

# SGGM House Church

## Starter's Guide

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# **Seeking the Glory of God Ministries**

## **Beliefs**

### **Father, Son, Holy Spirit**

We believe God is Father, Son, and Holy Spirit: One God, yet three Persons.

### **Jesus is the Christ**

We believe Jesus is the Son of God, born of a virgin, lived a sinless life by the power of the Holy Spirit, that He died for the sins of the world, providing everything we need to live a victorious life, that He totally defeated the devil, and was resurrected, and is seated at the right hand of God, waiting for His return to rule and reign with the saints. Those who are in Christ will be resurrected for eternal life and those who are not in Christ will be resurrected for eternal damnation.

### **The Holy Spirit**

We believe those in Christ must have the fullness of the Holy Spirit to fulfill the impossible task of doing all that Jesus calls us to do. It is only through the power of the Holy Spirit that we are able to bring the full gospel of Jesus Christ to the nations, that we are able to heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse the lepers and cast out demons, and that we are able to live a holy life.

### **The Bible**

The Scriptures are inspired by the Holy Spirit and bear witness of the Living Word, Jesus Christ, through the Holy Spirit.

### **Fivefold Ministry**

We believe in the fivefold ministry of apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors, and teachers according to Ephesians 4:11-13. These offices are operational today according to the call of Jesus and are operational until the unity of the faith and knowledge of the Son of God, so basically until He comes again!

### **Baptism**

We believe there is one baptism, and it includes water, Spirit, and fire – just as there is one God, and He is Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

## **Hosting a Movement of the Spirit of God – the Point of SGGM – July 21, 2022**

Today the Lord is talking to me (Kirk) about our ministry - Seeking the Glory of God Ministries or SGGM. He is saying that we have a church, a house church, but that isn't what SGGM is all about. We have a video channel for devotions, but that isn't what SGGM is all about. We have channels with prophetic words on them and we host conferences, but again that isn't the point of our ministry. So, then I asked Him: "Lord, what is the point of SGGM?"

He answered, "The point of SGGM is to host a movement of the Spirit of God."

I answered, "A movement?"

He replied, "Yes, a movement, a shift, a redo of the current church model. One fashioned or modeled after the 'Christ' model of the Church.

In this 'model,' the fivefold ministry will be the government of the Church. Those who govern will be the servants of all, and they will not 'lord it over the congregants' as is done today.

My ministers will look at being paid a salary as unnecessary, and it will have a foul taste for them when they consider it. There will be very few who will need to be paid. Most will have jobs besides being ministers in small churches (house churches). But there may be a few Apostles or Prophets who will need to be paid because of the number of churches they are over.

This is a movement of disciples who go out. This is a movement where Jesus Christ is central and most importantly, where the Spirit of Christ is lifted high! In this movement, FAITH is spelled RISK and risk is spelled ACTION! Working for the Lord, in obedience to the Spirit is normal, and laziness and pew-sitting are very rare indeed.

'What church do you belong to?' This question will fade into the denomination era and will not be used anymore, at least not in the way it is now. People will either be members of The Universal Church, or not. And those who are Spirit-filled will know each other by the Spirit of God.

Again, this is what SGGM is a part of. The Spirit is raising other ministries, other people, the fivefold all over the world to be part of His glorious Church!

During this time, every prayer ever prayed for the Church will be fulfilled. All of the saints who ever desired to see a spotless bride for the Lord of All will see their prayers come to fruition during this time! Amen."

## **The Basics**

### **Should you start a house church?**

1. The first thing you have to determine is, "Is that what God wants me to do?"

To determine this, you will need to ask the Holy Spirit. You also may need to ask someone else who hears God to help you listen. If you need help, ask someone. However, if you are going to start a house church, you must be able to hear God because all of your decisions will be based on what He says to you.

2. Many of the house churches will come about because too many people will be gathering to comfortably fit in a house. Therefore, a house church may start in one city and end up as 20 house churches throughout the city. So, even if you were not the one to start the original house church in your area, you may end up hosting a house church to accommodate all the believers. In this case, one apostle will likely be over all the house churches that multiplied.

### **Who do you invite to a house church?**

By the time you ask if you should do a house church, you have in mind already who you would invite. But ask the Holy Spirit who to invite.

This is not like institutional church where you try to get as many people in the door as possible. Instead, you are looking to make disciples. The people that come need to want to come. They need to want Jesus.

You may have people coming once in a while for deliverance or healing or prayer whose goal is not to be disciplined, but mostly the people there are going to want to be disciplined.

### **When should we meet and how long should we meet together each time?**

House church is not traditional. It can be any day or any night. It can be for however long as the Holy Spirit desires. Ask the Holy Spirit when to meet and how often.

### **What do we do when we meet for church?**

In a house church, the decisions are made by the Spirit of God. You cannot make decisions based on expediency, comfort, opinion, or any other reason except because you heard God. You must be hearing God.

House church is not like institutional church. You're not putting on a performance. Everyone should be allowed to participate and be encouraged to participate.

#### How do we conduct a Praise Time?

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You can be creative here. Maybe someone plays the guitar and can lead in singing to the Lord. Maybe you can sing songs off Youtube on the computer. Maybe you have a projector and speaker to play songs.

There's no rule of when you need to praise. You can praise spontaneously, or in the beginning, or at the end, or whatever.

As far as choosing which music to use in worship, you need to ask the Holy Spirit. Don't choose songs because you like them or someone else wants them. Choose songs because you hear Holy Spirit telling you to choose them.

What will happen during the teaching and conversation time?

You will defer to the Holy Spirit in the teaching and conversation time, just like you do every other decision for house church. He may lead you to do any number of things.

- Perhaps you would watch a video together that the Holy Spirit brings to mind, and you would discuss what the person is presenting with the help of Holy Spirit.
- Perhaps you would share dreams and visions and ask Holy Spirit for interpretation.
- Maybe someone would have a word from the Lord for the group.
- You may invite a teacher to share with you.
- You may allow someone to practice sharing the gospel, giving a word of knowledge, etc.
- You may all practice the gifts of the Spirit.
- You can use Seeking the Glory of God's devotional books and SGGM devotional videos, as well as the Jesus teachings playlist to bring doctrine to the church from SGGM. (Or use any of our videos for that matter.)

Whatever you are teaching should be vetted through your apostle/prophet team.

## **What about children?**

Kids should be welcome. They are being discipled too. Allow them to be relaxed; let them be kids, but disciple them too. The first thing you would want to teach them is to hear God's voice.

A good resource to teach people to hear God's voice, not just children, but anyone, is *God Guides* by Mary Geegh. It's a short book of testimonies of hearing God. SGGM also has many teachings on hearing God on our YouTube channel.

## **Who's in charge?**

Ultimately Holy Spirit is in charge. If there is a pastor present, he or she will help direct things. If there is no pastor, the apostle over the house church can help make the decision of who will lead house church.

Whoever is in charge cannot run a house church if they are not hearing God. Hearing God is a must because all of the decision you make will be based on what you hear from God.

## **What if people want to give Money?**

What if someone wants to give to your house church? That sort of giving wouldn't be necessary unless you have somewhere to go with the money. For example, you may have some sort of fund set up to give to people as the need arises. Or perhaps you want a fund set aside so you can buy snacks or equipment for worship, etc. You could also support a ministry together. For example, if you are led to give to SGGM, we use those funds to help SGGM Kenya, or to put on conferences, for travel expenses, to help orphans & widows, or for saving to help in times of disaster for our churches, etc.

You should pray about this as a group for the Holy Spirit's leading. If you hear God on where to put the money, you'll know you did it right.

## **Put on Love**

Above all things, put on love.

You need to be thoughtful of other people. This includes cleanliness, pets, etc. For example, if someone hates your dog or is allergic to your cat, you need to keep the dog or cat out of the way for the sake of love.

You need to love your brother. If you're eating together, think about what your brother likes, not necessarily what you like. Love gives. Give way to your brother. Don't try to force them to like what you like.

**However**, do **NOT** pander. Jesus is Lord and not anyone else. Always seek Him first when making decisions.

Also, be respectful of the person in whose home you are meeting. Help them to keep their house looking nice and lend a helping hand when they need it.

## **Location**

You may meet in the same house each time you meet, or you may skip around to different members' houses. However the Holy Spirit leads you to do it, is just fine. There's no rule here.

## **Should you gather outside of church time?**

You can get together as often as you want. Maybe you will be led to go out in teams of 2-3 people periodically to evangelize. In this, you need to be led by the Holy Spirit. Don't do things out of guilt, fear, or pressure from someone. Only follow the Holy Spirit.

## **What if nobody shows up?**

You're there for the Lord, not for show. You are seeking His presence and He will come just for you. Don't worry about numbers. Jesus didn't. He concerned Himself with making disciples. It may be just you for a while. It may be just you and one or two other people for a long time. Don't sweat it.

Success isn't measured in numbers. You just obey. If no one shows up, ask Holy Spirit how to spend the time you set aside and He will show you.

## **Coming under Tiffany & Kirk's authority**

If you're going to come under Tiffany & Kirk as your Apostle & Prophet, you need to let us know for several reasons.

- We have to be able to cover you in prayer.
- We have to be able to talk with you and answer your questions.
- We have to be able to assist you and bring direction, correction and authority where needed.
- We need to be able to assist you in doctrine and bringing you prophetic words from the Lord.
- There's no trying to control you; we're here to help. We may even be able to visit. That would be our desire as the Lord leads.

## **More help?**

Email us additional questions and we will do our best to answer [sggmworld@gmail.com](mailto:sggmworld@gmail.com)

In the meantime, keep seeking the Lord. He will show you what to do.



## **One Trick Pony – Listen to the Holy Spirit!**

The Jesus way is the way of the Spirit of Christ. Following the Holy Spirit is imperative for a disciple. Therefore, in all things, we must bring it back to listening to the Holy Spirit and obeying His voice.

The Holy Spirit only has one opinion. If we want to be in unity with Him and with our brothers and sisters, we will agree with Him. Laying down what we think, our opinions, our feelings, or anything else that is a barrier to listening and obeying is imperative.

### **How to hear God**

We hear God with our spirits (our hearts). There are only rare occasions where God will speak audibly to our physical ears. We need to learn to listen with our hearts.

God will often sound like a thought going through our mind. Discerning God's thoughts from our thoughts or the enemy's thoughts comes with practice. Just as you learn to recognize someone's voice by spending time talking with them, so too you will learn to recognize the voice of the Lord as you spend time with Him.

### **Ways God Speaks**

There are too many ways to describe how God can speak to a person. Some of the more common ways are thoughts, through others, through visions, through something you are reading, through angels, and through dreams.

When you believe the Lord is speaking to you, ask Him. Command the enemy to be quiet, and ask the Lord if it really is Him talking to you. If it is, obey Him. You will get better and better at recognizing His voice as you do this: listen, check, and obey.

### **What if I get it wrong?**

If you thought you heard God and you get it wrong, He will correct you. And sometimes, He will not correct you. Instead, He'll just make it right because you acted in faith, and your heart's desire was to do His will. So, have faith!

## **The Preeminence of Christ**

In everything we believe, must have Jesus as the center. He is the preeminent One. He is the cornerstone and the foundation of everything we believe. We cannot receive something that is not revelation of Jesus Christ. Our intellects will not lead us into all truth. Logic and reason will fail. But, the Spirit of Christ will bring to us everything Jesus says because Jesus is the Word of God. The Spirit of Truth will lead us into all truth, and He will reveal Jesus to us. Everything He reveals will show that Jesus is preeminent in all things. In the SGM house churches, Jesus is preeminent. Always!

Therefore, get familiar with the preeminence of Christ. Get it in your heart. Jesus is who Father is interested in talking about. And teach others that Jesus is preeminent. If someone desires to be a disciple of Jesus, they must understand He is the preeminent one.

The following are topics you can learn from and teach on regarding the preeminence of Jesus Christ.

### **1. What are we really saying when we say "in the name of Jesus"?**

Read: Acts 19:13-17      Philippians 2:9-11

When you come in someone's name, you come in their place. You come in their authority. You even come in their power because the expectation is that they will back you up, since you're coming in their name. If you come in someone's name and are speaking with an individual, and that individual won't listen, then the person whose authority you carry will come and there will be a reckoning between them and that individual. This is much like the parable of the vineyard owner in Matthew 21:33-41.

A man bought a vineyard and rented it out. When it was time for the renters to pay up, the owner sent his servants to collect the rent in his name. The renters wouldn't pay and treated his servants shamefully. The owner kept sending more and more servants, who they either treated poorly or even killed. Finally, the owner sent his son. The renters killed the son, thinking the vineyard would then be theirs. However, the outcome was that the owner would come and destroy those renters because he had sent them people in his name, and they did not receive them.

As ambassadors of Christ, we preach, we pray, we declare, and we command in the name of Jesus because Jesus has gone to the Father and left us here to bring the Kingdom of Heaven to Earth through His Spirit, who lives in us. This is what it means when the Scriptures say He is reconciling the world to Himself through us (2 Corinthians 5:18-20).

When we say, "In the name of Jesus," we're basically saying, "Jesus wants it this way, and this is how it will be because I come in His name." There is only one name at which everything *must* bow, and that is the name of Jesus!

## **2. Why would we invoke the name of Jesus in prayer, declaration etc.?**

Read: John 14:13-14      John 16:24

The word of God is unfailing. He says if we ask something in His name, He'll do it. In fact, Jesus says we will receive what we ask in His name so that we'll be full of joy. When we invoke the name of Jesus in prayers and declarations, etc., we are invoking the highest power there is. We are not just saying a name; we are standing in our authority in Christ as His ambassadors to make sure His will is done on earth as it is in Heaven.

As such, we don't just pray whatever we want or whatever we think. We pray according to what we hear. In this way, we also do not have disappointment. We have prayed in Jesus' name, or as His ambassadors, according to His will and it shall be so.

Hebrews 6:13-14 reads, **"For when God made a promise to Abraham, because He could swear by no one greater, 'He swore by Himself, saying, 'Surely blessing I will bless you, and multiplying I will multiply you.'"** There's no one higher than the Lord. There's no greater authority or power than Him, and everything bows to Him. If we want to kick out a demon or heal a sickness, we do it in the name of Jesus. If we have a request of God, we request in the name of Jesus because He's the One who tore the veil. He's the one who defeated sin and sickness and all the power of the devil. He's the one who vanquished death and hell for us. He's the One who says His word never fails. He's the One who says we'll have what we ask in His name. When we invoke His name, we're calling on who He is, and He will answer.

There's no one greater to go to for our requests. There's no one greater to advocate for us. There's no higher power or authority to use. It's Jesus, Jesus, Jesus.

## **3. What is meant by the preeminence of Jesus?**

Read: Colossians 1:15-20      Hebrews 12:22-24

To be preeminent means to be dominant, superior, or of the highest importance. When we say that Jesus is preeminent, we're saying He is the dominant one. There's nothing He doesn't have dominion over.

Jesus is also superior. His name is superior to every other name. His blood is superior to all other blood. While Abel's blood cried "vengeance," Jesus' blood cries, "mercy," and mercy triumphs over judgment (James 2:13).

Additionally, Jesus has the highest importance. Jesus is who Father is interested in talking about. Jesus is the revelation of Father – He reveals Father to us. If we want to know what God is like, we look to the Son. Everything points to Jesus.

**The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands. Day after day they pour forth speech; night after night they display knowledge. There is no speech or language where their voice is not heard. (Psalm 19:1-3 NIV)**

Through Jesus we live and move and have our being (Acts 17:28). He is the preeminent One.

#### **4. What is Jesus preeminent in?**

Jesus is before all things and surpasses all things in every way. What sorts of things would those be?

Read: Colossians 1:15-18

Jesus is the firstborn from the dead. He is the first who has risen from the dead, never to die again. Others who were raised before Christ ended up dying again, just like any other human. Jesus was raised with an immortal, perfect body. Through faith in Him, what He has done, we too will be raised to newness of life (Romans 6:4). The mortal will put on immortality (1 Corinthians 15:53).

All things were created through Him and for Him. Jesus is the Word of God. When God spoke, all creation came to be through His Word – Jesus! Everything that has been created, has been created through Him. And everything that has been created has been created for Him. It is all for His glory, the praise of His name. He is the One who has redeemed all creation and made us sons of God. Everything exists to bring Him glory. He is over all of it.

He is the head of the body. Though the body has many members, of which we who believe in Jesus are a part, there is only one head, Jesus. He is the One who directs the body where to go, what to do, how to do it. He makes the choices for the body. If we want to follow Him, we will submit to the head, Jesus. In His church, or His body, Jesus is the preeminent one. There's no one higher in any respect, ever.

Jesus' name is the highest name. Hebrews 1:4-5 reads,

**... having become so much better than the angels, as He has by inheritance obtained a more excellent name than they. For to which of the angels did He ever say: "You are My Son, Today I have begotten You"? And again: "I will be to Him a Father And He shall be to Me a Son"?**

Jesus was made a little lower than the angels, and because of His humility and obedience to suffering, was exalted to the highest position (Hebrews 2). Now, He sits at the right hand of the Father with everything under His feet. Truly, Jesus is preeminent above all!

#### **5. Was everything really made for Him?**

Read: Colossians 1:16

Psalm 2

Luke 12:32

As the Scriptures testify, all things were made for Jesus. Thrones, powers, authorities, principalities, all of creation was made for Him. It is created to bring Him glory. Just because we don't see it happening, doesn't mean that is not how it should be and how it will be.

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Psalm 2 really highlights this for us. Father has set His Son as King. He gives Jesus the nations as His inheritance and the ends of the earth as His possession. Everything that has been made, has been made to give to the Son. You can't even escape the wrath of God without kissing the Son! In other words, put your trust in Jesus, for Whom all things are created, or you're lost!

