

The Church

November 13, 2016

CHURCH IS EXPERIENCING THE GLORY, PRESENCE AND POWER OF GOD BY THE COMMUNAL MULTIPLICATION OF FAITH AND WORSHIP

Ephesians 2:11-22 NASB

21 **IN WHOM THE WHOLE BUILDING [universal church], BEING FITTED TOGETHER, IS GROWING INTO A HOLY TEMPLE IN THE LORD,**

22 **IN WHOM YOU ALSO [local church] ARE BEING BUILT TOGETHER INTO A DWELLING OF GOD IN THE SPIRIT.**

1 Peter 2:5 NASB

5 **YOU ALSO, AS LIVING STONES, ARE BEING BUILT UP AS A SPIRITUAL HOUSE FOR A HOLY PRIESTHOOD, TO OFFER UP SPIRITUAL SACRIFICES ACCEPTABLE TO GOD THROUGH JESUS CHRIST.**

1 Corinthians 12:18 NASB

18 **BUT NOW GOD HAS PLACED THE MEMBERS, EACH ONE OF THEM, IN THE BODY, JUST AS HE DESIRED.**

Acts 2:1-11 NASB

1 When the day of Pentecost had come, **THEY WERE ALL TOGETHER IN ONE PLACE.**

2 **AND SUDDENLY THERE CAME FROM HEAVEN A NOISE LIKE A VIOLENT RUSHING WIND, AND IT FILLED THE WHOLE HOUSE WHERE THEY WERE SITTING.**

3 **AND THERE APPEARED TO THEM TONGUES AS OF FIRE DISTRIBUTING THEMSELVES, AND THEY RESTED ON EACH ONE OF THEM.**

4 **AND THEY WERE ALL FILLED WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT AND BEGAN TO SPEAK WITH OTHER TONGUES, AS THE SPIRIT WAS GIVING THEM UTTERANCE.**

5 Now there were Jews living in Jerusalem, devout men from every nation under heaven.

6 And when this sound occurred, the crowd came together, and were bewildered because each one of them was hearing them speak in his own language.

7 They were amazed and astonished, saying, "Why, are not all these who are speaking Galileans?"

8 "And how is it that we each hear them in our own language to which we were born?"

9 "Parthians and Medes and Elamites, and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia,

10 Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the districts of Libya around Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes,

11 Cretans and Arabs--**WE HEAR THEM IN OUR OWN TONGUES SPEAKING OF THE MIGHTY DEEDS OF GOD.**"

Acts 2:41-43 NASB

41 So then, those who had received his word were baptized; and that day there were added about three thousand souls.

42 **THEY WERE CONTINUALLY DEVOTING THEMSELVES TO THE APOSTLES' TEACHING AND TO FELLOWSHIP, TO THE BREAKING OF BREAD AND TO PRAYER.**

43 **EVERYONE KEPT FEELING A SENSE OF AWE; AND MANY WONDERS AND SIGNS WERE TAKING PLACE THROUGH THE APOSTLES.**

Acts 4:31-33 NASB

31 AND WHEN THEY HAD PRAYED, THE PLACE WHERE THEY HAD GATHERED TOGETHER WAS SHAKEN, AND THEY WERE ALL FILLED WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT AND BEGAN TO SPEAK THE WORD OF GOD WITH BOLDNESS.

32 And the congregation of those who believed were of one heart and soul; and not one of them claimed that anything belonging to him was his own, but all things were common property to them.

33 AND WITH GREAT POWER THE APOSTLES WERE GIVING TESTIMONY TO THE RESURRECTION OF THE LORD JESUS, AND ABUNDANT GRACE WAS UPON THEM ALL.

1 Corinthians 2:1-5 NASB

1 And when I came to you, brethren, I did not come with superiority of speech or of wisdom, proclaiming to you the testimony of God.

