

The Church

Part 2

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[00:00:01] This one, for that soul.

And when the day of Pentecost was fully passed, they were all with one accord in one place.

And suddenly, there came a sound from heaven, and there was a great, mighty wind, and it filled all the house with a great wind.

And it appeared unto them, through all the tattoos, light as a fire, and it stood upon each of them.

And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tattoos, as the Spirit gave them a voice.

Now further down the chapter, verse forty-one.

Then they had gladly received his word, and were baptized.

And the same day there were added about three thousand souls.

[00:01:06] And they continued steadfastly in the Apostles' monastery, and fell to him.

And he prayed in a prayer, and he prayed, and still he came upon every soul.

And many wonders and signs were done by the Apostles.

And all that believed were together, and had all things common.

And so they presented the goods, and pardoned them of all that every man had need.

And they continued in daily with one accord of the devil, and breaking bread from house to house, did he faithfully reflect and sing the words of the Lord.

Praising God, and having faith with all the people.

And the Lord added to the church, he made such as should be seen.

Now those of us who were here last week will remember that we looked primarily at the sixteenth chapter of the Gospel of Matthew.

[00:02:15] Where the first, the intervention of the assembly was given by our Lord Jesus Christ.

And I think we know that that's the reason the truth had not been known before.

It was not an apostolic writing, not in the prophetic writings, not in prophecy of the Old Testament.

But something that could only come to light subsequent to the Lord Jesus Christ coming into this world.

When you remember Peter having confessed Him, the Lord said to him, Blessed blood hath not revealed this unto thee but by our head which is in heaven.

We don't want to go too much over last week's meeting. [00:03:01] But we saw the completely new character contained in this wonderful revelation.

That as for his bearing the son of the living God at his center.

And the reason being that death has yet to be conquered.

But he belongs and has power over death.

He was going to demonstrate his ability to bring to light this wonderful assembly that every one of us belongs to.

Just one more thought, here we come down to this chapter.

We notice that while the Lord very clearly intimated to Peter what the end of that revelation was going to be.

Upon this rock I will build my assembly.

We point it out a lot like we first pointed out. The Lord did not say I have a building, my assembly.

But I will build my assembly.

For when the Lord means that His culture, the work hath not yet begun.

[00:04:06] For it was a work that was going to be entirely heavenly and spiritual.

And if that was going to be brought about so far as we are concerned.

Then the Lord must destroy the power of death.

Imposing it in from among the dead. And ascending up to heaven sent down the Spirit.

And now we arrive at the moment.

Not now this time the Lord would say I will build my assembly.

But would have sent to them that He said I am building my assembly.

All together in the power of the Holy Spirit of God.

The assembly of the Lord.

That may be a simple fact to most of us in this meeting tonight. But as all the christened of the farms have realized.

That the assembly of God has not come for the wood and stone and jewels however elaborate it may be.

[00:05:05] No it is living, spiritual, heavenly and destined for eternity.

And has nothing whatever to do with material things in this world.

And hence the beginning of that we find has now come to pass.

In this record elect two.

That when the days of Pentecost was coming up.

They were full with one accord in one place.

And had been said you remember earlier.

Two gathered together in one. The children of God that were scattered abroad.

But here we find out the form of the Spirit of God descended.

In that company now it is not our own.

In Jerusalem.

Why the very first picture that comes to light about this is.

One accord.

One place.

One indivisible undivided unity.

[00:06:02] Indeed it is a unity that cannot be divided. Formed as it was at the outset.

In the power of the Spirit of God. We may thank God.

That the assembly of God is no more broken up today.

Than it was on the day of Pentecost.

In regard to the work of the Spirit of God. There is only one church.

One assembly in this world. And every believer and all who keep us right. Be they wherever they may be.

Throughout this whole wide world. They belong to this one assembly. Formed by the Spirit. It may have any weight on the assembly.

At all.

We may think of God naturally. One might think the whole thing is confidential. But we must distinguish between what man has been doing. And what the Spirit of God is still doing. And what the Spirit of God is still doing. In bringing to life spiritual material.

Is to bring us into this one assembly.

[00:07:03] This human being.