The Kingdom of God is the rule and reign of the Spirit of Christ. The Kingdom has been given to the Son and the Son has given it to those who trust in Him. We are tasked with bringing heaven to earth. The way it is in Heaven, is how we pray for and call for things to be done on earth. So, we bring down the spiritual forces of darkness and lift up King Jesus. We bring down sickness and lift up the health Jesus paid for. We bring down death, and lift up life! We bring down everything that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, and lift up the One to Whom all glory is due!

If all things are made for Jesus, then all things will bow to Jesus. Every knee will bow and every tongue will confess that Jesus is LORD because all things were truly made for Him! (Philippians 2:10-11)

**6. What does it mean that all things are held together by the word of His power?**

Read: John 1:1-3      Hebrews 1:1-3

Jesus is the actual word of God. He testified that He came forth from Father and was returning to Him because the Scriptures testify that God's word does not return to Him void, meaning Jesus accomplished what He set out to do and returned back to where He came from.

God's word is who He is. His word comes out of Him and we hear the Word, who is Jesus. As the writer of Hebrews testifies,

**See that you do not refuse Him who speaks. For if they did not escape who refused Him who spoke on earth, much more shall we not escape if we turn away from Him who speaks from heaven, whose voice then shook the earth; but now He has promised saying, "Yet once more I shake not only the earth, but also the heaven." Now this, "Yet once more," indicates the removal of those things that are being shaken, as of things that are made, that the things which cannot be shaken may remain. (12:25-27)**

Jesus came as a Man to fulfill the Law and the Prophets, to destroy the works of the enemy, to save mankind. He returned to Heaven and is seated at the right hand of Father, from where He has sent the Holy Spirit to lead us, live in us, and bring us everything He says.

Jesus' words are Spirit, and they are Life. The Holy Spirit is the power of God. When He speaks, His words are powerful. There are not other words that come from anywhere else that have power. Sometimes we give credence to other voices, and allow them some sort of power over us, but they are not power on their own. The words that are Spirit and Life are the words that are power.

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When the Scriptures testify that Jesus holds everything together by the Word of His Power, God is testifying that there is nothing greater than Jesus. He is the Word. He speaks the Word, and His Spirit is the power of the Word of God. Amen.

**7. Why is Jesus preeminent and not the Father or the Holy Spirit?**

Read: Revelation 4:9-11, 5:8-14

Jesus is the radiance of God's glory (Hebrews 1:3). All things were created for Jesus, through Jesus, and by Jesus. In all things, He receives the glory. He is the One who humbled Himself before the foundation of the world to become the Savior of all mankind. He is the One who learned obedience through what He suffered (Hebrews 5:5-10). He is the One whom Father glorified and continues to glorify through those who come to Him (John 12:23-28). The preeminence of Christ cannot be separated from His glory. And the suffering of Christ, cannot be separated from His glory. He has paid the price to be the first in all things.

Father has decided that Jesus is the preeminent one. Father has chosen Christ to be first in all things, for he who humbles himself will be exalted. Has anyone ever humbled themselves more than Christ? None. In Jesus, God humbled Himself to become a Man. It's really a ridiculous thing that no one would have ever thought was even remotely possible or a good idea. And yet, Jesus did it. He became a Man, became filled with the Holy Spirit, only did what He saw Father doing, only spoke what He heard Father saying, suffered punishment for sins He didn't commit, suffered beatings for sickness, was chastised for the peace of others, and defeated death.

Father did the works through Jesus. Holy Spirit empowered Jesus. But, it's Jesus who became a Man, and it's Jesus who is the preeminent One. It's why we pray in Jesus' name, we're saved in Jesus' name, we're healed in Jesus' name, and we come to Father in Jesus' name. He paid the price, and He receives the reward for His suffering.

**8. If we share in Jesus' glory, does that mean we're preeminent too?**

Read: Genesis 1:26-28      Matthew 28:18-20      Ephesians 2:4, 6-7      Ephesians 3:10-11

We started our reading in Genesis, showing the dominion of man over the earth. From there we read how Jesus took the authority back from the enemy that Adam gave up in the Garden and gave it back to mankind. Then we read in Ephesians that we are seated with Christ in the heavenly realms with everything under our feet because Jesus desires His church to make known the wisdom of God to all the principalities and powers.

Jesus, the preeminent One, has also made us preeminent on the earth. This is what He prayed to Father in John 17:22, **"And the glory which You gave Me I have given them, that they may be one just as We are one: I in them, and You in Me; that they may be made perfect in one, and that the world may know that You have sent Me, and have loved them as You have loved Me."**

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Jesus has given us His glory and made us one with each other and with Him. The Scriptures even testify elsewhere that we are partakers of the Divine Nature (2 Peter 1:3-4). And we are. Jesus has given us His Divine Spirit to live in us. He has made our hearts new, like His. He has made us the righteousness of God in Him, and He even says in John 14:12 that we will do greater things than He has done.

He has not made us God, but He has made us one with God, and made us to have preeminence on the earth. Is it any wonder then that He expects us to have dominion over the earth? That He expects us to bind and loose? That He expects us to heal the sick, raise the dead, and tells us poison has no effect on our bodies? Is it any wonder He expects us to cast out demons and has taught us to declare His Kingdom come on earth as it is in Heaven?

Jesus is not afraid to share His glory with us so that we will be One with God and have preeminence on the earth. He knows He is God, and giving us preeminence and glory does not threaten His Lordship. Halleluiah, Jesus! Amen.

**9. *The Bible records Solomon as the wisest person who ever lived; was he wiser than Jesus?***

Read: 1 Kings 3:5-9      1 Corinthians 1:30-31

Solomon asked God for a hearing heart to discern justice, and it was granted to him. The Lord even told him that there wouldn't be anyone like him in the future. And yet, the Scriptures record that Jesus became for us wisdom from God. And Colossians 2:3 says that all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge are hidden in Christ. So, if all wisdom is hidden in Christ and Jesus became wisdom for us, could Solomon really have been wiser than Jesus? How do you get wiser than Wisdom Himself?

If Solomon was given a hearing heart, who was he hearing? He was hearing Jesus – the One who *is* wisdom. Jesus is the word of God. He is the wisdom of God. He is the knowledge of God. He is the righteousness of God, the redemption of God, the sanctification of God. There is nothing Solomon could get that would be greater than Jesus. When Solomon heard God, He was hearing Jesus. The created one is not greater than the Creator.

Wisdom should not be looked at as something that can be gained. It comes through a relationship with the Holy Spirit, who gives freely. Jesus is wisdom. Solomon heard Jesus. So, then, even in the area of wisdom, Jesus has the preeminence.

**10. *It is said that Jesus sits on the Mercy Seat. Can you explain that?***

Read: Hebrews 9:11-15, 24-26, 28b

Under the Old Covenant, the priest sprinkled the blood of an animal on the mercy seat in the Holy of Holies to atone for the sins of himself and the people for that year. Under the New Covenant, Jesus gave a better sacrifice – Himself. He sprinkled His perfect blood on the mercy



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seat in Heaven once for all, not needing to do it every year, because His blood doesn't just cover over sins; it completely takes them away.

Romans 3:25 says that Jesus was set forth as a "propitiation" by His blood. The word "propitiation" is the same word translated "mercy seat" in Hebrews 9:5. So, it could be said that Jesus actually became a mercy seat for us, or that He sits on the mercy seat in Heaven.

We receive mercy, instead of wrath, for everything we've done wrong because of Jesus. Any and all mercy we receive from God comes to us through Jesus – who always lives to make intercession for us (Hebrews 7:25). When Father looks at us, He sees Jesus on the mercy seat. He sees the blood of His Son that cries out "mercy" (Hebrews 12:24).

The Bible says that the life is in the blood (Leviticus 17:14). The life of Jesus is in His blood, which forever rests on the mercy seat, that forever we may have life in Him.

**11. Why do people plead the "blood" over things, or sickness, maybe?**

Read: Exodus 12:12-13

Hebrews 9:11-15

1 Peter 1:18-19

Revelation 5

There is a lot of reading for this topic, because an understanding of the power of the blood of Christ is needed. Under the Old Covenant, putting the blood of a physical lamb on their doorposts, in faith, protected the Israelites from the angel of death. Under the New Covenant, the blood of Jesus is so much more powerful, that when His blood is applied in faith, it cleanses the believer from all unrighteousness, and even a guilty conscience!

When we plead "the blood of Jesus" over our homes, a situation, a sickness, or something else, we are invoking the power of the New Covenant into that situation. Jesus said that His blood was the blood of the New Covenant poured out for us. His blood is so powerful, it is a line that cannot be crossed by the demonic. The blood of Jesus has been poured out as an holy, undefiled, unblemished sacrifice. The power of His perfect blood has defeated death, sickness, and hell. It is alive!

Kirk had a vision once that demonstrates the power of the blood of Jesus. Here is an excerpt of that vision: *I watch the shadow (demon) as it crosses the perimeter, going underneath things, behind, and tries its best to stay hidden. As it crosses, suddenly a loud shriek and a small puff of smoke where it had been. An angel tells me, "There are no shadows or places to hide behind the veil. Everything is laid open and no evil can exist there."*

The veil to enter the Holy of holies is the body of Jesus Christ. There is no evil that can enter in. When we claim the blood of Jesus over something or over a situation, we are declaring no evil can remain. There's nothing higher that we can do than Jesus already did. He already did all the work, and when we claim the blood of Jesus over something, we are speaking His work over that thing.



Everything about the atonement was bloody. The stripes for our healing was bloody, the crown of thorns was bloody, the nails in his hands and feet was bloody, the spear into His heart was bloody. We are in a covenant of blood with God, and it's the blood of Jesus that sealed the deal.

Claiming His blood is claiming His finished work in our situation. There's no higher work we can attain than the work of Jesus' blood.

## ***12. Did Jesus show Himself in the time of the Old Covenant?***

Read: Numbers 21:4-9      Joshua 5:13-15

We know that Jesus showed Himself in the time of the New Covenant. Obviously, He did because He came as a Man and lived on earth for a portion of this time. But it's also true that in the time of the Old Covenant, Jesus showed Himself. He showed Himself in prophetic ways, like with the snake on the pole, and He showed Himself literally, like with Joshua.

The Old Covenant served to bring us to Christ. Galatians 3:23-25 reads,

**But before faith came, we were kept under guard by the law, kept for the faith which would afterward be revealed. Therefore, the law was our tutor to bring us to Christ, that we might be justified by faith. But after faith has come, we are no longer under a tutor.**

The Old Covenant Law was meant to lead us to Him, and so even under the Old Covenant Jesus showed Himself.

Since Scripture prophesies of Jesus, we can see Jesus as the Savior and Healer hung on a pole like the bronze snake. We can see Jesus as the sacrificial lamb offered for the sins of the people. We can see Jesus as the manna that came from Heaven that we consume. We can see Jesus in the pillar of fire and the cloud, and in the voice that shook the mountain.

Besides these, we can see that Jesus literally showed Himself even in the time of the Old Covenant when He appeared to Moses, Aaron, and the elders of Israel. The Bible says they "saw the God of Israel" and didn't die (Exodus 24:9-18). We also see what we read today in Joshua. It was not an angel that Joshua encountered. It was the Lord. Angels sent by the Lord will always tell people not to bow to them. The Commander of the Lord's Army did not tell Joshua this, but allowed him to worship Him.

These are just a few examples, but it shows us that Jesus has always been making Himself known, even in the time of the Old Covenant. Jesus has always been the preeminent One and always will be the preeminent One. Amen.

### **13. Did Jesus fulfill the prophecies that were prophesied regarding Himself?**

Read: Matthew 11:7-10, 13   Luke 16:16   Matthew 5:17

It was prophesied that Elijah would come before the appearance of the Lord (Malachi 4:5). Jesus describes John the Baptist as the Elijah who was to come (Matthew 11:14). For this reason, Jesus said that all the Law and Prophets prophesied until John because even the Law itself was a prophecy of the One who was to come. The reason that these prophecies ended at John was because John was the cutoff from the Old Covenant to the New Covenant. This is why Jesus said, **“Assuredly, I say to you, among those born of women there has not risen one greater than John the Baptist; but he who is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he”** (Matthew 11:11). Those who are born again in the New Covenant are greater than even the greatest prophet under the Old Covenant.

All of the prophecies and all of the laws culminated in Jesus. There has not been a prophet whose words or life did not prophesy of Jesus.

- Abraham is mentioned as a prophet, and he saw the ram in the thicket as a sacrifice in exchange for the life of his son.
- Jacob prophesied the scepter wouldn't depart from Judah's lineage.
- David prophesied about the crucifixion and casting lots for Jesus' clothing in Psalm 22.
- The Psalms are filled with prophecies of Jesus written by David and others. For example, that the Messiah would resurrect, that they would give Him vinegar and gall to drink, that He would distribute the gifts of the fivefold ministry, that His friends would flee in His hour of need, that His body wouldn't see decay, that He would be silent before His accusers, and that He would actually cry out: **“Into Your hands I commit My Spirit.”**
- Isaiah prophesied about the virgin birth and that the Messiah would bring salvation, healing, and peace.
- Joel prophesied about the outpouring of the Holy Spirit.
- Micah prophesied Jesus would be born in Bethlehem.
- Zechariah prophesied Jesus would ride into Jerusalem on a donkey and that He would be betrayed for 30 pieces of silver.
- The list goes on and on.

The only prophecies in Scripture about Jesus that look unfulfilled still are the ones about His second coming. The writer of Hebrews prophesies that Jesus will return again, not for sin, but for salvation (Hebrews 9:28). Jesus, Himself, prophesies His return in Revelation 22:7, 12, & 20. And two angels told the disciples, **“This same Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will so come in like manner as you saw Him go into heaven”** (Acts 1:11). So, there is at least one prophecy yet to come to pass on earth as in Heaven. And yet, in Heaven's eyes, it's already fulfilled. For Jesus said, **“It is finished”** (John 19:30). And He also said, **“These are the words which I spoke to you while I was still with you, that all things must be fulfilled which were written in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms concerning Me”** (Luke 24:44).

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*For further reading:* Genesis 49:10, Isaiah 7:14, Micah 5:2, Psalm 40:6–8, Isaiah 40:3–4, Zechariah 9:9, Zechariah 11:12–13, Malachi 4:5–6, Psalm 22:16, Psalm 22:18, Psalm 31:5, Psalm 38:12–13, Psalm 16:9–11, Psalm 41:9, Psalm 68:18, Psalm 69:21, Psalm 118:17–18, Joel 2:28–29

**14. How did the writers of the New Testament remember what Jesus said well enough to write it down?**

Read: John 14:25–26

Have you ever struggled to remember what someone has said to you? How about when God speaks? Have you ever struggled to remember what He has said? We have. We frequently write down what He says so that we don't forget. However, there have been times when we couldn't write it down and we forgot. In those times, we've asked the Holy Spirit to bring to our remembrance what the Lord spoke to us, and He has! He'll sometimes bring it back to us quickly. Or, it will sometimes take a long time, but He will bring it back.

This is similar to how Scripture found in the Bible was written. Second Timothy 3:16 reads, **"All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness."**

When the Holy Spirit is inspiring someone to write something, He is either giving them a new word, or bringing to them something they've heard before. For example, as we write these devotionals, the Holy Spirit brings us new thoughts and also brings to our remembrance thoughts He's given before, as well as Scriptures we've read. So, as the writers of the New Testament wrote what we find there, the Holy Spirit was bringing back to them what Jesus had said. Sometimes one writer will highlight one thing and another writer will highlight a different aspect of the same thing. Sometimes one writer will remember one detail and another writer will remember a different detail. It's all inspired by the Holy Spirit, or as another translation says, it's "God-breathed."

The writing of the Scriptures is not based on someone's great memory. It's based on the power of the Holy Spirit. It is the Holy Spirit bringing to a person's remembrance what Jesus has said.

**15. When people swear (curse), why do they use the name of Jesus and not Baal or Buddha or something?**

Read: Job 2:9                      Philippians 2:9

Job is well-known for having suffered much at the hands of the enemy. He stood in the face of it all, but he was opposed by almost everyone around him. Even his wife told him to curse God and die. While what Job's wife was trying to get him to do was a form of cursing, most people who curse God today use the name "Jesus Christ" as an expletive in the same manner as they might use some other curse words. To understand this, we need to look at where swearing or cursing

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comes from. Does it come from God? Does God sit in the Heavens and use expletives? If you know God, you know that's not the case.

Swearing is not from heaven. It's demonic, just like every other thing that opposes the Son of God. It comes from an antichrist spirit. People who are using the name of Jesus as a curse are in agreement with the enemy. It's really simple. Satan hates Jesus. He hates Him. The enemy knows he's been defeated and he's full of wrath. So, any way he can inspire humans to curse the One who loves them, he will. Satan doesn't have any authority except what we give him. So, he needs to get someone to agree with him and curse the LORD. It's really that simple.

So, that being said, why wouldn't Satan want people to curse Baal or Buddha or any other god? Yes, he hates Jesus, but wouldn't cursing another god be good too? Paul says in 1 Corinthians 10:18-21,

**Observe Israel after the flesh: Are not those who eat of the sacrifices partakers of the altar? What am I saying then? That an idol is anything, or what is offered to idols is anything? Rather, that the things which the Gentiles sacrifice they sacrifice to demons and not to God, and I do not want you to have fellowship with demons. You cannot drink the cup of the Lord and the cup of demons; you cannot partake of the Lord's table and of the table of demons.**

Satan actually desires us to be partakers with the demonic, so he's not interested in getting us to curse a demon. He's interested in getting us to curse God. Jesus is the Highest Authority, Power, Glory – you name it – Jesus is preeminent! Therefore, Satan will inspire people to curse that which is preeminent.