2 FOR I DETERMINED TO KNOW NOTHING AMONG YOU EXCEPT JESUS CHRIST, AND HIM CRUCIFIED.

3 I was with you in weakness and in fear and in much trembling,

4 AND MY MESSAGE AND MY PREACHING WERE NOT IN PERSUASIVE WORDS OF WISDOM, BUT IN DEMONSTRATION OF THE SPIRIT AND OF POWER,

5 SO THAT YOUR FAITH WOULD NOT REST ON THE WISDOM OF MEN, BUT ON THE POWER OF GOD.

THE CHURCH CANNOT EXPERIENCE GOD'S PRESENCE WITHOUT UNITY AND HARMONY OF RELATIONSHIP

Ephesians 2:11-19 NASB

11 Therefore remember that formerly you, the Gentiles in the flesh, who are called "Uncircumcision" by the so-called "Circumcision," which is performed in the flesh by human hands--

12 remember that you were at that time **SEPARATE FROM CHRIST, EXCLUDED FROM THE COMMONWEALTH OF ISRAEL, AND STRANGERS TO THE COVENANTS OF PROMISE, HAVING NO HOPE AND WITHOUT GOD** in the world.

13 BUT NOW IN CHRIST JESUS YOU WHO FORMERLY WERE FAR OFF HAVE BEEN BROUGHT NEAR BY THE BLOOD OF CHRIST.

14 FOR HE HIMSELF IS OUR PEACE, WHO MADE BOTH GROUPS INTO ONE AND BROKE DOWN THE BARRIER OF THE DIVIDING WALL,

15 BY ABOLISHING IN HIS FLESH THE ENMITY, which is the Law of commandments contained in ordinances, **SO THAT IN HIMSELF HE MIGHT MAKE THE TWO INTO ONE NEW MAN, THUS ESTABLISHING PEACE,**

16 AND MIGHT RECONCILE THEM BOTH IN ONE BODY TO GOD THROUGH THE CROSS, by it having put to death the enmity.

17 AND HE CAME AND PREACHED PEACE TO YOU WHO WERE FAR AWAY, AND PEACE TO THOSE WHO WERE NEAR;

18 FOR THROUGH HIM WE BOTH [*Jews and Gentiles / Circumcised and Uncircumcised*] HAVE OUR ACCESS IN ONE SPIRIT TO THE FATHER.

19 SO THEN YOU ARE NO LONGER STRANGERS AND ALIENS, BUT YOU ARE FELLOW CITIZENS WITH THE SAINTS, AND ARE OF GOD'S HOUSEHOLD,

Matthew 20:20-28 NASB

20 Then the mother of the sons of Zebedee came to Jesus with her sons, bowing down and making a request of Him.

21 And He said to her, "What do you wish?" She said to Him, "**COMMAND THAT IN YOUR KINGDOM THESE TWO SONS OF MINE MAY SIT ONE ON YOUR RIGHT AND ONE ON YOUR LEFT.**"

22 But Jesus answered, "You do not know what you are asking. Are you able to drink the cup that I am about to drink?" They said to Him, "We are able."

23 He said to them, "My cup you shall drink; but to sit on My right and on My left, this is not Mine to give, but it is for those for whom it has been prepared by My Father."

24 **AND HEARING THIS, THE TEN BECAME INDIGNANT WITH THE TWO BROTHERS.**

25 **BUT JESUS CALLED THEM TO HIMSELF AND SAID, "YOU KNOW THAT THE RULERS OF THE GENTILES LORD IT OVER THEM, AND THEIR GREAT MEN EXERCISE AUTHORITY OVER THEM.**

26 **"IT IS NOT THIS WAY AMONG YOU, BUT WHOEVER WISHES TO BECOME GREAT AMONG YOU SHALL BE YOUR SERVANT,**

27 **AND WHOEVER WISHES TO BE FIRST AMONG YOU SHALL BE YOUR SLAVE;**

28 **JUST AS THE SON OF MAN DID NOT COME TO BE SERVED, BUT TO SERVE, AND TO GIVE HIS LIFE A RANSOM FOR MANY."**

1 Corinthians 1:10-13 NASB

10 Now I exhort you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, **THAT YOU ALL AGREE AND THAT THERE BE NO DIVISIONS AMONG YOU, BUT THAT YOU BE MADE COMPLETE IN THE SAME MIND AND IN THE SAME JUDGMENT.**

11 For I have been informed concerning you, my brethren, by Chloe's people, that there are quarrels among you.

12 **NOW I MEAN THIS, THAT EACH ONE OF YOU IS SAYING, "I AM OF PAUL," AND "I OF APOLLOS," AND "I OF CEPHAS," AND "I OF CHRIST."**

13 **HAS CHRIST BEEN DIVIDED? PAUL WAS NOT CRUCIFIED FOR YOU, WAS HE?** Or were you baptized in the name of Paul?