That you and I belong to.

Unity.

That is the first thing that is brought before us here. One God.

In one place.

Suddenly at death.

There came a son from heaven. Here again we meet the fault in these days.

And ask ourselves.

Just what may be conveyed by that.

From heaven.

Well surely we'll have at once a simple thought of this. Christ was in heaven. Who is the head of this assembly?

Christ is the head of this assembly. Who does it belong to? Christ.

Who is going to give instructions and lordship to the assembly? Christ.

Yes. This sound comes from heaven.

Said to say you know. Many things of God are prepared to take direction from wrong.

Others are prepared to take it from cancer away.

[00:08:03] Many are on my way taking it on Edinburgh. The beloved is with us. Only one citizen of this assembly. We take it only from heaven. Not all at the administration centre. Whatever man might have grown up. In his own way.

There is only one spot of control. It is in heaven.

Where the Lord Jesus Christ is sitting. At the right hand of God. And wise we are.

If we want to be under full blessing of this wonderful thing. If we ever look heavenward. Christ would.

For all the light.

All the guidance.

All the support we need. To function for himself. In this wonderful system. This wonderful assembly. That we belong to.

This sound then came from heaven. And the description of it is this. A rushing mighty wind. Of course if the spirit is gone. We shall see.

In a moment it is being described. [00:09:01] Yes but being described. In this remarkable way. What they have heard. Is a description of the spirit. A powerful movement.

A rushing mighty impetuous blowing.

Yes. Very conscious of some spiritual power. And yet this power that just could not be seen. By the natural eye.

These are simple things. That have been sent in. There is not much as we would say. In man that is the minimum. And we can't do a church in a building like this day. But before we defeat it. It doesn't look much like a good church does it. Not often.

But here is the power that binds together. What is living in the assembly. A rushing mighty wind.

Oh there is nothing static about the spirit of God. It's in movement.

Constant movement.

Living movement.

Though it may be unseen to the natural eye. It's there.

[00:10:01] You remember what the Lord said about the wind. It blows where it lifts up. Thou canst hear the sound thereof.

We are conscious that it is such a thing. But can't not tell when it blends in colour. Or whether it draws.

And of course he was speaking of you there. Here is a similar simile. About the same person. The holy spirit of God. We shall be dwells in the heart of every believer. Why of course he does. For after that he believes. He will steal with the holy spirit of promise.

This living mighty unseen force.

Yes. It dwells in the heart of every believer. Who belongs to this wonderful assembly. Of which we are speaking tonight.

A rushing mighty wind. And it fills.

Fills.

All the house.

Where they were sitting. I thank God.

It just doesn't need any help from you or me. In regard to this business at all. [00:11:01] The spirit of God is quite capable. It's worth level money. Filled to the very brim. No room for anything else. Absolute completeness. Do I want power to preach the gospel? It's there in the spirit. Do I want power to stand in the midst of the conflict? It's there in the spirit. And so we might along. Let us remember.

That whatever it may be. Circumstantially.

Or in service.

The spirit of God completely fills this wonderful assembly. Because it fills.

Every heart.

And every soul.

We don't need human ideas about something. Planning it out.

The spirit of God is quite capable. Of looking after the affairs of Christ. In the light of his people. Yet it filled.

All the house.

Where they were sitting. Not standing as it has been pointed out. Sitting.

Just waiting.

For this event.

[00:12:01] And to take place.

Moreover it said.

There is a fear unto them. Globant arms.

Provided the fire.

They were given less of the outset. To have some idea.

As to what was happening. And the spirit of God. Told them only.

I am going to suggest tonight. Not that I think the others are wrong. There may be many things involved in it. The first thing I would like to think about it. In divided tongues.

That while the spirit of God had come down. Upon these human beings. Just as we were.

At that 120th week.

Gathered in that hall. There was a dividing in themselves. Between what was of themselves. And what was the work of God. In each one of their souls. Now which of us tonight. Are not conscious of these two things. In our souls.

A desire on the one hand. To please God.

And a desire on the other hand. [00:13:01] To please ourselves.