But, Jesus came to be a blessing, not a curse!

**16. I've heard that the whole Bible was written with Jesus in mind. Is that true?**

Read: Genesis 1:1    Isaiah 6:1    John 14:8-9    Revelation 1:1-2, 22:20-21

We started today's reading with the first verse of the Bible and ended with the last. We threw in a couple verses in between in both the Old and New Testaments. What did you observe?

Genesis starts out saying, **"In the beginning, God created the Heavens and the earth."** Where is Jesus there? Well, what does Colossians say about creation? It states, **"For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him."** (1:16) Therefore, right from the beginning of the Bible, we see everything being made through Jesus and for Jesus and by Jesus.

Then we skip to Isaiah, and who did Isaiah see? He saw the Lord high and lifted up. That is Jesus! So, when Philip asked to see the Father, Jesus could tell Philip that he'd already seen the Father! He was saying, "Look at Me, Philip! If you want to see Father, look at Me!"

And of course, we ended in Revelation. Many times people get so wrapped up in what look to be terrible events happening on the earth in Revelation that they miss the opening statement.

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Revelation is the revelation of Jesus Christ. It is not the revelation of the enemy or the revelation of bad things. It's the revelation of Jesus Christ, and the revelation ends with the statement that Jesus is coming soon.

The entire Bible is definitely written with Jesus in mind. You can pick any book of the Bible and ask the Holy Spirit to show you Jesus in what you're reading, and He will. Jesus is who Father is interested in talking about.

All things from the Holy Spirit will always point to Jesus. He is high and lifted up! He is the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world. He is the Bright and Morning Star. He is the Root of Jesse and the Root of David. He is the Manna in the wilderness and the Water from the rock. He is the Fire and the Cloud. His death and resurrection are prophesied when Jonah was swallowed and later spit up by a fish. He is the Word of God and the King of Glory. The list goes on and on. Jesus is everything.

Jesus is who Holy Spirit lifts up, and Holy Spirit inspired the writing of the Scriptures. John 1:1 says, **"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God."** Jesus is the Word, and the Bible definitely was written with Jesus in mind.

***17. In the book of Revelation, Jesus appears many times but is not anything like He appeared in the rest of the New Testament. Why is His appearance so different?***

Read: John 17:1, 5, 24

Revelation 1:12-16

Jesus' appearance is definitely different in the book of Revelation from the rest of the New Testament, except when He was transfigured on the mountain. That was a prophecy of what was to come. In the book of Revelation, Jesus appeared in His glory to John because just as He prayed to Father, He is glorified with the glory which He had with Father before the world began. Jesus is not just a man; now, He's in His glory.

The Apostle John beheld Jesus on the earth. He spent a lot of time with Him, and loved Him and knew he was loved by Him. He was the one who rested his head on Jesus' chest at the Last Supper. And yet, when Jesus appeared to him in His glory, John was afraid.

Jesus told us some time ago,

*"The world, when it sees Me as I AM will tremble and be shaken. You also will now begin to present Me as I AM, not how I was. Look directly into the fire in My eyes, see the sword that cuts both ways, look at Me! I AM Jesus. I AM the Lamb. I AM Love. I AM also King of kings and Lord of lords. The world has not known Me as King of kings and Lord of lords, but they will. They will see Me as I AM and faint, fall down, cry, and in their great fear, they will know the Truth! You, however, you will only see Me in your love for Me, because you are in Me. You will stand because I also love you and will make you to stand. You have already died. Therefore, what does a dead man have to fear? Come, look Me full in the face! I love you! Do not fear! Certainly, perfect love casts out all fear."*

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Jesus appearing in all of His glory to us may seem scary to some people. However, we don't have to be afraid if we're in love, no matter how He chooses to appear to us. Jesus went on to say: *"Throughout time, often the writers were very severely oppressed. They knew war and sometimes their vision of Me was biased by their version or vision of strength."* They were looking for someone with the fiercest battle gear that they knew of at the time to come and save them. Hence, they would see Jesus as kind of scary and like a warrior. Jesus has appeared this way to us as well.

But then He asked us, *"But how to do you see Me?"* Well, we see Him as someone who loves us. We don't need Him to appear in battle gear with blood on His clothing to know that He has all strength and power. We could walk with Him, knowing He'd be able to protect us from anything, even if He didn't have any weapons or armor at all. He then said, *"That's why there's a greater revelation of Christ now. You see Me as I Am."* He doesn't need to appear in battle armor for people to respect Him, but He can appear however He wants to whomever He wants.

Jesus is now in all of His glory. That is how John saw Him in Revelation, and that is why it was different from the rest of the New Testament.

**18. When we say we know Jesus "as He is," what does that mean?**

Read: 2 Corinthians 5:16-17    Matthew 17:1-2

When we say we know Jesus as He is, it means we know Him in all of His power and His glory. Second Corinthians says we are no longer to regard people according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit. This is true for the Lord as well. He is in all of His glory now, and that is how we must see Him. He's in His new body – the firstborn from the dead. When you see someone in the spirit, you see things as they are. When we have a revelation of Jesus as He is, we can see Him in all His ways and not be afraid because we know Him.

Knowing Him as He is means knowing He's worthy of ALL praise, honor, and glory. It's not judging Him to be worthy, but it's knowing He is worthy. That's the fear of God. It's the beginning of wisdom. We know Him as He is. He doesn't have to appear one way or another to us.

I (Tiffany) told the Lord once that I wanted to see the angels and smoke and similar things to what Apostle John and the Old Covenant Prophets saw. The Lord said to me, *"You want to be afraid?"* I laughed and said, "No." Yet, that's really what I was asking for because it was an expectation that if I saw Him that way, I would have a greater revelation of Him. However, the way they saw or responded to the Lord is inferior to what I have. I come as a son and bow out of love because He's so awesome. Sons are not afraid. Those on the outside are afraid.

Before this time, Jesus had told us that our view of Him was as a "pansy" because we were seeing Him according to the flesh. We view Him this way no longer because we know Him as He is, no matter how He appears to us. Every knee will bow – whether out of fear or love. It's our honor and privilege to bow out of love.

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The LORD must be transfigured before us as He was before Peter, James, and John on the mountain. We must see Him and know Him as He is because as He is, so are we in this world (1 John 4:17). The transfiguration was a prophecy of what was to come. We are to see Jesus as He is now and be like Jesus as He is now.

And as we behold Him, so we will be like Him. Romans 6:5 (NKJV) says, **"For if we have been united together in the likeness of His death, certainly we also shall be in the likeness of His resurrection."** That's Jesus as He is now!

**19. Jesus Christ is Perfect Theology**

1. Hebrews 1:3 – exact representation of Father
2. Colossians 1:15 – Image of the Invisible God
3. Colossians 1:17 – He is before all things, and in Him all things consist
4. John 1:1 – the Word was God
5. John 14:9 – If you've seen Me, you've seen the Father
6. John 5:19 – Jesus does nothing of Himself, but what He sees Father do
7. John 14:10-11 and John 12:49-50 – Jesus does not speak on His own authority – speaks what Father says
8. John 13:14 – Jesus is the LORD and the Teacher. We have One LORD and Teacher. He gives us Holy Spirit who brings us His words to teach us
9. John 14:6 – Jesus is the Way, the Truth, the Life
10. Matthew 7:13-14 – He's the narrow way
11. Matthew 7:24-27 – He's the Rock. Do what He says. It's not about laws
12. John 1:18 - No one has ever seen the Father, but the Son has declared Him to us (made Him known). See also John 5:37, John 6:46
13. John 6:38 & John 6:42 No one has ever come from Heaven, but the Son.
14. If we don't see it in Jesus or hear it from Jesus, we should not believe it about Father because we can't make a theology based on anything, except the Son.



## **DISCIPLESHIP PART 1: How Jesus Defined Discipleship**

Every Christian has heard the word disciple at one time or another. We've all heard a pastor say something to the effect that "whoever believes in Jesus is a disciple." Or maybe the words from the great commission come to mind, "... go and make disciples of all nations." Perhaps, we may think of the twelve disciples Jesus chose.

Have you ever stopped and pondered what the word "disciple" really means though? According to the Merriam Webster online dictionary this is the definition of a disciple:

*1: one who accepts and assists in spreading the doctrines of another: as*

*a : one of the twelve in the inner circle of Christ's followers according to the Gospel accounts*

*b : a convinced adherent of a school or individual*

The above sounds like a good definition, but is this the definition that Jesus would have used? He lived a long time ago and in a place or culture that is mostly foreign to us. Because of this, our definition of the word "disciple" really doesn't mean that much. It was Jesus who called His disciples "disciples" first, so it's His definition that really has meaning for us. What did He mean when He called his twelve closest followers "disciples"? To answer that, we need to know about some of the Jewish traditions of the time.

Discipleship was a well established institution in Jewish culture a long time before Jesus chose His disciples. All of the great rabbis and sages of the Pharisees and teachers of the Law had disciples. So Jesus' understanding of this would have been what He experienced growing up. No doubt this was talked about in the home as well as among His friends. The education of Jesus' time would have looked something like this . . .

First, would be Bet Sefer (bait a fair). This was for children ages 6 to 12, both boys and girls. Bet Sefer was held in a Synagogue where they learned to read and write. The textbook used was the Torah (first five books of the Bible). However, the goal here was not just to simply learn from the Torah; it was to memorize it. All of it – Genesis through Deuteronomy. After this course of learning, a boy had a bar-mitzvah. This welcomed him into the community as a full member and at this point usually he would start into a trade, maybe a family enterprise. The very best in their studies would continue their education. Not many would qualify to continue.

Second would come Bet Midrash (bait mid rash). This was the next level of education for those 13 to 15 years old who were thought to be worthy of this level of education. They went on to study the Tanakh (tan nachhh) (Hebrew Scriptures) and memorize it. This means they would end up memorizing Genesis through Malachi. They were also expected to learn the family trade during this time. Only the best of the best would continue their education beyond Bet Midrash.

The third level of education would be Bet Talmud (bait tall mud). This is the final level of education available, and it was only for the best of those who went through Bet Midrash. It lasted



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from age 15 to age 30 for those who made the cut. In order to participate, the student would apply to a rabbi, and if accepted by the rabbi, the student would then follow the rabbi and attempt to emulate the rabbi completely. This means the student would copy the rabbi's manners, moods, the food he ate, how he ate it, his sleep patterns, etc. Most importantly though, he would try to capture the rabbi's understanding and beliefs regarding the Torah and God exactly the way the rabbi viewed the Torah and God. These students left everything to do this – their village, synagogue, friends and parents. They were at this point called Talmidim.

The Hebrew word for disciple is talmid, which is singular. Talmidim is the word used for multiple disciples. Talmidim were tasked with learning everything from their master. Their goal was to become, if it were possible, an exact replica of their master. They fully expected that they would be doing what he did just the way he did it. That was the expectation of the sage and the talmid.

As you can see, our definition of disciple is a poor way to describe a talmid. How many people do we know who have even memorized what a Jewish child would in Bet Sefer, much less the whole Old Testament?! Our expectation of a disciple of Jesus in our day doesn't generally compare to the expectation of a disciple of Jesus when He walked the earth in the flesh.

For us to call ourselves disciples of Christ, we should be using His idea of what a disciple means. It's interesting to point out that when Jesus' disciples were called, few, or maybe none of them, had made it through the Bet Talmud level of education, so that means they weren't chosen as the best of the best. So when He called them, they jumped at the chance because it was a great honor to be chosen to follow a rabbi! Their idea of what it meant to be a talmid would be the same as Jesus'. They followed and expected to be just like their master. This included doing what He did, teaching what He taught, and having the same relationship with God that He had.

Now, think of all the talmidim that went through the full bet Talmud level and at age 30 became rabbis themselves. Their accomplishments were many to be sure. Then think of Jesus' disciples and what they learned in just 3 years! They went on to change the world. They stood up to amazing persecution, miracles were performed through them, they raised the dead, and brought the gospel everywhere they went. Just amazing!

There are some verses that make more sense after we understand what discipleship really is. These verses in John 14 would be a simple reminder for the disciples because this is exactly what Jesus, their society, and the disciples would have expected to be doing.

**“Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do he will do also; and greater works than these he will do, because I go to My Father. And whatever you ask in My name, that I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If you ask anything in My name, I will do it.”**

If we would like to be called disciples of Jesus, shouldn't we be using His idea of what that means? We should also be doing what He did and teaching the things He taught.

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There is also an interesting Old Testament “type” of the discipleship that Jesus taught and also the statement He made regarding the fact that the disciples would be doing what He did (and more). The Old Testament book of 2 Kings in the second chapter shows how closely Elisha followed Elijah, and also that he expected to do the things that Elijah did and more!

**And it came to pass, when the LORD was about to take up Elijah into heaven by a whirlwind, that Elijah went with Elisha from Gilgal. Then Elijah said to Elisha, “Stay here, please, for the LORD has sent me on to Bethel.”**

**But Elisha said, “As the LORD lives, and as your soul lives, I will not leave you!” So they went down to Bethel.**

**Now the sons of the prophets who were at Bethel came out to Elisha, and said to him, “Do you know that the LORD will take away your master from over you today?”**

**And he said, “Yes, I know; keep silent!”**

**Then Elijah said to him, “Elisha, stay here, please, for the LORD has sent me on to Jericho.”**

**But he said, “As the LORD lives, and as your soul lives, I will not leave you!” So they came to Jericho.**

**Now the sons of the prophets who were at Jericho came to Elisha and said to him, “Do you know that the LORD will take away your master from over you today?”**

**So he answered, “Yes, I know; keep silent!”**

**Then Elijah said to him, “Stay here, please, for the LORD has sent me on to the Jordan.”**

**But he said, “As the LORD lives, and as your soul lives, I will not leave you!” So the two of them went on. And fifty men of the sons of the prophets went and stood facing them at a distance, while the two of them stood by the Jordan. Now Elijah took his mantle, rolled it up, and struck the water; and it was divided this way and that, so that the two of them crossed over on dry ground.**

**And so it was, when they had crossed over, that Elijah said to Elisha, “Ask! What may I do for you, before I am taken away from you?”**

**Elisha said, “Please let a double portion of your spirit be upon me.” (2 Kings 2:1-9)**

God did this for Elisha, who followed in the dust of Elijah. The Spirit resting on Elisha was so obvious, that the prophets said, **“The spirit of Elijah rests on Elisha”** (2 Kings 2:15).

We read in later accounts that not only did Elisha do what Elijah did, but he actually did more. This is a model of what we can expect as followers of Christ. We do as He did and in His own words, we do more through His Spirit in us.

Some other points to ponder regarding discipleship and the expectations of Jesus and of Jewish society of Jesus’ time:

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- Does Peter getting out of the boat to meet Jesus on the water make more sense with these things in mind? (Matthew 14:29)
- Does the statement of Jesus “. . . **as the Father sent Me, so send I you**” show Jesus has this definition of disciple in mind? (John 20:21)
- Jesus expects our relationship with Himself and the Father to look a certain way. Is this consistent with this teaching on discipleship? (John 17:21)
- Thinking of the teaching on miracles and the mustard seed, and other teachings of Jesus, doesn't it look as if He really expects us to do what He did? And more? Can you think of other verses that agree / disagree with this level of discipleship?
- Do you think we have to memorize the Scriptures in order to be a disciple? Or, is what Paul writes in 1 Corinthians 2:1-2 more accurate? **“And I, brethren, when I came to you, did not come with excellence of speech or of wisdom declaring to you the testimony of God. For I determined not to know anything among you except Jesus Christ and Him crucified.”** Knowing Jesus and declaring Him – that is our goal!

Jesus is perfect theology. Why would we want to follow any other theology? Following men, even brilliant men who have been used by God to do amazing things, cannot compare with following Jesus.

## **DISCIPLESHIP PART 2 – By the Spirit of Christ**

And I, brethren, when I came to you, did not come with excellence of speech or of wisdom declaring to you the testimony of God. For I determined not to know anything among you except Jesus Christ and Him crucified. I was with you in weakness, in fear, and in much trembling. And my speech and my preaching *were* not with persuasive words of human wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power, that your faith should not be in the wisdom of men but in the power of God.

However, we speak wisdom among those who are mature, yet not the wisdom of this age, nor of the rulers of this age, who are coming to nothing. But we speak the wisdom of God in a mystery, the hidden *wisdom* which God ordained before the ages for our glory, which none of the rulers of this age knew; for had they known, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory.

But as it is written:

“Eye has not seen, nor ear heard,  
Nor have entered into the heart of man  
The things which God has prepared for those who love Him.”

But God has revealed *them* to us through His Spirit. For the Spirit searches all things, yes, the deep things of God. For what man knows the things of a man except the spirit of the man which is in him? Even so no one knows the things of God except the Spirit of God. Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might know the things that have been freely given to us by God.

These things we also speak, not in words which man’s wisdom teaches but which the Holy Spirit teaches, comparing spiritual things with spiritual. But the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know *them*, because they are spiritually discerned. But he who is spiritual judges all things, yet he himself is *rightly* judged by no one. For “who has known the mind of the LORD that he may instruct Him?” But we have the mind of Christ. (1 Corinthians 2)

First Corinthians 2 teaches the true Spirit of discipleship. It is the Holy Spirit who discipulates us. Paul testifies that he wants to only preach Christ crucified in God’s power. He isn’t interested in the wisdom of man, persuasive words, or hype. He wants his audience to grab hold of faith in God, not intellectual agreement. The faith Paul’s talking about is faith based on an experience of power through the Spirit of God.

What this means is that mental assent to Jesus’ existence isn’t faith at all. James testifies to this when he says even the demons believe and shudder. So, our faith is not just an agreement that God is real, but Jesus brings us deeper when He says, “**If I do not do the works of My Father, do not believe Me**” (John 10:37).

