#### The Lord God's Ekklesia

Part 2 – The Gospel Flows Through Relationships



Acts 1:1-9

In my first book I told you, Theophilus, about everything Jesus began to do and teach

until the day he was taken up to heaven after giving his chosen apostles further instructions through the Holy Spirit.

During the forty days after he suffered and died, he appeared to the apostles from time to time, and he proved to them in many ways that he was actually alive. And he talked to them about the Kingdom of God.

Once when he was eating with them, he commanded them, "Do not leave Jerusalem until the Father sends you the gift he promised, as I told you before.

John baptized with water, but in just a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit."

So when the apostles were with Jesus, they kept asking him, "Lord, has the time come for you to free Israel and restore our kingdom?"

He replied, "The Father alone has the authority to set those dates and times, and they are not for you to know.

But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you. And you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."

After saying this, he was taken up into a cloud while they were watching, and they could no longer see him.

# EKKLESIA THE CALLED OUT ONES

# Recap #1

It is no coincidence that the life of the early church in Acts parallels and mirrors Jesus' early life in His public ministry.

# Jesus and the Ekklesia

- Baptism of the Spirit
- Ministry is based on the powerful Word of God
- Miraculous Events/Healing
- Conflict with religious order
- Witnesses martyred

It is important to note that the early church was able to parallel and to mirror the very same things that Jesus said and did, because it is what they saw him do, because it was what they heard him teach, and because it is what they experienced with Him day in and day out for years.

# Recap #2

Unfortunately, way too many local churches have lost sight of who they are, why they exist, what they are supposed to do, and who their Master is.

If all you ever knew about God and the church was strictly based on the Bible, would walking into our church building and spending a few months time with us be exactly what you expected?

If all a stranger ever knew about God and the church was strictly based on the Bible, would walking into your house unannounced be exactly what they would expect of those who declare that Jesus Christ is their **Lord and Savior?** 

# Recap #3

God purposed for Jesus' earthly ministry to continue through His Holy Spirit led ekklesia after Christ's ascension.

# Recap #4

The primary purpose of God's ekklesia is to become like Christ. By making that the primary focus, we will be able to parallel and mirror everything that Jesus thought, said and did.

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The gospel of Jesus Christ is intended to flow and spread by the power of the Holy Spirit through your relationships.

But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you. And you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."

Every believer has their own specific Jerusalem, Judea, and Samaria. But yours are unlike anyone else's. Your Samaritans are those that you can't stand or those that can't stand you. Some you don't like and some you refuse to love. But God has put each of them in relationship with you because the Father wants to use you to draw them to Christ.

God wants to love your world and all the people you are in relationship with through you (by the power of the Holy Spirit) in order to draw it to Him.

**Every witness of Christ has a** ministry, and your ministry is everywhere you are, and your ministry will always be affected by your thoughts, actions, words, and lifestyle. It is your lifestyle that ultimately reveals in who and in what you really believe.

You cannot be right with God if you are not right with others, and you cannot be right with others if you are not right with God.

If there are ruptured relationships between you and those you love or those who love you, there is going to be a rupture in the flow of the Holy Spirit in your life and in theirs.

When you make Christ the Lord of your life, you forever surrender the right to choose whom you will love.

In order for your strained, damaged, or broken relationship to be healed by God, you are required to submit yourself to Christ's terms of reconciliation.

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