Or as that is worked out. In the epistle to the Romans. When I would do good. Evil is present with me. And let us thank God. The spirit of God could come down. And could fill us up. Until that we can be sure. We know there was a divine capacity there. Formed in every one of their souls. As born of God.

The Lord had told them that on all but one occasion. There they were born of God. And that new nature.

Filled by that spirit. There was a dividing you see. Between what the Lord would do with them. Or what sin would have done with them. And that is why.

We accept their testimony. In particularly of course. Their apostolic testimony. Knowing that the spirit of God.

Could speak through them. In clarity and purity. The very things of our Lord Jesus Christ himself. As he has done.

[00:14:01] And here are part of it. Let's not record for this evening. That living one thought of these divided tongues. Dividing between flesh and spirit.

In their own soul.

With the beautiful.

The service of God.

He said we wanted to pass on. A few practical words about this. And I ask you tonight. To have a little service for the Lord. Till we have achieved that before our minds. Some of us have merely had the idea you know. That if we are waiting for this thing or that thing. Or the other thing.

We might be better able to serve the Lord. If here are no things like that. There comes a time when we must realise.

If I am guided or anything. For the Lord is all.

It must be entirely.

The spirit of God.

And not merely the product. Of my intellect.

However I am curated. Or however other folks may read it. It doesn't deal with my intellect at all. The spirit of God will use the vessel. Providing it is heated up. [00:15:01] Into his own hands.

There is that dividing. To begin with.

And others thought merely. That the effect of the spirit. Was quite out at the time it was made. And we know this was the beginning. It was reached that day. The beginning of the gospels going on. Eventually.

To every creature.

On the heavens.

If Paul told you that. Yes I know Paul told me that alright. But that's where the thing began. In the descent of the spirit of God. Before we close this book of Acts. We find men of all nationalities. And inferior countries. Having been baptised by that spirit. And brought into this wonderful circle. Of the assembly.

The glow and tons of fire. Might have had an internal effect. And an external effect. In the use of the spirit of God. Of these vessels.

Serving Christ.

In this book.

And we're still not done with that verse. It's sat sat.

[00:16:02] Upon each of us.

I remember as a young boy. When I was in the age of brother. And our local meeting. I said Mr. James.

What does it mean about sat? He said well that's an explanation. I can give you a letter of this. Did you ever read in the end of paper. That the Chancellor sat on the whole sack? I said yes.

He said you know what that means yes. That when he sits on the whole sack. The palace of the Lord is over. And he's in complete control. I said he said.

And I thought it was a pretty good idea. To explain this.

Sat. Upon each of us.

And the Chancellor.

Took possession of these men. Henceforth.

For the service of God. There may be another thought in it. That's the one I like about this. The spirit of God.

Taking possession of these men. With the view to them serving Christ. In this world.

[00:17:01] And Mark you just one more thought again. It sat.

Upon each of us.

That's why we said a little earlier. Because it fills the heart of each one. Individually.

It sat.

Upon each of us.

Moreover.

It said these were all filled this way. Filled again with the Holy Spirit. Each one of them.

All that they needed. In the power of the spirit of God. Filled with the Holy Spirit. And soon there came unto evidence. They began to speak with other tongues. And the spirit.

Gave them a glance.

Some people think this is the. Acme of spiritual.

Well. We ought to make the reading of the Bible. A little further.

Why put it in here.

It was just the precise need of the moment. That's why.

But Paul had to tell the Corinthians. At a later date.

This they probably heard about it. Perhaps the book of the Acts. [00:18:02] As far as I know of that day. But Mary did say about this thing. Well that's the Acme of spiritual gift. Speaking with tongues. Not that the Apostle didn't. It was needed at that day first of all. Because of the conglomeration of people. Around them on every hand. But to speak by the spirit of God. A word of instruction and reassembling. Or enlightenment.

Or counter for the same. Far less as the Apostle. Than this speaking with tongues. That was the evidence of that day. Because as we've said you see. The task was about to go out. From these men.

As it had been at Cambridge in Oxford. And then about a half a dozen languages. On and on.

But the spirit of God was quite capable of using them. Just as they were in that day. With a view to the beginnings. Of this wonderful assembly. As we know comes out. In the succeeding chapters. From this beginning.