What if John 10:37 were the criteria for believing what we teach? We know from Discipleship Part 1 that a disciple of Jesus’ day would have believed the same thing as Jesus about discipleship,

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so they were expecting to do what He did. This being true, how do we follow Jesus now and gain the faith and knowledge and/or wisdom to carry on as His disciples?

We know that Paul wrote the above passage of Corinthians and that Paul had not been a disciple who had followed Jesus in the beginning. In fact, he was a sworn enemy of “the Way,” as it was called. Who mentored Paul? How did he learn to follow like a true disciple? Could we expect the same tutor as Paul?

This brings us back to First Corinthians in which Paul talks about wisdom which God reveals – things that are a mystery to us until those things are revealed by God. Verse 10 discloses the method of revelation: the Holy Spirit (sometimes called the Spirit of Christ), and then Paul goes on to explain how the Spirit knows these things of God and that we have been given this Holy Spirit rather than the spirit of the world.

Paul then goes on to show how to disciple someone, and that it’s really the Holy Spirit doing the discipleship through us. The Holy Spirit does this by using God’s wisdom, not man’s, and is actually speaking to our spirit man, not to our intellect.

This is why it’s so important to be Spirit filled, isn’t it? Our discipleship depends on it! Look at the next verse. It’s saying that the natural man (no Spirit filling) can’t receive the things of the Spirit. The things from the Holy Spirit are foolishness to the natural man because the things of the Holy Spirit are spiritually discerned!

This doesn’t mean that study and learning are bad. On the contrary. Study of the Scriptures and learning are very good provided we are doing it for the right reason. If we study only to gain knowledge, then that knowledge only serves to gain the upper hand when discussing things with those who disagree. All of our study should be aimed at our relationship with God. Just as the disciples of the first century aimed to learn everything they could so they could emulate their rabbi, we should emulate our God as closely as we can. Jesus is our example of what God is like. He is our Rabbi, and we are His talmidim.

Paul originally was a disciple of Gamiliel. We can assume then that Paul made it all the way through Bet Talmud, the third level of discipleship. Paul evidently was the best of the best. He understood what it meant to be a disciple. He had been following in the dust of Gamiliel, but when he believed on the Lord Jesus Christ, then he started following in Christ’s footsteps. However, Christ had ascended, so the Holy Spirit was his teacher, just as the Holy Spirit is our teacher and leads us into all truth. Paul did all the miracles he did because that’s what Christ did, and he expected as a disciple to do what Christ did (was doing and is doing).

As Paul wrote in Galatians 1:11-12, **“But I make known to you, brethren, that the gospel which was preached by me is not according to man. For I neither received it from man, nor was taught it, but it came through the revelation of Jesus Christ.”** That is how we all must live, by the revelation of Jesus Christ, and revelation comes through the Holy Spirit.

## **DISCIPLESHIP PART 3 – Jesus (The Ultimate Disciple)**

Jesus only did what He saw His Father doing. A Jewish disciple only did what he saw his rabbi doing. This is just what Jesus did. He modeled for us perfect discipleship.

**Jesus gave them this answer: "I tell you the truth, the Son can do nothing by himself; he can do only what he sees his Father doing, because whatever the Father does the Son also does."** (John 5:19)

**"I have testimony weightier than that of John. For the very work that the Father has given me to finish, and which I am doing, testifies that the Father has sent me."** (John 5:36)

How could Jesus do the works Father sent Him to do?

**It came to pass in those days that Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee, and was baptized by John in the Jordan. And immediately, coming up from the water, He saw the heavens parting and the Spirit descending upon Him like a dove. Then a voice came from heaven, "You are My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased."** (Mark 1:9-11)

**Then Jesus, being filled with the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit into the wilderness . . .** (Luke 4:1).

Jesus' ability to do the works of the Father came from the Holy Spirit. Jesus did not begin His ministry until His baptism when He was filled with the Holy Spirit. Then he went on an extended fast, overcame the enemy's temptations, and came out of the wilderness in an authority and power that the people had not seen before. (See Luke 4:32 & 36.)

A rabbi sends his disciples in his stead, and this is what Father did as well. Jesus says that the work He does testifies that His Father sent Him. He is doing what His Rabbi tells Him. We too, do as Jesus says, for He is our Rabbi and the work we do will testify that He has sent us.

**"No longer do I call you servants, for a servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all things that I heard from My Father I have made known to you."** (John 15:15)

**"Do you not believe that I am in the Father, and the Father in Me? The words that I speak to you I do not speak on My own [authority]; but the Father who dwells in Me does the works."** (John 14:10)

- Jesus is the perfect disciple and rabbi.
- Jesus says that He is One with God the Father.
- Jesus followed His Father perfectly.
- Jesus sent the Holy Spirit (His Spirit) to dwell in us so that we too may follow perfectly.

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If we want to know what perfect discipleship looks like, we only need to look at Jesus. He was a perfect disciple of His Father. He represented Father perfectly. And He did it through the power of the Holy Spirit. This is the same Spirit that He freely gives to each of us so that we too may represent our Father perfectly as we follow Jesus.

## **DISCIPLESHIP PART 4 – How Jesus Views Discipleship**

**"I know your works, love, service, faith, and your patience; and [as] for your works, the last [are] more than the first. Nevertheless I have a few things against you, because you allow that woman Jezebel, who calls herself a prophetess, to teach and seduce My servants to commit sexual immorality and eat things sacrificed to idols. And I gave her time to repent of her sexual immorality, and she did not repent. Indeed I will cast her into a sickbed, and those who commit adultery with her into great tribulation, unless they repent of their deeds. I will kill her children with death, and all the churches shall know that I am He who searches the minds and hearts. And I will give to each one of you according to your works. Now to you I say, and to the rest in Thyatira, as many as do not have this doctrine, who have not known the depths of Satan, as they say, I will put on you no other burden. But hold fast what you have till I come. And he who overcomes, and keeps My works until the end, to him I will give power over the nations"** (Revelation 2:19-26).

What does it mean that those who keep His works until the end will be given power over the nations? What works? Verse 19 lists works as separate from love, service, faith, and patience. So, what are the works?

Each verse that lists works uses the same Greek word – **ergon**:

- 1) business, employment, that which any one is occupied*
- a) that which one undertakes to do, enterprise, undertaking*
- 2) any product whatever, any thing accomplished by hand, art, industry, or mind*
- 3) an act, deed, thing done: the idea of working is emphasized in opp. to that which is less than work (Strong's G2041)*

The word **ergon** is also used in John 14:12: **"Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do he will do also; and greater works than these he will do, because I go to My Father."**

The works Jesus did – preaching the Kingdom, healing the sick, casting out demons, cleansing the lepers, raising the dead – are the works we are to be doing because they are works of faith, and Jesus said that our work was to believe Him (John 6:29)

Jesus also gives us insight into the source of the works. He says in John 14:10, **"Do you not believe that I am in the Father, and the Father in Me? The words that I speak to you I do not speak on My own authority; but the Father who dwells in Me does the works."** So, the Father sends Jesus and does the works through Him. And as the Father sends Jesus, Jesus sends us (His disciples). John 20:21 reads, **So Jesus said to them again, "Peace to you! As the Father has sent Me, I also send you."**



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Jesus tells us that He sends us as the Father sent Him. He is speaking this to us after His resurrection. He's leaving, sending the Spirit, and expecting us to carry out His will on earth through the power of the Holy Spirit in His Name and with His authority.

We need to be filled with the Holy Spirit to be able to do what Jesus commands us to do. It is so important to be filled with His Spirit that He told His disciples to wait in Jerusalem for the gift of His Spirit before they did anything else. (Read Acts 1:4-8.) And we see immediate results from being filled with the Holy Spirit. After the Baptism of the Holy Spirit, we see Peter preach, and 3,000 people were saved that day. It is impossible to do the works of God without the Spirit of God. But with the Spirit of God, all things are possible!

Jesus gives to us as He has received from His Father.

**"And he who overcomes, and keeps My works until the end, to him I will give power over the nations –**

***He shall rule them with a rod of iron;***

***They shall be dashed to pieces like the potter's vessels' –***

**as I also have received from My Father (Revelation 2:26-27)**

Additionally, John 14:20 reads, **"At that day you will know that I am in My Father, and you in Me, and I in you."** We're one with God. Christ in us – the Hope of Glory! (Colossians 1:27)

Now, going back to Revelation 2:19, what does it mean that the last works are more than the first? While it is true that as we obey and obey and obey, we do greater and greater and greater things because our faith grows each time we listen and obey and God moves, the Lord is saying that in the last days, He is pouring out greater power because we need greater power for greater works. He is saying that the end times church will be truly dead to self. They will fulfill the great commission. They will be His spotless bride, and all the prayers ever prayed for the church will be answered at this time. (*The World & Church Prophecies: God's Great Reset*, p. 201, 208)

Keeping His works until the end, means just that. We keep doing His works until the end. All nations will come to Him. They do that partly by seeing Him work through us. Jesus gives us exousia power (authoritative power) over the nations to do His works and carry the complete gospel to all the nations of the world.

What does it mean to be a disciple of Jesus? It means walking in lock-step with Him, doing what He is doing according to the direction of His Spirit who lives in us. If we die to ourselves and live for Him, this is what we will be doing! Praise God!

## **Authority of the Fivefold**

There is a more comprehensive study on authority for the believer in Christ and the fivefold ministers in the devotional *Running Free Volume 1*.

Understanding the fivefold and their authority is imperative in the house churches because this is how Jesus set up His church to run. We'll start with the role of the fivefold in making disciples. As we do this, remember, Jesus calls someone to the fivefold. They cannot choose for themselves if they want to be one of the fivefold ministers. Nor is everyone in the body of Christ called to be in the fivefold. If you are not called to be a fivefold minister, then Jesus has another unique calling He has reserved for you.

Ephesians 4 says that Jesus chooses His fivefold ministers and gives them as gifts to the church. This is not the same as the gifts of the Holy Spirit. The Spirit gives gifts too, and each believer can have multiple gifts of the Holy Spirit. Those gifts are separate from the offices of the fivefold. For example, anyone with the gift of prophecy can prophesy, but that does not make them a prophet. Jesus chooses prophets. The Holy Spirit gifts people with the gift of prophecy. They're different.

Each of the fivefold offices has a unique calling. Think of it like a spear. At the tip of the spear is the evangelist. He goes in first to the most dangerous places, places that may or may not want him there, places that disagree with Christianity. He comes with great power and is gifted with great faith to release that power so that the point of the spear hits the mark and opens the way for the rest of the spear to do its work. His gifts are exciting, and they draw men in. He uses words of knowledge, telling people things about themselves that only God could know. He operates in gifts of healings and miracles, proving the power of Christ over the demonic. And he preaches a message of repentance and love because his part in making disciples is to get people born again into Christ.

Following right behind the evangelist, the spear tip widens out. The tip of the spear behind the point are the apostles and prophets. This part of the spear tip is still sharp. It's risky on this end of the spear because it's where the cutting edge is. The apostles and prophets follow behind the evangelists in their work. They bring the baptism of the Holy Spirit if the evangelist hasn't done it yet. They also bring with them the word of the Lord and true doctrine.

The apostles and prophets work as a team, providing spiritual covering for the new believers, building them up in faith and truth, and shepherding them into house churches of believers who will help to disciple them. While the evangelist generally does not spend a very long time in one place, the apostles and prophets will spend as much time as is necessary in one area making sure the foundation is secure for the new believers before moving on somewhere else.

Behind the tip of the spear comes the handle. This is where the pastors and teachers follow up in making disciples. They are behind the sharp end of the spear. Their role is generally the least dangerous. Pastors and teachers support the tip so that it can be effective. The handle of the spear is very large to support a small tip showing that the pastors and teachers will be numerous in number to help support the evangelists, apostles, and prophets who make up the tip.

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The pastors come directly behind the apostles and prophets and act as shepherds guarding the flock of the Lord. They do not consider the flock their own but consider the flock as belonging to Jesus. They keep the church flying straight, just like the spear handle is used to keep the spear flying straight. They do this by bringing to their churches the teachings of the apostles and prophets.

The teachers follow behind the pastors at the end of the handle of the spear, which is the shaft. Teachers generally have one to several teachings that they bring to the body of Christ. These teachings are what they have been given revelation on. They will travel around teaching, or they may stay in one place, and the apostles and prophets will send people to them to train under them for a time.

Each fivefold office also has varying degrees of authority in the church. It starts with knowing that Jesus is the Head of the Church through His apostles, who are over the fivefold that are under them. The authority flows from Jesus to His apostles, then the prophets, then the evangelists, then the pastors, and then the teachers. Each believer has authority in Christ, but the fivefold are given authority to govern.

The Lord says, *"Do not look at 'a' church. Look at 'the' church, My church. Therefore, the evangelist is the tip of the spear who fearlessly proclaims the Gospel. The pastor guards My sheep, but they are not his. The teachers provide instruction for the sheep. All of this is happening under the watchful eye of the apostle. The prophet is assigned tasks by the apostle, such as where a situation requires a prophetic word, or possibly, an apostle would see that another apostle has need of a prophet and that apostle will assign a prophet to the other apostle when they see that need. The prophet also sees where he is to be used or sent to but consults with an apostle in this case. The apostle is a decision-maker, a leader, and makes decisions according to the will of God. Apostles do not consider the difficulty or risk of a task. Their decisions are based on what the Lord desires. They may be seen as cold or emotionless, but the Lord has trained them up for His work. The guidance which an apostle gives will always prove to be right and correct because the right hand of the Lord is upon them and He will not let them fail, and the apostle's desire is always and only to please the Lord. The apostle's view of things is always a macro view, he takes in the big picture."*

Additionally, anyone else appointed to govern in the church will be appointed by an apostle. For example, in the book of Titus, Paul writes about elders in a church. The Lord says about this that the Apostle Paul was instructing Titus how to set up a church in Crete. Paul setting up a church using elders and instructing Titus how to do this fits right in with Ephesians 4 and the fivefold ministry. Paul, being an apostle, had authority to do this in this specific case. This form of government (elders in Crete) is then under the fivefold. It does not and cannot REPLACE the fivefold ministry as Jesus set it up. Pastors, churches, ministries, missionaries, etc. do not have the luxury of replacing the fivefold ministry at their whim. The Apostle (like Paul) has this responsibility as led by the Holy Spirit.

As you operate your house church, any problems or questions that arise can be solved by asking the Holy Spirit together as a body of believers what to do. If you still are having questions, then consult the pastor, who probably has more than one church he or she oversees. If the pastor needs help, he or she will consult the prophet or apostle over that church.

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Now on to some specific questions...

***Do fivefold ministers have more authority than those who are not fivefold ministers?***

Read: 1 Thessalonians 5:12-13

Hebrews 13:17, 24

The fivefold ministers appointed by Jesus Christ to equip the Church for works of service are over the rest of the body of Christ in the Lord. In order to rule over the rest of the body, the fivefold has been given more authority in the Church than the rest of the body of Christ. The authority they have been given does not mean that there's going to be a big devil that someone can't cast out because they're not in the fivefold. Instead, each fivefold minister is given a measure of authority to carry out their purpose in the church.

The teachers are given authority to teach doctrine revealed to them through the Holy Spirit that has been vetted by an apostle. These teachers teach with great authority on the subjects for which they have revelation. Like Jesus, it can be said of His teachers that they teach as ones with authority and not like the religious leaders (Matthew 7:29).

The pastors in the fivefold are given authority to shepherd the body of Christ. They guard the sheep from false doctrines and deceptions of the enemy. False doctrines and deceptions would be teachings that have not come down through their apostle and prophet. The pastors also encourage the body to rise up in their giftings and go out into the world, bringing heaven to earth. They help the body practice their spiritual gifts and callings within the house churches and then send them out to do the works of God.

The evangelists who have been called by Christ have been given great faith to wield their authority over the demonic. Evangelists walk in signs and wonders because it is the power of God that forces a decision. They will also have a simple message of the gospel that cuts to the heart of the people. The message and the demonstration of power will come with the authority fitting the office of an evangelist. Because they've been given great faith, their authority will be recognized in the spiritual realm, and truly scare the enemy.

Prophets have been given authority to carry the word of the Lord. They are the Lord's mouthpiece. They have been given authority to judge in the church and in the nations. They tear down and build up with their words. They also are a check for the apostles. Just as apostles check the prophets, the prophets are necessary to check the apostles through the words that they hear from the Lord Jesus Christ.

Apostles have been given the greatest authority in the church. They make judgments in the church. They make rules to help the church to learn to follow the Holy Spirit. They bring correction, instruction, and correct doctrine to the church. They also walk in great power. In a vision titled, "A Vision of the Apostles" given on March 10, 2023, The Lord said,

*"Prophet, tell My people the time of the Apostle approaches. Embrace them. They are My chosen ones who will lead My Church, the true Church. I AM going to release power in this season too, and it's for anyone who is willing to carry it. But none will receive more of it than My Apostles. Amen!"*

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This power is given to the apostles in part to verify the authority they have in the church.

We have all been given all authority in heaven and on earth. But the fivefold is given authority in the church to help equip and govern.

***How would an Apostle's authority differ from a Prophet's or maybe a Pastor's?***

Read: John 20:19-23

When Jesus appeared to His disciples in John 20, He was commissioning His Apostles as His sent ones. The Greek wording uses the word "apostello," which we translate "sent." The authority to forgive sins has not been given to every believer, but to the apostles. Apostles can delegate their authority to others as needed, but the others in the fivefold cannot on their own forgive sins or retain them.

