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in heaven, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory. And He will send His angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they will gather together His elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other.**

These scriptures confirm that the Church will be on earth during the Tribulation and raptured at the seventh Trumpet. If you believe we are in the end times, you want to belong to His Church and become an elect member. Even if you don't think we're near the end, you want to receive your crown of eternal life while you're alive and live with Christ in the Millennial Kingdom of Heaven. The scripture in Matthew 24 also indicates the Angels of the Lord will gather the Church from the four corners of the earth, we just don't know when it happens.

Jesus stated that He does not even know when He will return. The Bible indicates that there are no more prophets, and numerous "thief in the night" scriptures serve as reminders that no one knows the time of His return. Throughout history, many false prophets have made predictions about when Jesus would return. Two notable examples are *Joseph Smith*, the founder of the Mormon church, and *Benjamin Purnell* of the House of David. Both men managed to build substantial followings, with Joseph establishing what is now the fourth-largest Christian church in America. Despite their influence, both were incorrect in their predictions. How could they persuade their followers to accept their interpretations of Bible scripture, especially considering that anyone can read the Bible and discover the truth for themselves? Eventually, time exposed them.

## **Mark 13:32-33**

**“But of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. Take heed, watch and pray; for you do not know when the time is.**

*Joseph Smith* was a self-proclaimed prophet and apostle. He claimed that Jackson County, Missouri, was the location where the faithful would gather together awaiting the return of Christ. A mob shot him dead in 1844 while he was in jail. The God I serve doesn't make mistakes, and He doesn't need another book to teach His Word. The Gospel is meant to be read and understood by everyone.

*Benjamin Purnell* claimed to be the 7th messenger of God and a king when he founded the House of David in Benton Harbor, Michigan, with his wife. They held the belief that this location would host the gathering of the faithful for Christ's second coming. He also proclaimed himself to be immortal but died in 1927. His followers waited three days for his resurrection, which never happened.

Both of these men ignored scripture; how is it possible for them to know when the Day of the Lord will occur? They have a lot of things right about the Word of God, but also errors. I believe some spirit whispered in their ears, providing some information, but not all of it. Who could be providing them with fragments of the truth? It couldn't be the Holy Spirit! Why would a righteous God mislead them? I think they were led astray by their egos, hubris and desires which leads to evil.

I've shown that the Church will be on earth during the Tribulation for seven seals and six trumpets before they're raptured at the seventh trumpet when Jesus Christ returns. Bible scripture states that God will protect and provide for the members of the Church during these trials. I'm confident that the Holy Spirit will bring us together from the various parts of the world when the time for safety and security arrives. It's still possible for these in-gathering prophecies to come to pass; America is just one of the Christian homes in the world, and it's arrogant to think Christ is coming to claim a particular denomination or church. He's coming to claim all of the elect members of the body of Christ with the Holy Spirit. This is the one Church that unites Christians throughout the world!

There could be hundreds or thousands of these gatherings throughout the world, and Missouri and Michigan may be where American Christians come together. You want to be ready to hear the call when these in-gatherings happen, and only the Holy Spirit of Jesus Christ can help you. His Spirit will speak to you; He's the one who's going to call on you. When you receive the gift of His Spirit, He'll also reveal your spiritual gift that will help you serve the body of Christ. The Spirit will guide you in continuing Jesus Christ's humanitarian work. *Your calling will come from your spirit, which is united with our Creator and Lord and Savior!*

Thine Universal Church teaches the Word of God through the Spirit of Christ. We aim for every believer to attain salvation by understanding scripture. Loving God first, followed by loving all of His children, is the key to salvation. I hope this discussion helps you grasp what God promises and expects from you.

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## Scripture List

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*Acts 2:38*

*1 John 3:9*

*1 John 1:5-10*

*Matthew 25:37-40*

*James 1:12*

*2 Corinthians 11:13-15*

*1 Thessalonians 4:15-18*

*Matthew 24:29-31*

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***Written by a servant of the Lord of Thine Universal Church, July 21, 2025***