But now I must say this. I'm always interested in these open verses. [00:19:01] Of this chapter.

Let us just gather just a little in. Christ was in glory.

And God.

Filled everyone that was in that company. Glowing tongues of fire. It had come down in a judicial way. Dividing us under I believe them. Between flesh and spirit. And going to use them. In divers way.

In the proclamation of the gospel. And there they were.

Filled with that spirit. Having every resource they needed. To run with this word. And there the assembly began. With its original endowments. Are you sure of this? The original endowment of the assembly. Is the greatest endowment. The assembly ever will have. And that it is a vessel. In which the Holy Spirit of God. Is dwelling.

Many years ago.

I heard a brother say you know. The best blessing the greatest blessing. We're ever going to get we've got now. What was that?

[00:20:01] The gift of the spirit. I doubted it at the beginning. I don't doubt it today. But you know what.

There dwelling there is a divine person. The Holy Spirit of God. O that we value this more. And were more exercised about this wonderful person. Dwelling in one soul. That's where you're set with a view

to useful in this world.

For the service of God. But now we've jumped under a little bit more. The end.

Now while we find at the beginning what the spirit formed. Now that the gospel has gone out. And many more have been. And again should raise another question with us. Is that I am the same way.

If I am same with the spirit of God. Not a doubt.

But the fact is that I am. What is expected of me. What would the spirit have me doing. How do I answer to this thing. And I think we get very simply to walk into this chapter.

Just so they could answer to the thing. [00:21:01] So in verse 4.

Not the original 120. No. They went out of the company to whom the gospel had gone out. And all this other crowd. Were you told 3,000 of them. All this other crowd. That received through them. This spiritual gospel. And have been brought in. To the same system.

To the same island.

The same building.

Living organism.

The same church.

The same church.

And that is the word I should try to speak to. The assembly.

And as they brought in. That means they severed their links. With the Jewish nation to whom they belong. We believe these were all Jews and Jewish proselytes. Severed their links with the nation to whom they belong. And they put their attachment to Christ. To whom they belong.

Baptism has that twofold thing. The ending of one history. With a view to the opening up of another. In practice.

If baptism didn't bring them into the assembly. [00:22:02] It brought them into the madness. Company of Christians. As distinct from the Jews. And there were.

Seven from the Jews.

And a lot from the temple. Either way now in this wonderful system. Baptized.

And on the same day were they added on to them. About 3,000 souls.

When they were raped. They continued steadfastly. In the apostles company. They kept praying.

And pressing on.

That was the point.

Now that they were in this company. They come under the apostolic picture. And the desire obviously. Of every one of their hearts was. To know more and more. About this wonderful new thing. Into which they had been brought. And had received the Lord Jesus Christ. As they say.

Let the courses higher up the chapter. When it reached Christ's length. But brought now into the circle. And apparently the first thing. They stood in the circle. [00:23:01] Was spiritual illumination. You remember.

How the apostle Paul. Writing to the Ephesians. Was praying for a few things. But the first thing was. That the eyes.

The pure heart.

Being enlightened.

I think we said it was a year last week. That spiritual illumination. Where are we going to get that? Why in the apostles circle? We meet things of God's time. As they say sometimes. Being on the road 40, 50 years. And they don't seem to know any more. About the assembly.

Than the day they were converted. Why? Obviously without a brethren. Why they're not coming under the doctrine. And the teaching.

That would tell them of these things. I would like to think. Well we do sometimes. Take a spiritual examination. Looking over one's diary at the end of the year. I don't think we're getting any more. I'm afraid I haven't made much progress this year. [00:24:01] Doesn't do us any harm. But we'll piece things up a little bit you know. How are we getting on? In the truth of these things. The truth of the assembly. They continue to set us where. In the apostles doctrine. If I want to broaden the knowledge of these things. Then I have to come where they are not. And there's something else we must say. People may say.

Listen you think.

They can't give the call. I love to the spiritual enlightenment. Moral and epic.

Spiritual they are not. Don't let us be deluded by these things. Time is too precious. Truth is too valuable. Let us see to it then. If we do welcome to this assembly. The doctrine of it is there. The function of it.