Authority comes down from Jesus Christ to His Apostles and Prophets and is dispersed from there. Similar to the gift of prophecy v. the office of prophet, all can prophesy, but not all are prophets, so too, all believers have authority, but not all have the same governing authority as the fivefold offices.

Apostles have been given the greatest authority that can be given to man in order to govern the church. Their goal is to make a dwelling for the LORD by His Spirit (Ephesians 2 & 3) and bring His Kingdom to earth – His rule and authority. Their goal is to teach the saints, the disciples of Jesus, to follow the Holy Spirit. The people of God must learn to recognize His voice and follow Him.

The role of the Evangelist, Pastor, and Teacher will be more local and/or limited in scope when compared to Apostles and Prophets. Wherever they are, they will be under an Apostle and Prophet, and never supersede the authority in the church that an Apostle or Prophet has. Evangelists will likely travel, but wherever they bring the Gospel, that area will soon be put under an Apostle and Prophet. Evangelists will not 'lay claim' to any area where they minister, even though they may work in a specific area for long periods.

We're used to seeing someone who has been given the title "Pastor" by men leading the so-called church. While pastors are truly a gift in the fivefold given to the church, they do not have the greatest authority in the fivefold. In fact, they are number four on the list. The authority given to the fivefold is first given to apostles, second in authority are the prophets, third in levels of authority are the evangelists, fourth are the pastors, and fifth are the teachers.

The varying levels of authority differ for each apostle depending on where the Lord has called them to minister. Some apostles have authority over cities, some a few churches, some a nation, some several nations or even a continent. The prophets assigned to these apostles will also be given authority based on what their apostle is tasked with doing. For example, the Lord calls me (Tiffany) Apostle to the Nations and End Times Apostle. As such, Kirk (my Prophet) has been given the title End Times Prophet and Prophet to the Nations. His authority as my prophet is actually greater than most apostles because of my calling. Prophets on their own will never have greater

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authority than an apostle, however. The reason why that is true is because authority always flows down from someone who has it.

Jesus has distributed authority in His fivefold first starting with His apostles and then down from there.

***Is the authority of an Apostle different within the fivefold than their authority outside of the fivefold?***

Read: 1 Peter 2:11-17

As stated previously, Apostles are given the highest authority among men in order to govern the church. However, this does not mean that Apostles are not required to submit to the governing authorities of the world. The Lord is not a God of lawlessness and rebellion.

For example, an apostle is speeding and gets pulled over by a police officer, the apostle must submit to the officer's request for information and the probable consequence for speeding. Or as citizens of their countries, apostles will also pay taxes like everyone else and be expected to obey the rules everyone else obeys. Just because they are given authority to judge, govern, and distribute doctrine, does not mean they will disobey laws and rules set up where they live. Therefore, the authority of an apostle when he or she is outside of the fivefold would be intact, but the apostle would submit to the governing authorities God places over them wherever they go.

Of course, there are sometimes circumstances that require mankind to throw off so-called authority when it becomes harmful and tyrannical, and if that's the case, those in Christ should use their authority to change things. If there are evil or tyrannical governments, ungodly laws or injustice, believers, including apostles, have the authority to tear down those strongholds in the spirit. They have the authority to command the deception to be unmasked and the corruption to be brought to the light. Believers have the authority to bind demonic spirits and loose the Holy Spirit.

Apostles will be using their authority to fight the good fight of faith, to bring heaven to earth, and to make disciples who follow the Holy Spirit of Jesus Christ. They will not be using their authority to be rebellious or arrogant. Just like anyone else who lives for Jesus, apostles will not desire to use their authority for selfish gain, but to lift up the Lord Jesus Christ.

Taking all of that into account, apostles can govern outside of the fivefold as well, and they can do a really great job of it because of the grace upon them to make wise decisions, to discern, and to govern. Therefore, the Lord will often raise up His apostles and His prophets to take governing roles outside of the church. It is the job of the church to establish righteousness in all areas of influence in the world. Hence, having apostles in positions of influence in the world is very beneficial.

This doesn't mean apostles will always hold positions of influence in the world or that positions of influence in the world are greater than those in the Spirit. One place of authority is authority

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in the world. The other place of authority is authority in the Spirit. The Spirit is always greater. Sometimes apostles or other believers will hold both.

Regardless, wherever an apostle goes, he or she will be walking in great authority, and as they submit to the Holy Spirit, they will be using their authority to exalt Jesus.

***Is a fivefold minister's authority greater than someone who is outside the fivefold when they are doing a deliverance?***

Read: Acts 8:5-7      Luke 10:17

A fivefold minister's authority in doing deliverance is not greater than a believer not in the fivefold. What matters is their faith. Sometimes it seems like an apostle or maybe an evangelist has greater authority over the demonic than those not in the fivefold offices, but what they have is faith, and it is manifesting as authority over the demonic. Let's take the office of Evangelist as an example.

Evangelists are right in the middle of the levels of fivefold authority. Because their task in making disciples is to get people born again, they are given special grace based on faith, which manifests as authority over the demonic. They walk in miraculous signs and wonders because it is the power of God that forces a decision, and it's the love of God that brings people to repentance. Because of their need to walk in great power over the demonic, the Lord gives them great faith. All things are possible with faith, and so Evangelists see all sorts of things happen as they release their faith in authority over the power of the enemy. It's not that they have more authority over the demonic than a believer who is not an evangelist, but it's that they have great faith which manifests as authority over the demonic. They simply believe.

In the Scripture noted above, we saw an Evangelist named Philip casting out the demonic, and we read about the 70 disciples, most of whom likely did not hold fivefold offices, casting out demons. All believers can deliver people from demons. We all have been given all authority in heaven and on earth. All we need to do is believe we have the authority Jesus gave us and start operating in it.

Someone who hosts a house church under Seeking the Glory of God Ministries called us because of dangerous activities happening on their street. There are many children who live on this street, and the Christian family wanted prayer so that the children would be safe. We told them to stand in their authority and bind the enemy from operating on their street and to call for the angels to come and guard and protect. A week later, the father of the family called to say that since he had stood in his authority, they had peace on their street that whole week. Praise the LORD! He didn't need a fivefold minister to tell the demonic what to do. He told the demonic what to do, and it obeyed him. Now he knows what to do if the demonic starts acting up again. He commands it what it must do and tells it what it cannot do, and it must obey him.



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The demonic wants the people of God to believe they do not have authority. They want the body of Christ to think they can't drive out demons if they're not in the fivefold. The enemy wants God's people in weakness. But it's all a lie. Those of us who are in Christ are unbeatable because He who is in us is greater than he who is in the world. Thank You, Jesus!



## House Church Questions

Please see the devotional book *Picking Up the Pace* for a more comprehensive look at house church topics. Using the devotional books as doctrine in your house churches and for reference when questions arise will be very helpful to you. (Please refer to [www.amazon.com/authors/tiffanyroot](http://www.amazon.com/authors/tiffanyroot) for a list of all our books.)

### ***What is "the Church" exactly?***

Read: Matthew 16:13-19

The word "church" in the Scriptures is the Greek word "ekklesia." This word, ekklesia, comes from two words that are joined together. They are "ek," meaning "out of" or "away from" and "kaleo," meaning "to call." In other words, the ekklesia, or the church, are the called out ones.

The church of Jesus Christ are those who are called out of the world and into the Kingdom of God. They are the ones who lay down their lives to follow the Lord. As Peter writes, **"But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light; who once were not a people but are now the people of God, who had not obtained mercy but now have obtained mercy."** (1 Peter 2:9-10)

Jesus said that His called out ones would be built on the revelation of who He is. Peter was named "rock" as a building block in that church, but the foundation that Peter and all apostles lay is the revelation of Jesus Christ. We are His called out ones, His workmanship created for good works, His body that moves by the direction of His Spirit.

The Church of Jesus Christ is not just a gathering together of people who all believe the same thing. We've watered down the meaning of the word "church" so that the term now carries a form of godliness and denies the power of God. The Holy Spirit without power? How can that be? It's because most of what is called the "church" doesn't have the Holy Spirit, so there is no power.

The real church of Jesus Christ is His body on earth. It is a force to be reckoned with for it carries the very Spirit that raised Jesus from the dead inside each person. The church of Jesus Christ makes known to the principalities and powers the manifold wisdom of God. The church of Jesus Christ heals the sick and raises the dead, casts out demons and isn't harmed by deadly poison. The church of Jesus Christ loves her enemies and prays for those who spitefully use her. The church of Jesus Christ spreads the fragrance of Christ wherever she goes and brings the kingdom everywhere she steps her foot. Whatever we see in Jesus, that is what His church is like on earth. As John writes, **"As He is, so are we in this world"** (1 John 4:17).

The church means the called out ones. You've been called out of darkness and made to be light to shine in the world. So, let your light shine! Even so, come Lord Jesus!

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***I was brought up to believe that I was supposed to serve God in a church building; is that wrong?***

Read: John 4:19-26

Because of the egregious sins of Israel in the time of the kings, the Lord delivered them into the hands of the Assyrians, who carried them off to Assyria. When the King of Assyria wanted to bring more captives from other nations into Samaria, he deposed a lot of the Israelites who were living there, but some stayed. Those who stayed in Samaria, and didn't leave during the time of the rebuilding of Jerusalem and the new temple, intermarried with the people of other nations who were living in Samaria. Hence, they were a mixed race, and no longer considered Jews by the other Israelites. They became known as Samaritans, and while Israel worshiped God in the temple in Jerusalem, the Samaritans worshiped God on Mt. Gerizim in Samaria. (See 2 Kings 17.)

The place that someone worshiped was considered important. Hence, the Samaritan woman desired to know if it was accurate that she and her people were worshiping on the mountain. She knew Jesus, being a Jew, would be worshiping in Jerusalem. He had just given her a word of knowledge about her marital status, and so she thought He was a prophet. Who better to ask? Yet, Jesus' answer wasn't one she had ever heard before. The Father is seeking people to worship Him in spirit and truth? What does that mean?

The indwelling of the Holy Spirit changed everything. God no longer came down and filled the Holy of Holies with His presence as He sat on the mercy seat on earth like He did in Solomon's day. The Scriptures record, **"And it came to pass, when the priests came out of the holy place, that the cloud filled the house of the LORD, so that the priests could not continue ministering because of the cloud; for the glory of the LORD filled the house of the LORD"** (1 Kings 8:10-11). And, **"Solomon built Him a house. However, the Most High does not dwell in temples made with hands..."** (Acts 7:47-48). Instead, now the Holy Spirit fills His people. We are God's temple. As Paul writes, **"Do you not know that you are the temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you?"** (1 Corinthians 3:16)

The change of the covenant changed everything. Those of us who worship God no longer have to go somewhere special to worship Him. We no longer have a bunch of rules to obey to make us holy. Instead, we are filled with the Holy Spirit of Jesus Christ, and as such, we can worship God in spirit and truth. Our spirits are reborn in the image of God, and the Spirit of Truth dwells in us. We are not limited to church buildings. We are the church! We worship God continually through our love and obedience to His Spirit who dwells in us!

This doesn't mean that there won't be big buildings sometimes where house churches gather together to worship with each other once in a while. For instance, each large city may have a big building where house churches gather once a month or so to worship together. Those particular places may need full-time staff to keep the building going. However, the people are not there to serve a building. They are still led by the Spirit of God and worship God in Spirit and truth.

Praise Jesus who gives us His Holy Spirit!

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***Large "churches" have a very large staff and even more volunteers; how would the church be able to operate if God didn't call these people to help?***

Read: 1 Corinthians 12:28

Think about the needs of a large church. It's an organization that depends on labor. It requires there to be people who will do certain tasks like ushering, nursery, attending to the parking lot, secretarial duties, accounting duties, media work, electrical and sound work, janitorial duties, food service duties, and the list goes on. It is necessary in large churches to try and get people involved. The "pastor" even preaches sermons on the "helps" gift to guilt people into doing something. In other words, if you're not on staff, then your spiritual gift is "helps" and you need to volunteer. Helps is a spiritual gift, but it's been misused and abused to coerce people into doing things for the organization.

Then think about the needs of a house church. The size of a house church requires none of these things. Those who come to a house church may take turns bringing snacks. They may help the person in whose home they meet to clean up afterwards. And there may be times when someone watches over some of the children while their parents are ministering or being ministered to. Then there are those who bring words, prophecies, teachings, revelations, or something else from the Lord. But almost none of these people will be paid for what they are doing. Nor will they be required to "volunteer" for anything. The emphasis on trying to get people "involved" in volunteering in some aspect is gone in a house church. The only involvement required is to listen to the Holy Spirit and do what He says.

A house church does not depend on staff or volunteers. It is a group of Jesus' called out ones who gather together for the purpose of discipleship. The apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors, and teachers within and over these house churches do their part to build up the rest of the body of Christ so that they may be mature and complete their callings in Christ. These who are being disciplined are being taught to follow the Holy Spirit in all things. There is no need to coerce anyone to do a task to help the organization. There is no organization. There's a living body of believers with Jesus as their Head. They work together in accordance with the leading of the Spirit of Christ, not looking to get paid for something, but looking to their eternal reward. The Holy Spirit may instruct an apostle or prophet or evangelist to take pay at some point, but this will not be the case for the majority of the fivefold.

Everyone in a house church is a volunteer – a volunteer for the gospel of Jesus Christ, not by coercion, but because of love. Each person should be asking the Holy Spirit what He desires them to do. In this way, there will not be a need for staff or volunteers. Each part of the body will do his or her part and the body will work as one with the Holy Spirit.

***If people went to house churches what kind of "programs" would the house church be able to offer?***

Read: Matthew 28:18-20    Mark 16:15-18

If you go to a house church, you will not find programs. Kids' programs, men's groups, women's groups, programs for addicts, programs for single parents, etc. may have done some good in the past. People were likely helped in these programs that the institutional church offered.

However, in a house church, you will find people of all ages, both sexes, single, married, divorced, widowed, needing help in various ways all in the same group. This is because people do not have male and female issues, age issues, or any other issue that isn't a spiritual issue. Instead of dividing the body of Christ up into groups and then making a program tailored for that group, the body will help each other as one in the house church setting.

For example, if someone comes who has an addiction, then the house church needs to minister to that person together. They would ask the Holy Spirit what to do. Likely, they would cast out a spirit of addiction and then speak truth over the person. If that person isn't born again and filled with the Holy Spirit, they would need to be. After all, it's by the power of the Holy Spirit that we are able to walk in self-control.

Programs are expensive and require a lot of volunteer labor. But Jesus' commission is to make disciples. That's what you're doing in a house church. You are making disciples. Deliverance from addiction is just a normal part of discipling. Healing is a normal part of discipling. Teaching true doctrine is a normal part of discipling. Training people to walk in the fruit of the Spirit (love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control) is all part of discipling people. Training people to walk in the gifts of the Spirit and to hear the voice of the Holy Spirit and to die to self so they can obey the Holy Spirit, is all part of discipling.

Part of the reason that institutional churches have programs that divide people up into categories is because of fear. People are afraid to be vulnerable with others, so they want to be with those that are like them – be that people of the same sex, people with the same issues, or even send all the kids in one place so someone else can handle them. In a house church, that fear is unfounded. Those of the Spirit are not condemning. Instead, they are able to help by the power of Jesus working in them through His Spirit. They are filled with His love and goodness. And they are united and not divided.

Another reason the institutional church uses programs is because they lack power. Many programs would be unnecessary if the people walked in the power of the Holy Spirit. Jesus said that those who believe would cast out demons and heal the sick and raise the dead, among other things. This is normal Christianity.

All of the answers to the issues that programs try to address can be found in Jesus. He is the answer, and He said, "make disciples," not programs. You'll find you don't really need programs if you have people that truly desire to follow the Lord.

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***If I started a house church, who would be expected to preach the sermon?***

Read: 1 Corinthians 14:26

Leaving the institutional church and going to a house church means leaving behind the format of the institutional church as well. Normally, you would go to a church building and sit in a row facing the front of the church where there would be a stage. Someone may come out on stage to greet everyone at the beginning of the service and then there would likely be a band of some sort to engage everyone in singing songs. After they were done, you would have someone come out and preach a message. When that was done, tithes would be collected, and sometimes someone would preach a quick tithing message first. After that, there may be prayer and then everyone in the crowd would be dismissed to go home. The exact details may vary some, but this would be a somewhat traditional format for institutional church.

When you come to a house church, forget all of that. It has nothing to do with what you're doing in your house church. There's no format you have to follow, no specific amount of time that must be spent in each area, no tithe to take up, and so forth. In a house church, you are following the Holy Spirit.

So, who is going to preach the sermon? No. That's not the question. A better question might be, "Who has a word from the Lord, a teaching, a revelation, a dream, or a tongue?" The answer to this question may vary every time you meet. The Holy Spirit speaks to people in various ways, and whatever He has given them to bring is what they should share with the group.

There may be any number of things happening in your house church. Someone may have a revelation to share, which may sound like preaching for a time, but then others would join in if they had questions or comments from the Lord. Someone may have a teaching, but again it would be interactive with those listening. Someone may have a dream and someone else may interpret it. Someone may speak in tongues, and again there may be someone else to interpret it, unless they could interpret it themselves. Another person may have a prophetic word to share, and so forth.

In a house church, one person is not dominating with a sermon each week. Instead, each part of the body does its part, sharing whatever the Holy Spirit has given to them for that meeting.

Don't let your house church be run like an institution. Let it be led by the Spirit of Jesus Christ. Allow the people to participate as the Spirit leads. Once you engage in this kind of fellowship with the body and the Spirit, you'll never again want to go back to that old form with no power.

