

The Kingdom Part 3 by Ps Larry Elliott

Power

Romans 14:17 NKJV “for the kingdom of God is not eating and drinking, but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.”

- **The Kingdom of God comes with power, through the Holy Spirit of God, a power from beyond this world.**
- **Surrender to Him and He will bring us into a realm of righteousness, peace, and joy that passes natural understanding.**
- **He will keep you FRESH in the midst of everyday battles.**

Romans 14:17-18 MSG “God’s kingdom isn’t a matter of what you put in your stomach, for goodness’ sake. It’s what God does with your life as he sets it right, puts it together, and completes it with joy. Your task is to single-mindedly serve Christ. Do that and you’ll kill two birds with one stone: pleasing the God above you and proving your worth to the people around you.”

Today we celebrate “Pentecost” the arrival of the Holy Spirit and **Power** 10 days after the ascension of Jesus into Heaven



And I’m sure we agree it marks the official birth of the Church of Jesus Christ.



The same Church that Jesus declared the “gates of hell” would not prevail against.



The Church is the HOPE of the World - THATS YOU AND ME

Acts 2:1 NKJV “When the Day of Pentecost had fully come, they were all with one accord in one place.

Acts 2:4 NKJV And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.

CHURCH LIFE

What is the Church?

The English word “church” is derived from two Greek words: “Kuriakos” meaning “belonging to the Lord” and “Ekklesia” which mean “a called-out group”.

Ekklesia appears 114 times in the New Testament, 3 times in the gospels, and 111 times in Paul’s writings.

A graphic with the text 'the KINGDOM' in a stylized font. The word 'the' is lowercase and 'KINGDOM' is uppercase. The text is set against a dark background with a grid of glowing green lines. A large, golden, circular symbol resembling a target or a cross is positioned behind the text.

the KINGDOM

Acts 2:17-21 NKJV 'And it shall come to pass in the last days, says God, that I will pour out of My Spirit on all flesh; your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your young men shall see visions, your old men shall dream dreams. And on My menservants and on My maidservants I will pour out My Spirit in those days; and they shall prophesy. I will show wonders in heaven above and signs in the earth beneath: Blood and fire and vapor of smoke. The sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood, before the coming of the great and awesome day of the LORD.

V21 And it shall come to pass that whoever calls on the name of the LORD Shall be saved.'

Acts 2:41-42 NKJV Then those who gladly received his word were baptized; and that day about three thousand souls were added to them. And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers.

Who is the Church?

Every believer makes up the church; the Bible calls the church the Body of Christ.

The body speaks of a Living organism...

Living things GROW, so as a body the church is connected to each member and thereby we can grow and be active.

The body is identified by its head.

And Christ is the head of the church, therefore He gives it direction, leadership and it's through Him we have POWER.

The CHURCH (individually and corporately) is God's agent for bringing His Kingdom with its Culture and Values to earth.

So the church then – in essence is a community of Kingdom-minded people.

(Having a heart for Jesus means having a heart for The Church)

Acts 2:44-47 NKJV Now all who believed were together, and had all things in common, and sold their possessions and goods, and divided them among all, as anyone had need. So continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they ate their food with gladness and simplicity of heart, praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved."

RSCFC has had to date 3938 decisions for Christ

By the end of this year we should have 5110

So we need to trust God to reach a further 1172



the KINGDOM

The Organization of the Church

- a) Jesus (HEAD) is the director of operations. (CEO and President)
- b) The five-fold ministry are His directors / managers there to equip the saints for the work of the ministry, to bring about the unity of faith.
- c) Then in the body of Christ are all the varied gifting - Elders, Deacons (Leaders), ministry of helps (Stewards / Worshipers / Counseling) etc

Colossians 1:18 NKJV "And He is the head of the body, the church, who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in all things He may have the preeminence."

Ephesians 4:7-12 NKJV But to each one of us grace was given according to the measure of Christ's gift. Therefore He says: "When He ascended on high, He led captivity captive, and gave gifts to men."

(Now this, "He ascended"—what does it mean but that He also first descended into the lower parts of the earth? He who descended is also the One who ascended far above all the heavens, that He might fill all things.)

And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ,

KJV: Perfecting
kat-ar-tis-mos'

- A complete furnishing

Equipping
Kat-ar-tid'-zo

- to complete thoroughly
- that is to repair (literally or figuratively) or adjust:
- fit,
- frame,
- mend,
- (make) perfect (-ly join together), prepare, restore.

How to Grow in your Church Life

1. Partnership makes us all better and enables us to do more.

By being firmly planted in a spiritual home, instead of being a spiritual hobo, and coming under training, guidance, shepherding, discipline and active ministry, we will become effective and mature in God by being doers of the Word.



the KINGDOM

Psalm 92:12-15 NKJV "The righteous shall flourish like a palm tree, He shall grow like a cedar in Lebanon. Those who are planted in the house of the LORD Shall flourish in the courts of our God. They shall still bear fruit in old age; they shall be fresh and flourishing, to declare that the LORD is upright; He is my rock, and there is no unrighteousness in Him."

2. Put your hands to Service

(volunteer)

One of the wisest things you can do for your own growth and maturity is to find a church that you can immediately serve in.

Even serving in the smallest ways can help you connect within the family.

Finding your God-given gifts and then using them within the church is a practical way to serve God.

Understand that everyone has been given gifts, talents and abilities from God.

You are to use them in service to God and others. In serving others we actually serve God!

To leave home at an early age would be foolish and equivalent to committing suicide.

In the spiritual realm, Christians who have left their spiritual home incorrectly or out of offense or disappointment usually start drifting from church to church, never settling down anywhere, or not going to church at all, never submitting to discipline and have never grown spiritually.

They have been easy targets for Satan and in most cases have ended up as destitute and fruitless Christians.

What does God require of me at my church?

A. Be faithful to Him, to the spiritual leaders and to the members of my spiritual home. Just as I would like to know people are committed to me and can be relied upon, so every man ever should know we as a leadership team are committed to them and can be relied upon.

Hebrews 13:7-9 NKJV "Remember those who rule over you, who have spoken the word of God to you, whose faith follow, considering the outcome of their conduct. Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever. Do not be carried about with various and strange doctrines. For it is good that the heart be established by grace, not with foods which have not profited those who have been occupied with them."

Hebrews 13:17 NKJV Obey those who rule over you, and be submissive, for they watch out for your souls, as those who must give account. Let them do so with joy and not with grief, for that would be unprofitable for you."



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