The service of it.

Call it what you like. And the truth of it in doctrine is necessary. And I can grow up.

And I can persevere.

That I think is the word. Persevere.

In the apostles doctrine. [00:25:02] Why that led them to another thing immediately. And that was fellowship. It was about to do.

Why they found these other things. They could not undo.

I was not trying to them here. So we might say.

Not that one establishes any right. But here it is.

The truth of God.

The very thing that the apostles had. And they discovered.

It was there for them. Doesn't John write in his epistle. A little later today. These things rightly unto you. That ye might have fellowship with us. And truly our fellowship is with the Father. And with his Son.

Jesus Christ.

There are different elements of the fellowship. But here I take in this one word. Fellowship means.

This is realized.

That all that was available. In the divine circle. That led them to a co-partnership. A unison together.

And an enjoyment together. Of these wonderful things. [00:26:02] Just now coming to light. In the fact that they have been converted. Sealed by the spirit. And brought into this wonderful. Christian company.

If they were in fellowship about the doctrine. They were certainly in fellowship. In another way.

In celebrating.

The bond of that fellowship. And in breaking.

This wonderful function. Of the assembly.

People say we love it. I am certain beloved brethren. We do not.

It is only on a day.

One meeting a week.

Let us make it the breaking of bread. Christ himself ascended. Our hearts going out to him. Not now what we know in doctrine. But how good we can preach the gospel. And upon the time to bring it into this system. Having requested of us. These two in remembrance of me. This wonderful service. That

the assembly ever enters. I believe why in this world. Is the remembrance of our Lord Jesus Christ.
[00:27:02] In the breaking.

Of the bread.

It draws our hearts out to him. As the God who has loved us. And died for us.

And could there ever be. A greater expression of this wonderful fellowship. Than the breaking of bread. We might of course have turned on. To passages like.

The 10th chapter.

Where.

As an answer to the sins of God. Coming together to break bread. He writes to them.

We. Being many of one bread. One Lord.

For we are all partakers of that. One Lord.

I must not get into these things. The night time hardly permits. But it has been said. That in a secondary way. The Lord speaks to the saints. I am perfectly sure and carefully regarded. We. Being many of one bread. One Lord.

For we are all partakers of that. [00:28:02] One Lord.

Not the saints.

The body of Christ.

But the point is.

If you do it.

And I do it.

And we do it in fellowship together. We then become a spiritual unity. One bread.

One Lord.

The unity then of the fellowship. Expressed in the breaking of the bread. For there is of course. But one Lord.

In the breaking of bread. And then fourthly on the list. Praise.

What does that mean?

Why it means exactly where we began the first verse. Do I believe the spirit of God came down from

heaven? I certainly do.

Do I believe that's because Christ is in heaven? I certainly do.

Do I believe that he's headed the body of man? I certainly do.

Do I believe he's Lord to every servant of his diet? I certainly do.

Don't you see if I believe that. He's the one I'm going to come to. The last for life.

[00:29:01] And guidance.

Why should I come to you? No beloved.

We're not to go to each other with this. Prayers you see would express at once. Their knowledge of dependence upon the Lord Jesus Christ himself. In heaven and on earth. These people.

Many of them.

Have probably been used to take their difficulties to the temple. Find a rabbi.

There's very seldom at all that the high priest I did. But there's like one of these rabbis. These doctors of the law. That's where they were used to go with their difficulties. No, no.

Thank God.

Now we don't need to get up and run for our eyes. There's one.

Thank God.

One master and he's in heaven and earth. And all the difficulties underneath. We bring to himself.

I believe the great value of prayer. And on my side.

I express my absolute dependence upon him. And on his side.

I express my confidence. That he can give me all that I need. To serve him.

In this world.

[00:30:02] Let us hold to these simple things. Living in your saints success or otherwise. In our service for the Lord. In this world.

Growing in the doctrine. Coming on in practical fellowship with the saints of God. Who are growing in the doctrine. Remembering our Lord Jesus Christ. And the breaking of this bread. The bond of the fellowship to which we belong. Constantly expressing my dependence upon him. Life and guidance.

In every way.