***With regard to giving money, what if the house church wanted to buy something, like maybe a speaker for worship, and not everyone gave? Would that be fair?***

Read: 2 Corinthians 9:6-8

God loves a cheerful giver. Giving begrudgingly is like being double minded. That's not a commendable trait. So, first of all, when you give, give cheerfully. Don't give to be "fair." Don't

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expect others to give what you give so that it's "fair." Instead, determine with the Holy Spirit what to give and give that, without any regard for what someone else is giving.

Secondly, some people may be able to give out of their abundance and it doesn't hurt them at all to give. Others give out of their poverty, and it hurts, meaning they don't have as much as their brother, so when they give, they feel it. They have to cut something else out in order to give. Therefore, don't judge your brother on how much he gives. Make a righteous judgment by the Spirit of the Lord and have a grateful heart.

Thirdly, when you take up an offering for your house church to buy something for the house church's use, don't keep a record of how much someone gives. Leave a box at the door and allow people to drop money in or something, but don't keep records of that. No one should be more honored because they give a lot or less honored because they give less. Let each one follow the Holy Spirit in their giving.

God isn't afraid to offend us. He may tell one person with a lot of money to give nothing, and He may tell another person with very little money to give something. God is the tester of our hearts. Would we obey in this situation? Would we judge our brother unrighteously if we saw someone of great means not give? What if the person with the most money always gave, and no one else did because they figured the wealthy person could do it? That too is not of the Spirit. Each person must give as the Holy Spirit puts it in their heart to give.

Lastly, do not look at your brother or sister when you are deciding what to give. Look at the Holy Spirit. And if someone is not following the Holy Spirit in this area and you know it because the Lord has told you this is the case, then you may need to confront that person in love, just like you would do if they weren't following in another area of their life. However, confronting in love is not the same as trying to control them. You are just bringing to their attention what the Spirit is saying: you're bringing a correction. And correction is generally something a pastor or prophet or apostle would bring to your church or individuals in your house church. They carry the authority to govern, so correction coming from them will carry the authority necessary for such modification.

In all things put on love. Give in love. Judge in love. Correct in love. And keep your eyes on Jesus. If you're dead to self and you trust in Him, He will work everything out for your good; you don't need to have it be fair. What Jesus did wasn't fair, and it doesn't need to be fair for you either.

***What about arguments that might arise, how would the house church solve these?***

Read: Philippians 4:2-3

Arguments are nothing new. They have arisen over the years in the institutional churches and those churches split to become different denominations. But the institutional church is not the only place arguments have been found. The first house churches had arguments within them at times, and house churches today do too. However, the difference is that in a house church, the

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end result of an argument is not to divide like the institutional church, but to unite with the Holy Spirit instead.

Paul's command to the Philippian church is one that we can use for churches in general, not only that particular church. He told the two women who were arguing to be of the same mind in the Lord, and he told the rest of the church to help them. So, what does this look like in a practical sense?

To be of the same mind in the Lord is to agree with the Holy Spirit. Arguments arise because two people disagree, which means they each have an opinion. Unless your opinion is the same as God's, you need to get rid of it. When Paul tells Euodia and Syntyche to be of the same mind in the Lord, he means they each have to agree with the Holy Spirit. What happens if we all agree with the Holy Spirit? There's no division, right? There's no disagreement. There's no arguing.

But then Paul tells the church to help these women to be of the same mind. That's where the rest of the church comes in. Sometimes when we're arguing or we have an opinion, it can be hard to hear the Holy Spirit because we've come with an agenda. Having others listen to the voice of the Holy Spirit with us will help us to hear more clearly. Therefore, the church needs to come around those who are arguing and help them to hear the mind of the Lord in whatever the situation is that they're arguing about. Then the two that are arguing need to humble themselves and agree with the Holy Spirit.

If this is not working for some reason, your last resort would be to bring in the pastor, prophet, or apostle to mediate. This is evidently where the argument developed to between Euodia and Syntyche. The Philippians brought the argument to Paul's attention and he told them what to do about it. Hopefully, it wouldn't get so bad that you would need to call in the authority of your prophet or apostle, but if so, that's fine. Just do it. You want unity with the Holy Spirit in your house church.

And remember to pray for those who are arguing. Pray that they would humble themselves and agree with the Holy Spirit. Command the lies of the enemy to be broken so that they can see clearly, and so forth. The end goal of an argument between those who are in Christ is not that someone wins and someone loses, but that we all agree with the Holy Spirit because we are all one in Christ Jesus.

***What would an Apostle's job actually be with regard to a house church, and would they be able to attend to the needs of many house churches?***

Read: Ephesians 4:11-13    Ephesians 2:19-20

Apostles provide authoritative covering for house churches. The struggles new house churches encounter could many times be thwarted by having apostolic covering because apostles have been given authority from Jesus to govern and equip the body of Christ.

Governing and equipping includes bringing direction, correction, and doctrine to house churches. An apostle should not be trying to control a house church, but they will be giving direction and



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correction where needed. The house church needs to be open to the direction and correction of their apostle. Jesus gives His apostles the big picture for the church, which means apostles will be looking to see if their house churches are operating within that big picture.

Apostles are also given revelation for the church. As such, the doctrine that is taught within the house church should be checked by the apostle. This doesn't mean no one can speak unless the apostle first checks it. It just means that doctrine flows down from apostles to the church. For example, are there differing views in your church on what a Scripture passage means? Well, ask your apostle to straighten it out for you. If your apostle doesn't know the answer right away, they will ask the Lord who will give them the answer. It's part of their "job description" to receive revelation for the church. The Lord is very faithful to give it to them, even if they have to ask another apostle for help.

Additionally, apostles cover their house churches in prayer. The apostle Paul is a great example of this. He prayed often for his churches, and he received the brunt of the attacks from the enemy. This is how it works. Think of it like a snow globe. The apostle puts himself over the churches under him. The churches are covered in the glass of the snow globe. The apostle is that glass. Therefore, the attacks of the enemy will hit the glass and not what's under it. The apostle may get attacked, but what he's covering will escape a lot of the arrows. Therefore, it's also a good idea to pray for your apostle. Jesus covers apostles and equips them to cover others, but praying for the apostles is helpful.

Apostles are also equipped to attend to the needs of however many churches the Lord gives them. Your apostle will not be in attendance at your meetings every time you meet. Instead, apostles will go from church to church, checking on things and making sure those in the church are being disciplined and sent out. They will be assisting in whatever way is needed, and often times they would come with their prophet. Other times, they may send their prophet in their stead. They may also give instruction to a pastor to pass on to the church. Their presence in each meeting will not be necessary, and they will be able to handle whatever the Lord gives them to do. It's His grace that is sufficient for each of us.

Jesus chooses His apostles and then equips them for the task. They cover their churches and help to equip them to be all that God desires them to be.

***What if the Apostle over our house church makes bad decisions, is there anything we can do to straighten these out, what are the options?***

Read: Acts 15:36-41

If you believe that your apostle has made a poor decision or several poor decisions, you need to speak with your apostle about these decisions. The church of Jesus Christ is like a craftsman style house that is simple, with all the windows and doors open. There's nothing hidden or secretive. Whatever decisions your apostle has made are supposed to be made according to what he or she is hearing from the Holy Spirit. Therefore, if those in your house church think the decisions being made are poor, you should speak with your apostle about it. And it would be preferable if the



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prophet over your church was present too because if the apostle is in the wrong, a prophet could help to bring correction.

If it turns out that your apostle has been listening to the Holy Spirit and has been making decisions based on what he or she hears, then you need to accept those decisions. Just because your church doesn't like something, doesn't mean it's not right for you. Remember that to live for Christ means that we die to self. True Christianity is not about us and our opinions. It's about Jesus. He's the Way, the Truth, and the Life.

When Paul and Barnabas disagreed, it was Barnabas' place to submit to his apostle. Instead, he went off on his own with Mark. So, Paul took Silas, another prophet, in the place of Barnabas and continued his journey. It may be that Barnabas was correct in his desire to take John Mark. He may have been hearing that from God. However, Paul was the apostle, and he was authorized by Jesus to make the final decision. God worked this for good, but the split did not need to occur.

God's Kingdom is not a democracy. You don't get to have a board that can vote against your apostle. It isn't "majority rules." Jesus chooses His apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors, and teachers. He chooses, and we don't. Therefore, He also equips those He's chosen to make good decisions. That means if a decision is something you don't like, it doesn't mean the decision is necessarily bad. Speaking to your apostle about this in the presence of their prophet will help to set things straight. Either they will change the decisions they have made, or your house church will understand why the decisions were made and be willing to accept them.

If everyone is agreeing with the Holy Spirit, there can be no divisions. That's the goal – agreement with God. In this way, we will be loving each other well.

***If my house church agrees to be under an Apostle, how binding is that? What if we don't like the Apostle?***

If your house church doesn't like their apostle, and it doesn't seem to be a good fit, you should seek the Holy Spirit for wisdom. He knows the best course of action. He has in mind already what you should do.

You should also be honest with your apostle. God's house churches are not like the institutional church. There are not backroom deals or secret meetings. Instead, everything is open. Decisions are made in the open. The Holy Spirit is allowed to move freely, and nothing is hidden. Therefore, be up front with your apostle, and tell them your church does not feel like it is working out. Ask your apostle to pray for wisdom too.

Holy Spirit may tell your church and your apostle that you need to part ways. Or He may point something out that either your church or your apostle needs to correct, in which case you may start getting along better once the correction is made. Once your church and your apostle have heard from the Holy Spirit regarding His best for your situation, everyone needs to agree with the Holy Spirit and do as He says. Holy Spirit will give your church and your apostle the right answer.

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Read: 2 Corinthians 11:1-15

In this account Paul was defending his apostleship to the Corinthian church. Paul was obviously the apostle of this church, but the church was allowing in others who were not apostles and allowing themselves to be swayed by what these non-apostles were saying. You could say they were less inclined to want Paul as their apostle at this point. In this case Paul defended himself and pointed out that what they were starting to desire was not from God, but that Paul was the right apostle for the Corinthians.

In your house church, the Holy Spirit may say something similar to what He said to the Corinthians through Paul. Or, He may say something entirely different. He may have you stay with your apostle, or He may have you part ways. But you will not know unless you humble yourselves and listen with an open heart, allowing your apostle to know what's going on so that they can listen as well. Wise apostles will also bring in their prophet to help them listen.

In this way, love will win, whichever choice the Lord directs you to make.

***If the Pastor in our house church decides that what his Apostle has given him to teach is not good, can he decide to protect the flock and not teach it?***

Read: Acts 15:1-35

If the pastor of your house church is given something to teach from your apostle and he doesn't think it's right, he needs to speak to the apostle about it. The apostle is not going to force him to teach something, because he or she is not going to try to get the pastor to do something against his will. However, apostles are the ones given revelation for the church. Pastors are not. Pastors are under the authority of apostles, and as such, they do not have authority from God to correct their apostles. They may question them and speak with them, but a rebuke from a pastor to an apostle holds no water in God's eyes.

If the pastor and the apostle cannot agree regarding the topic being taught, they would need to bring in the apostle's prophet or an apostle who oversees apostles to mediate with the Holy Spirit. There are apostles over house churches, but there are some apostles who are over other apostles. In these types of cases, one of those apostles may need to be brought in, just as Paul and Barnabas went to Jerusalem to speak with the council of apostles. In this case, Paul and Barnabas were correct and the men who were teaching the false doctrine were wrong. Paul and Barnabas received a letter proving that the other apostles had agreed with them, and the church was encouraged by their words.

If your pastor is in the wrong, your apostle will correct him in love by the Holy Spirit. If the pastor will still not relent, either your apostle will instruct the pastor to leave the house church until he repents. Or your apostle may call in another apostle and perhaps a prophet to bring correction to the pastor, and they will let the church know that the pastor is in error. If the pastor still persists, the apostle and prophet may at that time instruct him to leave the house church until he repents of his attitude.

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If your pastor is correct, the apostle will receive that correction from his or her prophet and/or the apostle who is over him or her. Pastors do not have authority to correct apostles. However, if a pastor thinks that the apostle is in error, they may question their apostle. But it will be the prophets and other apostles who will actually bring the correction to your apostle if it is needed.

This is how Jesus set up His church. The greatest authority is given to apostles, not to the pastors. And it must be remembered that all of this WILL be done in love, under the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

***Will there be like a counsel of Apostles that oversee the individual Apostle? Or who would enforce discipline for the Apostle?***

Read: Galatians 2:1-16

For the first church, it was somewhat easier to have a counsel of apostles and elders because many of the original apostles were still living. Judas had died, and James the brother of John was martyred, but many of the others were still around. As the church multiplied, there became more and more apostles, and they recognized other apostles who were called later, like James the brother of Jesus, Paul, or some of the others.

Today, the Lord Jesus Christ has many apostles that He has called. However, they have not all stepped into their calling yet, and some have not even been born yet. Each apostle that Jesus calls needs to agree with the Lord and accept the calling, then they will have to go through a desert and be tested for a time, and then they will step into their calling when the Lord Jesus determines the time is right. Because of the number of apostles in the earth today, there is not a council of apostles. Instead, there are what the Holy Spirit has referenced to us as “Apostles’ Apostles,” meaning apostles who are over apostles and who help train other apostles when necessary.

While apostles carry the greatest authority of those in the fivefold ministry, Jesus varies the amount of authority even within those offices. So, some apostles are apostles over nations, some are apostles over cities, some are apostles over several house churches, and so forth. The apostles over nations would have greater authority than those over the cities, and those over the cities would have greater authority than those over several house churches, and so forth. And the same is true for the other fivefold ministers – the amount of authority varies.

Within these spheres of authority, the Lord has apostles that He has raised up to help oversee other apostles. That means the apostle over your house church would likely have an apostle over them that they could go to for help or that could bring correction or discipline if it was necessary. This correction or discipline would only come through the leading of the Holy Spirit. As such, it would be done in love. When Paul opposed Peter to his face, Peter relented because Paul was right. Paul was not necessarily over Peter in authority. They were more on the same level of authority, but Paul’s correction was correct, and Peter’s attitude was one of humility because he received that correction that came through the witness of the Holy Spirit. This is how correction will come to an apostle who needs it – through the Holy Spirit and love.

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It's also important to note that apostles are not the only ones who correct apostles. Prophets are also allowed to correct apostles. Prophets have leeway to hear from God and give a different direction to the apostle. This direction may come in the form of a correction. The other fivefold offices of evangelist, pastor, or teacher may hear something as well and bring it to the apostle's attention to have it addressed, but it's not the same as a correction from a prophet.

If your apostle needs correction, either a prophet will bring it to them, or it will come through another apostle. And of course, this will all be done under the direction of the Holy Spirit and love.

***A new Prophet is in town, and one of the members of the house church wants him to speak at your house church; who decides if he can speak there or not?***

Read: 2 Corinthians 12:19

All things should be done for edification. In other words, whatever you do should be building each other up. Paul wrote that what he did as an apostle was to edify the church. That's what you should be thinking about too.

There are many ways to build each other up. The Scriptures testify that praying in tongues builds up the ones who pray. If tongues are interpreted, then those same tongues build up those who hear the interpretation. Prophecy also builds others up, as does revelation, teaching, a word of knowledge or wisdom, and so forth.

Having a new prophet in town could be beneficial to building up those in your house church. But just because something could be beneficial, doesn't mean it's necessarily what God desires for your house church. As with everything you do in your house church, you should ask the Holy Spirit for direction. Ask Him, not only if you can have the prophet come to your house church, but if it's His best that you should.

If everyone is listening with an open heart to the Holy Spirit, there should be a consensus on whether or not it would be best to bring in the new prophet to speak at your house church. Whoever is in charge at your house church would then make the ultimate decision, but it would be based on what the Holy Spirit said. So, if there's a pastor in your house church or a prophet or apostle, they would likely make the ultimate decision, but if everyone was hearing that the prophet should come, that decision would be easy for them. They would have the prophet come. If everyone was hearing the prophet shouldn't come, again it would be an easy decision for the one in charge. They would agree with the Holy Spirit that the prophet shouldn't come.

When everyone is listening to the Holy Spirit, and especially listening for what is best, then whoever had the idea of bringing in the prophet does not need to become offended or upset if their idea is shot down because it will be shot down only because the Holy Spirit said to not do it. In this way, no one is at fault. There are no opinions that rule the day. Someone doesn't vie to get what they want. Instead, each listens to the Holy Spirit and wills to do the will of the Father. (John 7:17)

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Dying to self and living for Jesus, means His will is done in your life. When your whole house church has this attitude, making decisions is easy. There are not contentions, but each person is built up and able to mature as decisions are made according to the Holy Spirit of Jesus Christ.

***There is a new member who began coming to my house church who is very disruptive and annoys everyone; how should that be handled?***

Read: Matthew 18:18-20

Don't be afraid to use your authority to bind and loose in your house church. If there's someone coming who is constantly disruptive, ask the Holy Spirit what spirits are behind that behavior and then bind those spirits from operating before the person even arrives at your house. Jesus said that we have the authority to bind and loose, and He promised that He would be with us when we gathered together in His name. So, keep these truths in the forefront, and don't let yourself get distracted or become annoyed with what the enemy is trying to do.

After you have bound the spirits that are behind the disruption, then ask those who gather at your house church, including the person who is doing the disrupting, to pray about how to deal with disruptions in the house church. Take some time to listen to Holy Spirit together, asking Him for wisdom to deal with disruptions. Then, whatever He tells you to do, do that. He may tell you that the person with the disruptive personality needs deliverance. If so, ask the person if you can all pray for him or her. Or Holy Spirit may speak to the person who is doing the disrupting about their behavior. Holy Spirit may also tell you that the person is a plant from the enemy and you need to ask them to not come back. Your home is your property. You do not have to allow anyone in that God doesn't want there.

There are any number of things the Lord may direct you to do in handling a disruptive person. Listening to Him regarding this, and even including the person who disrupts, if possible, will take care of the problem.