1 Corinthians 3:3-5 NASB

3 **FOR YOU ARE STILL FLESHLY. FOR SINCE THERE IS JEALOUSY AND STRIFE AMONG YOU, ARE YOU NOT FLESHLY, AND ARE YOU NOT WALKING LIKE MERE MEN?**

4 For when one says, "I am of Paul," and another, "I am of Apollos," **ARE YOU NOT MERE MEN?**

5 **WHAT THEN IS APOLLOS? AND WHAT IS PAUL? SERVANTS THROUGH WHOM YOU BELIEVED, EVEN AS THE LORD GAVE OPPORTUNITY TO EACH ONE.**

Ephesians 4:1-3 NASB

1 Therefore I, the prisoner of the Lord, implore you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling with which you have been called,

2 **WITH ALL HUMILITY AND GENTLENESS, WITH PATIENCE, SHOWING TOLERANCE FOR ONE ANOTHER IN LOVE,**

3 **BEING DILIGENT TO PRESERVE THE UNITY OF THE SPIRIT IN THE BOND OF PEACE.**

DON'T LET THE FOUNDATION SHIFT

Ephesians 2:11-22 NASB

20 **HAVING BEEN BUILT ON THE FOUNDATION OF THE APOSTLES AND PROPHETS, CHRIST JESUS HIMSELF BEING THE CORNERSTONE,**

The accuracy, authority and weight of the teaching and doctrine from those who personally knew and listened to Jesus here on earth can never be replaced or duplicated.

The teaching and doctrine of the contemporary church must never shift or deviate from their foundation; to do so is to drift not only from the Truth but from God.

Hebrews 1:1-3 NASB

1 God, after He spoke long ago to the fathers in the prophets in many portions and in many ways,
2 **IN THESE LAST DAYS HAS SPOKEN TO US IN HIS SON**, whom He appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the world.
3 **AND HE IS THE RADIANCE OF HIS GLORY AND THE EXACT REPRESENTATION OF HIS NATURE**, and upholds all things by the word of His power.

SHIFTING FOUNDATIONS

"The return of indulgences began with Pope John Paul II, who authorized bishops to offer them in 2000 as part of the celebration of the church's third millennium."

"According to church teaching, even after sinners are absolved in the confessional and say their Our Fathers or Hail Marys as penance, they still face punishment after death, in Purgatory, before they can enter heaven. In exchange for certain prayers, devotions or pilgrimages in special years, a Catholic can receive an indulgence, which reduces or erases that punishment instantly, with no formal ceremony or sacrament."

"There are partial indulgences, which reduce purgatorial time by a certain number of days or years, and plenary indulgences, which eliminate all of it, until another sin is committed. You can get one for yourself, or for someone who is dead. You cannot buy one — the church outlawed the sale of indulgences in 1567 — but charitable contributions, combined with other acts, can help you earn one. There is a limit of one plenary indulgence per sinner per day." New York Times, February 9, 2009

Ephesians 2:8-9 NASB

8 For by grace you have been saved through faith; and **THAT NOT OF YOURSELVES**, it is the gift of God;
9 **NOT AS A RESULT OF WORKS**, so that no one may boast.

"So if you are gay, are you welcome at Hillsong Church? Of course! You are welcome to attend, worship with us, and participate as a congregation member with the assurance that you are personally included and accepted within our community." Brian Houston, Pastor, Hillsong Church, August 4, 2015

1 Corinthians 5:11 NASB

11 But actually, I wrote to you **NOT TO ASSOCIATE WITH ANY SO-CALLED BROTHER IF HE IS AN IMMORAL PERSON**, or covetous, or an idolater, or a reviler, or a drunkard, or a swindler--**NOT EVEN TO EAT WITH SUCH A ONE.**

"We teach that there were two kinds of gifts given to the early church: temporary confirming gifts and permanent edifying gifts. We teach that the temporary confirming gifts—healing, speaking in tongues (intelligible languages), interpretation and the working of sign miracles—were given temporarily in the apostolic era for the purpose of confirming the authenticity of the apostles' message but gradually ceased as normative church practice as the New Testament Scriptures were completed and their authority became established (compare Acts 19:11-12; I Corinthians 13:8-10; II Corinthians 12:12; Hebrews 2:3-4)."

McLean Bible Church, "What We Teach", www.mcleanbible.org