To the end that I may be. Functioning here.

Serving here.

As I ought to do.

As one who has been sealed by the spirit of God. And while we've spoken tonight. About the assembly.

We've urged very much on another candidate. Of the assembly.

One of them.

The body.

It's the same as that leg. And as a member of that body then. I am going to function right for our Lord. I must keep in ceaseless contact with him. In breaking of bread. And. [00:31:02] In praise.

I just want a little rundown here. Fear came upon every soul. Many wonders and signs were done by the apostles. I do not doubt that at the assembly. Kept externally.

To the character of which it was internally. These things would still be abroad today. According to the incursion. Or that of various men's ideas. Instead of using them. As Paul himself said. We are not ignorant of his devices. Much of the external power of Spanish. Never did the same with the internal power of Spanish. Nor are we worried.

The spirit of God is as much in the heart. And the sense of God today. As it has been.

And if we don't see much of the external. In the spectacular.

And that is why.

It would give.

Again the attention of people. Never let us think the spirit of God. Has been just the same. In every one of us.

Here just a moment.

You remember when God was dealing with the material things. In the days of Padilla. [00:32:01] Zachariah.

Zerubbabel and Joshua. The leaders in that day. Probably the four carpenters of Zachariah. But what went on with that work? The Lord said to them. Now through the prophet. Today was the temple of Solomon. Is it in your eyes or not then? The Lord said you go on with that building. For I am with you says the Lord. Number one.

My spirit remaineth among you. Number two.

And my word which I commandeth with you in Egypt. Number three.

And thank God we still got God with us. We still got the spirit with us. We still got the word with us. And why think that the thing is failing? No. The Lord has made us confident. Because the spectacular events have been withdrawn. It's the failure of the assembly that has come to that. Internally the thing is still going on.

As we can go on.

In the power of the Holy Spirit of God.

All that believe were together. Yet had a lot in common. [00:33:02] Here's a practical working of the fellowship. Some of them sold their possessions and goods. The other had them taken from them as a hindrance. Because they were others that don't juggle it. The spoiling of their goods. Some of them got interest and sold them. Sold their goods.

Parted to every man as every man had named. And we hear these features about no love amongst the saints of God. No practical love.

It isn't right you know. I can only find that from the people that commit themselves so over to the Lord. He's only going to build them. No how it's there all right. It's sure as it was there at the beginning. I'm perfectly sure it's still there. Even to every man.

As they had named.

And then they continued. Dearly just one moment. I wanted to get this before finishing. Dearly.

Just one moment.

I don't want to hurt anybody's feelings. I want to ask you about the saints of God. I know only Christian. It's the only time the brethren say your. [00:34:01] See. These people were there every day. Not in the meeting.

Of course we can't be in meetings every day. But they continued.

Dearly.

Young after that.

With one accord.

They had to go to the temple. Nowhere else in Ottawa. In the temple.

Breaking bread from house to house. That is they were enjoying fellowship at their homes. As well as in the camps together. I suppose they hadn't any other place to come together. But in their home.

They had to break bread in the temple. Even though they weren't there in the courts. They conversed together. In their home.

Simplicity.

Quite content.

Shall we use the word. Content with such things as they had. So enjoying the blessing of the Lord. And the result was praise to God. Favorable to all the people. Yes. Favorable to the people. When we go simply on. [00:35:01] In the service of the Lord. In this world.

Praise to God on the one hand. Testimony to mankind on the other. And yet going on.

The Lord.

Not the apostles.

The Lord added to the church. Healing such as should be seen. Well now.

These were the pictures of the assembly. Coming to life nearly 2,000 years ago. At the altar today.

Beloved if we are wise we say no. The same power is here. The same Lord is there. The same word is here. And in the light of this that he has brought us. The same functions are going on. And we must then today. Who belong to it.

Seek not only light and relation to it. But the rest of answers of that light. And we might be functioning. For the pleasure of the Lord. Now shall we sing number 327. [00:36:01] Lord Jesus how do we walk with thee. Oh I fall in love.

And crucified and dead with thee. Oh I fall in love.

And crucified and dead with thee. Now walk in heavenly love. 327.