Of course, if you need to, feel free to bring in your apostle or your prophet to help you. They will listen to the Holy Spirit for you and give you direction in what to do if you need their help.

Jesus loves people, even those who are disruptive, but sometimes that disruption needs to be dealt with so that all can be free to pursue the Holy Spirit together. How the issue is dealt with will vary, so be sure to seek the guidance of the Holy Spirit and bind the disruptions while you seek the Lord on this.

***There are two opinions on what kind of music should be used during worship at my house church. It's making everyone crazy and offended. What can be done?***

Read: Ephesians 5:15-21

There's a lot in these few verses from Ephesians that can help us as we navigate issues like worship music in our house churches. First of all, we are supposed to understand what the will

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of the Lord is. In fact, it's wisdom to understand the will of the Lord. So, instead of desiring the worship music to be one kind or another, set your devotion on Jesus and line up your desires with His. What style of music would He like you to worship with today? What is His will in this situation? If you can't let go of your likes and dislikes regarding music style, you need to consider who you're worshipping. Are you Lord, or is Jesus? Is your worship for you, or for Jesus?

Secondly, we are supposed to submit to each other in the fear of the Lord, and what that really means is submit to each other in love. Out of love, you are not trying to get your own way. And out of love, your brother or sister should not be trying to get their own way either. The choices you make in life should not be based on selfish desires, but on following the Holy Spirit. That means even in the music with which you worship, die to yourself and decide you can and will worship the Lord in Spirit and truth, no matter what the music sounds like. In a practical sense, you may be singing in tongues during worship, or listening to the Spirit, or interceding in prayer for something. You may not necessarily be singing along to the song, but you're still worshipping the Lord.

Lastly, be grateful. Does your brother or sister love to worship God with a particular song that you don't really care for? Be grateful that they can worship the Lord with something that they enjoy. Give thanks to God that He cares so much for your brother or sister that He would lead your group to use a song that they enjoy, even if it's one that you don't enjoy.

Asking the Holy Spirit which songs to use, submitting to one another in love, and having a grateful heart of love will defeat the enemy of opinion and division. Love truly never fails. If you choose to operate in love, you will not go wrong in your house church. Choosing love means Jesus will be lifted high!

***Our house church is getting too big, there are 30 people coming now and we know it should split into 2 churches, but no one wants to leave. What now?***

Read: Mark 4:1-2, 10    Acts 2:46-47

Notice that Jesus taught a multitude, but when He actually explained things to His disciples, it was in a much smaller setting. Those who really desired to be His disciples, to walk as He walked, He was willing to disciple. Those who came for the miraculous or to hear what He might say were part of the crowd. The first church also added to their number daily those who were saved, but they kept them in smaller groups – going house to house. Smaller groups are a much more effective way to disciple than large groups.

Too many people in a house church is a legitimate issue that house churches will be facing. The love between those of the Spirit of Christ means we don't desire to be separate from each other. We desire to be together, and it's difficult to part ways, even when we know we should.

If there are 30 people in your house church, that's really too many to be able to disciple well. You will need to split. The good news is that the Lord desires His house churches to come together regularly in larger group settings for worship or perhaps to hear from their apostle. So,

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multiplying house churches doesn't mean you'll never see each other again or that you won't be able to worship with each other again. And in fact, you can even visit other house churches. There are not "membership" lists that house churches keep in an effort to keep people in their "church." There is freedom where the Spirit of the Lord is, and that includes where the Holy Spirit might send you to worship and be discipled any given week.

If your group has gotten too big and needs to separate in order to multiply, you need to ask the Holy Spirit together for the best way to do that. Everyone needs to lay down what they desire and surrender to Holy Spirit. Then ask together what to do. If there is still disagreement after everyone listens, then bring in your prophet or apostle to help you.

Keep in mind that while it's difficult to leave one another, it's going to be better in the end. People will be discipled much better in smaller settings. Allow the Holy Spirit to lead in this matter. Jesus is the head of His church, and He knows best what we should do. Follow Him.

***We always meet at the same house, and the host is getting tired of supplying all the snacks and drinks. How should that be worked out?***

Read: John 13:34-35      Matthew 7:12

Loving someone is doing for them what you would like them to do for you. When you borrow something, do you bring it back in the same or better condition than when you borrowed it? Or do you bring it back dirty and maybe even broken? When it's time to get in line for something that you like, do you race to the front so you can be first, or do you let others go ahead of you because that's what you would like done to you? When you give a gift, do you give something the person would actually like or is your gift giving selfishly motivated? Whatever you would like someone to do for you, you should do for them. This is true when it comes to snacks and drinks in your house church as well.

Unless the Holy Spirit specifically says so, no one person should be supplying snacks and drinks for everyone every time you meet. But does that mean you set up a schedule and everyone signs a list for the week they'll bring a snack? Well, that's an easy way to do it. But a better way would be to listen to the Holy Spirit. You should be listening to the Holy Spirit before you come together anyway to see what He has for you to bring spiritually to your church – maybe a word of wisdom, a prophecy, a song, a vision, etc. But you can also ask if there's anything He'd like you to bring physically, like food or drink or something else.

We're used to the institutional church where things are done for us and people are either paid to do them or forced to volunteer in order to "serve God." And following the Holy Spirit is minimal. Instead of listening to Him, they make lists of when it's your turn to do something for the church, like bring a snack. Sign-up lists are not bad if the Holy Spirit says to do it, but generally that's not the case.

Do not put the burden on the host of the house church to do everything for your church. Take part. Ask how you can love each other well. You can even ask together as a house church how



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the Lord would like you to handle snacks and drinks. And to the host I say, “If you stop providing snacks and drinks for a few weeks, others may start to understand that they need to step up and do their part in providing.”

Jesus said we would be known to be His disciples by our love for one another. Therefore, choose love. Be willing to follow the Holy Spirit even in the small things like snacks and drinks because we follow in earthly things as well as in spiritual things. And if you follow the Holy Spirit, you won’t be able to not love, because God is love. Amen.

***What is a prophet's job in the house church?***

Read: Ephesians 4:11-13

A prophet’s job in the house church is to equip the saints. Just like the other fivefold offices of apostle, evangelist, pastor, and teacher, the prophet is working with the Holy Spirit to equip the saints for the work of ministry and to bring them into maturity. In order to do this, the prophet will be hearing from the Holy Spirit and bringing to the rest of the house church what they are hearing. This may come in the form of visions, prophetic words, instruction, teachings, rebukes, direction, or something along those lines. He or she may also be gifted in interpretation of dreams or tongues because of what is required from them in their office. In this way, they may be assisting your group in understanding what the Lord is speaking to each of you.

The Holy Spirit says that prophets are navigators in the body of Christ. The following definition of a navigator will help us understand what that means.

*Navigators are responsible for a ship or aircraft's navigation requiring positional awareness. Their duties include mapping out for the journey, avoiding any hazards during travel, and advising the captain or commander on estimated time en route to the destination. Navigators are involved in maintaining the ship or aircraft's communication, nautical publications and charts, navigational equipment, and meteorological device. In the air force world, modern navigators are tasked with copilot duties and employing weapons systems. ([www.zippia.com](http://www.zippia.com))*

The Lord is so clever to use the word “navigator” in describing prophets. When you look at what navigators do in the natural, prophets do all of those things in the spirit. They tell us where we are spiritually, they see ahead to hazards and map out a course of action. They advise the apostles which route to take and how long it should take to get there. They maintain communication with the Holy Spirit constantly to keep us updated, and when necessary, they help to pilot the ship with their apostle, even engaging in spiritual warfare.

Keep in mind that even though the prophet over your house church will be doing all of this, there will be other prophets within the house churches who are at different stages of being called out as prophets. These are still learning and will need help and patience from the rest of your church as they mature. So, be sure to put on love as each of you are disciplined in your various roles in the body of Christ.



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***Our Prophet seems to "steal the show" every week. Others would like to participate too. What can we do; he is very gifted?***

Read: Romans 13:10      1 Corinthians 13:13

It is true that prophets sometimes have a difficult time staying silent so that others have a chance to speak. They hear God, and they speak what they're hearing. And often times, they take a long time to get to the point. We laugh about it sometimes because I (Tiffany) will ask Kirk a question that I believe he can answer in literally a few words. However, Kirk will often tell me a long story of how he got to the answer, or he'll bring me what seems like such unrelated details to my question, that once in a while I will stop him and say, "Did you hear my question?" because it seems to me he's talking to me about something entirely different from what I want to know. Then Kirk will tell me he heard and that he's getting there (to the point). When he does that, I have to really focus to not forget what my question was at times! But in the end, I can see the wisdom of why he took me on a journey to answer my question that I would have answered in a few words. Generally, I just want the point without all the details and back story. But prophets often do not operate that way. All of that to say that prophets do not intentionally steal the show, but if they are not reigned in, others can feel as though they don't have an opportunity to participate in church.

If your prophet is "stealing the show" so to speak, then your church needs to talk with him about it. The role of a prophet in the house church is to equip the saints. Part of that equipping means the prophet is supposed to be helping the others to participate. He might be encouraging others to see in the spirit, to hear the Holy Spirit, to prophesy, to heal, to interpret dreams, and so forth. However, it is also true that prophets bring us the words of the Lord. It behooves us to listen to them then, even if it seems like it takes a long time.

If you need to speak to your prophet about this issue, remember to do it in love. Don't come to him in anger or offense. Remember that love does no harm to his neighbor. You're just letting your prophet know what the church has been feeling is happening. Your prophet will then ask the Holy Spirit about it, and if you are right, he will make the necessary changes. As always, you can involve your apostle in this process if you need to. When this correction is done in love, your church will grow stronger in the Lord because of it, and Jesus will be glorified because you chose love.

***Our house church has a very talented Evangelist who attends, but she doesn't seem to know what to do as far as going out evangelizing. Help!***

Read: 1 Corinthians 12:12-14, 23-27

The fivefold ministers are supposed to equip the saints for the work of ministry, and the role the evangelists play in that is to get people saved. They get them saved, and the others take it from there. So, in order to get people saved, the evangelists are normally going to have to go out of the house church to minister most of the time. Your house church can assist in this process, just

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as they can assist in helping to train and send out the other fivefold ministers that the Lord raises up.

First of all, you can allow and encourage those who hold an office to practice in your house church. You may ask someone you know who is called as a teacher to teach on a topic, or ask someone you know who is called as a prophet to prophesy. Or in this case, you may ask the one you know is called as an evangelist to lead the group in praise, give a word or knowledge, give a short word from the Lord, and invite anyone needing salvation to be saved.

After the evangelist has practiced within the house church, your group would need to encourage her to start evangelizing outside the walls of the house. To do this, a group of you may want to accompany her to a public place. You would encourage her to listen to the Holy Spirit before you go out, asking Holy Spirit to prepare the way before her, to prepare the hearts of the people He wants her to talk to, and then ask Holy Spirit for words of knowledge. The evangelist would then go into the store, or wherever she is, and look in her spirit for the ones the Holy Spirit is highlighting. She would approach them and perhaps give them a word of knowledge, heal them of an ailment, or prophecy over them. Then she may explain the gospel to them or even pray with them for salvation. One or several of your house church members would be there with her as she practices.

If a few people from the house church accompany this evangelist as she steps out into the world, she will gain confidence in the Lord. She will have the support of other believers praying for her as she listens and obeys the Holy Spirit, and after some time of practicing in this way, it will become normal for her to do this. She will not always need the assistance of the others at the house church. Instead, she will have the faith to evangelize wherever she is, whether she is alone or with others. The role of the house church then would be to continue to pray for her as she is on the front lines of the battle for souls. Your house church may even take up an offering for her if the Lord sends her farther away.

We are all one body with many roles. As we help each other in love, the body works as one with the Head, Jesus Christ, and is powerful and effective!

***What sorts of things would house churches collect offerings for?***

Read: Philippians 4:10-20

Previously we discussed taking up an offering for equipment your house church may want to purchase. But there are other things that house churches will want to take up an offering for.

Because almost no one will have a “paid” position in the house churches, except perhaps for those who will end up working full time and be unable to hold another job, some of the fivefold ministers are probably going to need some financial assistance sometimes.

We discussed previously that you may want to take up an offering to send out an evangelist from your group. If God is calling someone to go to another place, the body of Christ should step up and help to send that individual out. Evangelists commonly are called to travel to bring the gospel

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to the nations. They can't be expected to do that without some help from the body of Christ. So as the Holy Spirit raises up and sends out evangelists from your home church, be willing to take up an offering for them to go. And if they need assistance for some time, like if they're sent to another country for a year, be willing to help them throughout that time as the Holy Spirit may lead you.

Apostles and prophets may also need assistance financially. Besides evangelists, the prophets and apostles would be the next most traveled of the fivefold ministers. If your apostle has many churches to oversee or they are an apostle over your nation or something like that, they are going to need to travel. Be willing to assist them in bearing the cost. And for some apostles and prophets, what they do may be full time work. So, be sensitive to the Holy Spirit regarding helping them financially.

Once in a while you may also take up an offering to pay for gasoline for your pastor if he travels between churches. Or you may take up an offering for a traveling teacher. These things are not mandatory, but they are something that you should be open to in case the Holy Spirit leads you in that direction.

There will also be larger buildings that house churches will meet in occasionally so that many house churches can gather together for worship once in a while. These buildings will either need to be rented out or purchased. Therefore, at times, your house church may be led by the Spirit to give an offering to help offset the costs of building rentals or purchases.

Your house church may also have a ministry that is dear to your hearts that you feel led to give to regularly. Taking up an offering for that is fine too.

Whatever the Holy Spirit leads your house church to do will be just the right thing. All you need to do is be open to His voice and leading. Remember that the body works together. And keep love in the forefront. If you do this, Jesus will be greatly exalted!

***Our pastor oversees two house churches. We need help when he isn't in attendance, what do we do?***

Read: John 14:1      1 Corinthians 4:15-17

The goal of discipleship is Christ-likeness. To live like Christ, we must follow the Holy Spirit. So, in your house churches, the fivefold ministers should be teaching you to follow the Holy Spirit. This following will often be uncomfortable at first because it requires faith and laying down what you think to obey what you hear from the Holy Spirit.

When your pastor is absent, it is a great opportunity for the people in your house church to practice following the Holy Spirit. There's no one there to lead you, except the Holy Spirit. Therefore, choose faith! Decide you hear God, and decide you're going to obey what you hear.

Practically speaking you may all gather together and listen when everyone arrives for what the Holy Spirit would like to do first in your meeting. And as you progress through your time together,

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everyone just keeps listening and obeying what they hear. You may get some things wrong, but that's okay. God isn't upset with those who are trying to walk by faith. It's like a toddler learning to walk. Are the parents mad when the toddler falls down? No way! They cheer and clap and tell the child to get back up and try again.

There may also be times that your pastor will appoint someone to lead things in his stead like Paul did with Timothy. If that's the case, then pray for that person to be sensitive to the Holy Spirit. Encourage them and help them however you are led.

You don't have to be afraid if your pastor is gone periodically. You are learning to follow Jesus by following His Spirit, and uncomfortable situations where you're forced to follow the Spirit will help you in the end. Jesus will lead you by His Spirit.

***The Pastor of our house church doesn't do anything! He doesn't visit the sick, preach every week, or even conduct the service; he is always trying to train up others to do his job!***

Read: Ephesians 4:11-12

The pastor of your house church is supposed to build you up for works of service to the Lord. The fivefold is not intended to do everything for the body of Christ. Instead, they are tasked with equipping the saints so that the saints can do the work of ministry and become mature. If your pastor is training the people in your house church to do the works of ministry, he is doing exactly what he should be doing.

We run into a problem when we try to fit new wine into old wineskins. The institutional church that people are used to is not the way Jesus set up His church to run. It is man's way of doing things – where a pastor represents the rest of us, or in the Catholic church, a priest represents the people. In these types of churches, there's one "ordained" man who runs everything, or there may be a group of leaders who run everything. These are called "clergy," and the rest of the people are "lay people." This means the clergy does the work and gets paid for it by the lay people who do nothing but come and sit and listen. Oh, and the lay people also get to work in the nursery or the parking lot, but they're not going to get paid for that. For them it's a volunteer job. For the clergy, it's a career.

Do you see a problem with this? We've touched on it before. The apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors, and teachers are supposed to be equipping the saints for works of ministry, teaching the saints to follow the Holy Spirit in all things. Most of these fivefold ministers will not be compensated monetarily because their call from God is not their occupation. It's who they are. The whole body of Christ should be moving as one with the Holy Spirit, with Jesus as the Head. As such, the fivefold ministers will be training and equipping the saints. They will not be doing everything for them.

So, praise God if your pastor is training others up to heal the sick, to preach the gospel, and to lead in worship. He should be doing that. It's just what Jesus wants him to do!

***How important is it that everyone can hear the Holy Spirit in a house church?***

Read: John 14:23-26     John 16:13

Your house church should be making decisions based on what you hear from the Holy Spirit. Therefore, it's necessary for each of you to hear Him. In fact, the ability to hear the Holy Spirit is vital for anyone who is in Christ. If someone wants to be a disciple of Jesus, they have to follow His Spirit, which means they need to be able to hear His Spirit. Jesus said, **"My sheep hear My voice."** (John 10:27) If you are His sheep, you will be hearing His voice.

If there is someone in your house church who doesn't hear God yet, then someone or several of you in the house church need to help that person. They have to be taught how to take authority over the voice of the enemy and silence him, how to discern between their thoughts, the enemy's thoughts, and God's thoughts. And they need to be taught that hearing God is an act of faith. They're going to have to use faith.

They also need to be encouraged to keep trying to hear the Lord even when they seem to have "failed." There is no failure in Christ. If you stumble, you get back up and try again. Therefore, keep practicing with them. As they hear God, their faith will rise because, **"Faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God"** (Romans 10:17).

Lastly, teach those who are learning to hear God to obey what they hear. It does no good to hear God and not do what He says. That's not faith, nor is it discipleship.

It is vital that everyone in your house church hears God. If there is someone who doesn't, have one or more people help that person to hear. Jesus will be lifted high as you all hear God and obey what He says.

***It seems no one in my house church will make a decision, they only want to pray for direction all the time instead of just making a decision!***

Read: 1 Corinthians 2:6-15, 3:18-20

There are two kinds of wisdom. One is earthly and demonic. The other is heavenly, or of the Holy Spirit, which is why the Scriptures state that all wisdom and knowledge is hidden in Christ (Colossians 2:3).

When people desire to make decisions according to their logic or reason, they are depending on something that is inferior to making decisions based on what the Holy Spirit is saying. This is true, even though what the Holy Spirit says may not sound right to logic or the intellect. In fact, what the Holy Spirit says often won't sound right to our intellect. Do it anyway! Get rid of opinions. They cause division and quarreling.

The Holy Spirit says that people will get angry in our house churches at times when they come up with an idea that "makes sense," and they are still required to ask the Holy Spirit what to do. For example, someone may have an idea of what to do in a certain situation, and their idea makes absolute sense. And someone else will say, "That sounds good, but let's ask the Holy Spirit." The

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person with the idea will sometimes get angry. This is because dying to self can be quite painful. Opinions stem from pride – we think we know what’s right or the right way to do something or the right way to think about something. The truth is we know nothing unless the Holy Spirit reveals it to us.

In your house church, do not allow yourselves to be bullied by intellectual people that desire to make decisions through intellectual means. **You must determine from day one to follow the Holy Spirit only and never compromise.** This may be painful at times when it makes people angry, but Jesus made people angry too. They didn’t put Him on the cross because He was nice. They put Him there because He was uncompromisingly offensive to their way of thinking.

Pray for peace and stand for truth.

***Will the Lord always answer even the most elementary issues by giving guidance during prayer?***

Read: John 3:3-8      John 12:24-26

Many Christians seek the Lord’s direction when they are making big decisions in their lives. They may seek Him regarding a new job or moving to a new place. They may seek Him for wisdom in making a marriage decision, or regarding something related to their children. Those who listen to the Holy Spirit and follow Him would not think it strange to ask for wisdom regarding these types of things.

However, very few people who call themselves “Christians” ask the Lord about everything. They generally don’t ask Him when they should grocery shop, what they should eat, how much tip money to leave at a restaurant, what they should wear that day, who He would like them to talk to in line at the post office, and so forth. Perhaps these Christians do not think the little issues in life warrant bugging God about. Or perhaps they think that they’re capable of making at least some decisions without prayer. Why would you need to ask God everything, anyway?

When Jesus told us that we must die in order to live, He didn’t mean just die to the big decisions in our lives and seek His face for the big things. Or just allow Jesus to be Lord over some areas of our lives. He meant die. Die to everything that you were and be born again. Be born into Christ. Become the righteousness of God in Him (2 Corinthians 5:20). Die so that you can truly live.

Not only *will* the Lord answer even the most elementary issue when you ask Him, He *wants* to! When you are so humble that you seek His face on every detail of your life because you love Him and want what He wants, He will not deny you. And you will become closer to Jesus as He truly becomes the Way for you. His Way is the right way. Decisions made another way are not His Way. Jesus said that He could do nothing except what He saw the Father do (John 5:19). And He only spoke what He heard the Father say (John 12:49). If we are His disciples, we can do no less. For a student is not greater than his Master (Matthew 10:24).

Therefore, don’t be afraid to ask the Holy Spirit even about the elementary issues. He wants to answer you!

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***Some people in my house church don't seem to hear the Holy Spirit well and so they feel they are left out of the decision making. How can we help them?***

Read: Hebrews 5:12-14

Unless everyone is on the same level maturity-wise, there are always going to be some people who are discerning the voice of the Lord better than others in your house church. This is nothing to get uptight about. We all have to mature, and maturity is not something that happens instantaneously. Maturity is not a competition. And neither is decision-making.

As we've discussed before, it is imperative that everyone in your house church hears God because that's how we follow Jesus – by hearing His voice and obeying. This is elementary to our faith in Christ. We have to be hearing. If someone is not hearing God and feels left out of decision-making, then one, or several, of you need to assist that person in hearing. Build their faith, practice hearing with them, etc.

To do this, you may start by leading them to the Scriptures that show they can hear God's voice, like John 10:27 – **“My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me.”** Or Isaiah 30:21 – **“Your ears shall hear a word behind you, saying, ‘This is the way, walk in it,’ Whenever you turn to the right hand Or whenever you turn to the left.”** Or when Jesus spoke of the Holy Spirit bringing us what He says – **“He will glorify Me, for He will take of what is Mine and declare it to you.”** (John 16:14) Or have them read other Scriptures the Holy Spirit brings to you in the moment.

After building their faith by showing them in Scriptures that they can hear God, then you may want to practice hearing with them. Start by having them exercise their authority by silencing the voice of the enemy. Then have them take a piece of paper and draw a line down the center. Label one column “My Thoughts.” Label the second column “God's Thoughts.” You do the same thing, and then listen at the same time regarding the same topic. Compare notes as you go along and discuss how the Lord is speaking to you. Is it a quiet voice in your heart? Is it in a vision? Is it an impression? You're basically walking them through this, and once they hear a few times, then bring them back into the decision-making of the church. A lot of times, it's not that people can't hear or are not hearing, it's that they need to trust that they do hear and are hearing!

Remember that in your house church, you are discipling people. So, if you see someone struggling with hearing God, stop and help them. It's very necessary that everyone hears God in order to follow Jesus. The Holy Spirit will help you in this because He desires to speak to us even more than we desire to hear Him!

***No one is coming to the house church I started and it's been a month already! Should I just quit or something? I don't know what to do!***

Read: Psalm 105:17-22

Joseph, the son of Jacob, was given two dreams as a teenager in which God showed him that he would rule over his family. That was the word of the Lord. And yet, what happened to Joseph?



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He was kidnapped by his own brothers and sold as a slave. He served as a slave in Egypt for years after that. Some of those years he was in prison for something he didn't do. It certainly didn't look like his family was going to bow down to him. And yet, the Scriptures say, **"Until the time that his word came to pass, the word of the LORD tested him"** (Psalm 105:19). Eventually, Joseph was promoted from prison to the second highest seat in the land of Egypt. His family came and bowed before him. And just like Joseph, when the Lord gives us a word, it will be tested. Will we believe or won't we?

Remember the parable of the sower? Jesus said we had to understand the parable of the sower before we could understand any other parable. In that parable, the Son of Man sows the word. Each of us has an opportunity to bear fruit from the seed sown. However, if we allow the demonic to steal the word sown in us with their lies, or if we allow unbelief and doubt to steal the word, or if we allow trials and tribulations to steal the word, we bear no fruit. But, if we persist in faith despite the hardships, despite the trials, despite the attacks of the enemy, the word will bear fruit – 30, 60, and 100 times what was sown. (Mark 4)

If the Holy Spirit told you to start a house church, and no one shows up after a month, two months, two years, ten years, or ever, are you going to quit? Or are you going to continue to believe the word of the Lord? Are you going to obey only if you see something happen, or are you going to obey because it's what the Lord told you to do? God is the One who gives increase to something. Our job is to just obey.

When we choose to obey no matter what it looks like, we join the ranks of those listed in Hebrews 11, of whom it is recorded:

**These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off were assured of them, embraced them and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth. For those who say such things declare plainly that they seek a homeland. And truly if they had called to mind that country from which they had come out, they would have had opportunity to return. But now they desire a better, that is, a heavenly country. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for He has prepared a city for them.** (Hebrews 11:13-16)

When we choose to believe God no matter what, our faith will be rewarded. Some people never saw what they were believing for, yet they kept believing. Jesus has given us faith, just as He has given them. Let's use it to believe Him, no matter what it "looks like" the results may be.

***We have 8 teens in our house church; how do we keep them entertained? They seem to get bored...***

Read: Proverbs 22:6      Isaiah 54:13

A lot of, if not most, teens have reached the age of decision where they are able to choose to follow Jesus for themselves. Because of this, some will be more interested in being discipled than others. The temptation to entertain the teens in your house church so that they enjoy coming is real. And actually, it's not wrong to have a good time. God enjoys having fun. But the job of the



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church is not to entertain the youth so that they stay in church. Our job is to disciple them, which can be a lot of fun, but it's not the same as trying to entertain someone.

Instead of trying to entertain the teens in your house church, try to engage the teens in what you're doing. Get a vision for each of them – how does God see them, what does He have for their future, etc. Use that vision to help disciple them. Are they called as an evangelist? Encourage them to try words of knowledge and gifts of healing. Encourage them to practice sharing the gospel. Are they a seer? Do they get dreams and visions? Encourage them to share those and then assist in interpreting through what the Holy Spirit shows your group. Are they called as a teacher? Ask them to teach your group sometime.

You can't force the teens to enjoy their time at your house church, and you can't turn into an entertainment factory just to keep them from being bored. Sometimes you do for them everything Holy Spirit says, and they still act bored. Just keep believing what God has said about them. Keep calling out what God has shown you regarding these teens while you're alone or even as a group. Keep declaring the promises in Scripture that your children shall be taught by the Lord and if you train them up in the Lord, when they are old they will not depart from Him. Don't give up! Claim your teens for Jesus, for His Kingdom! Be relentless with this. God is faithful and He hears your prayers. The Holy Spirit is bringing in a great harvest of youth in these end times, and our children will be a part of it in Jesus' name!

***Our house church is made up of 5 couples with small children. It's very difficult to carry on a proper service. What can we do?***

Read: Proverbs 15:13, 15    Proverbs 17:22

If you have a lot of small children in your house church, and it's difficult to carry on a proper service, what should you do? You should probably laugh! You don't want a "proper service" anyway. You want a Spirit-filled service, and Holy Spirit likes children. They have great faith! However, there should be discipline for the children when necessary. This doesn't mean you need to see children as a hindrance. You want to include them in what you're doing, but sometimes they need correction. Other times the issue is just that their attention spans are not as great as yours. Even so, they can lay hands on people and heal them. They can listen to the Holy Spirit and tell you what they're hearing. They can answer questions, and they can ask questions. They can worship with you, and so forth.

Just because you're including them in what you're doing doesn't mean you need to "dumb things down" for the children, either. It just means that they are there to be disciplined, just like the adults. There's no junior Holy Spirit. So, the Spirit of Christ in you is the same Spirit of Christ who is in your children. The children will learn to be disciplined by watching and participating with what the adults are doing.

That being said, even though the children should be with the adults as much as possible, there may be times when someone is teaching something and there are children who are being disruptive. At these times, it may be necessary for the adults to take turns taking the children out

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of the room and engaging them away from the others so that there can be focus on what is being taught. Feel free to take turns playing or singing with the kids in another room at various times when you sense the Holy Spirit wants everyone to be able to focus on what is being taught. However, be careful not to make it a rule that the children are separated from the adults. The Lord wants the children to experience normal Christianity with their families.

As we mentioned before, it is important to understand that house church is a great time for the children to learn discipline. They can learn when it is appropriate to be loud and when to be quiet. They should understand when to speak and when to let others speak. They can learn to be self-controlled. They have to learn discipline, and what better place than in a loving house church setting? We each have to be respectful of others, and this includes the children.

As those in your house church help each other out in this and treat the children as valuable assets to the Kingdom of Heaven, you will be walking in love and patience. Your faith will increase, and so will your love for one another, and for the King! So, be willing to laugh, be willing to discipline, and be willing to follow whatever the Holy Spirit leads you to do each time you meet.

**\* Feel free to ask the apostle, prophet, or pastor over your house church any other questions you may have. Or you are always welcome to email us at [sggmworld@gmail.com](mailto:sggmworld@gmail.com) and we will answer your questions or direct you to someone who can!**

## **What is Revelation & Why do We Live by it?**

What is revelation and why do we live by it?

Merriam-Webster's dictionary defines revelation as the act of revealing or communicating divine truth or the act of revealing or making known.

Peter received revelation of Jesus Christ in Matthew 16:13-18.

**When Jesus came into the region of Caesarea Philippi, He asked His disciples, saying, "Who do men say that I, the Son of Man, am?" So they said, "Some say John the Baptist, some Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets." He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" Simon Peter answered and said, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." Jesus answered and said to him, "Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah, for flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but My Father who is in heaven. And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it."**

Father revealed to Peter that Jesus was the Messiah, and Jesus said the revelation of Jesus Christ is what the church is built upon. When we receive a revelation from God, it will be something about Jesus because Jesus is the revelation of the Father to us (Hebrews 1:1-4). Everything points to Jesus and originates from Him. As Colossians 1:15-17 states:

**He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. For by Him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things were created by Him and for Him. He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together. (NIV)**

In other words, everything is all about Jesus. All revelation from God is about Him – the One who reveals Father to us.

And yet, some think that we do not need any more revelation because we have the Scriptures. Let's look at a couple of passages to see if that is true.

**But Peter, standing up with the eleven, raised his voice and said to them, "Men of Judea and all who dwell in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and heed my words. For these are not drunk, as you suppose, since it is only the third hour of the day. But this is what was spoken by the prophet Joel:**

**'And it shall come to pass afterward  
That I will pour out My Spirit on all flesh;  
Your sons and your daughters shall prophesy,  
Your old men shall dream dreams,  
Your young men shall see visions.  
And also on My menservants and 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.  
And it shall come to pass  
That whoever calls on the name of the LORD  
Shall be saved.” (Acts 2:14-21)**

Do you think those who read the book of Joel before the Holy Spirit was poured out had any idea what was going to happen? If they had known, do you think they would have chastised the disciples and called them “drunk”?

Peter revealed what the passage in Joel meant to those who watched what happened on Pentecost. The meaning of the Scripture was revealed to show that Jesus had poured out His Spirit on mankind.

This is why we need revelation. Without revelation, we can read the entire Bible and not understand what God is saying. It’s not enough to just have the Scriptures. We have to have the Holy Spirit revealing the truth to us through those Scriptures. And remember, Jesus is the Truth, so the revelation we receive will point to Him, and it will come through His Spirit. If revelation is truth that God reveals to us, and the Holy Spirit is the Spirit of Truth who leads us into all Truth, is there any other way to arrive at the truth than by the Holy Spirit? He is, after all, the One who knows the deep things of God.

Jesus testifies that all things the Father has are His (John 16:13-15). These are the things He gives to the Holy Spirit to speak to us. These are the mysteries of God. And these mysteries are given to us by the Holy Spirit. There’s no other way to receive revelation than by the Holy Spirit.

But what about if an angel of the Lord brings us revelation? For example, one of the angels brought the interpretation of a vision to Daniel, which was a revelation of his vision. Is that by the Holy Spirit too? Of course it is. The angels of God are empowered by the Holy Spirit, and we receive the revelations they bring us by the Holy Spirit.

What if Jesus Himself appears to us? Can we receive revelation from Christ Himself, and then that wouldn’t be by the Holy Spirit? The Father asks, *“Can you do something apart from the Spirit within you?”* Of course not. We receive these revelations through the Spirit of Christ. Jesus poured out His Spirit on us that we may know Him by His Spirit, and Jesus is the revelation of the Father.

When we receive revelation from Jesus Christ through His Spirit, it will line up with Scripture. However, it will not always line up with our understanding of Scripture. This is because before

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the Holy Spirit reveals something to us, we only have an intellectual knowledge to go on. Intellectual knowledge is not revelation. Revelation of Jesus Christ is a firm foundation that cannot be shaken. Intellectual knowledge of Scripture is shaky, at best. It will not hold up in a storm.

Therefore, be willing to allow the Holy Spirit to give you revelation and show you in the Scriptures how the revelation is true. When you do this, you are saying you give up your intellectual understanding of the Scriptures in favor of what He reveals them to actually mean.

In Matthew 9:9-13, Jesus took a portion of Scripture to explain what He was doing when He ate with tax collectors and sinners. The Pharisees knew the Scriptures, but the revelation Jesus gave didn't line up with their interpretation of the Scriptures. They had a choice to make – either believe their interpretation or believe Jesus. If they believed their interpretation, they couldn't accept what Jesus said. If they believed Jesus, they had to change the way they interpreted the Scriptures.

It's important that we remember that Jesus is the Truth. The Holy Spirit of Christ leads us into all Truth. The Scriptures will bear witness to that truth because they testify of Jesus Christ. If we can keep this in the forefront, it will help us tremendously when we receive revelation.

Do Scriptures lead you into all Truth, or does the Holy Spirit? The Scriptures themselves testify that revelation does not come because we study Scripture and understand something with our intellect (John 5:39). Revelation comes because we surrender to the Holy Spirit, who leads us into all truth. He is the Spirit of Christ. He is the One who knows the deep things of God. He is the One who inspired the Scriptures. He will interpret what the Scriptures mean.

When the Holy Spirit brings us a revelation and it doesn't line up with our understanding of a portion of Scripture, then we re-evaluate that Scripture with the Holy Spirit. We allow Him to interpret the Scriptures and tell us what they mean, instead of us deciding what something means and making sure that whatever we hear lines up with our interpretation.

In some way, all revelation will reveal Jesus. As it does, it lifts Him up. The Scriptures say that we shall all be taught by God. His Spirit searches the deep things of God and reveals them to us in our spirits. These deep things of God are revelation of God, or we could say, they are revelation of Jesus Christ. He has come to us as the revelation of our Father. If you are hearing something presented as revelation that does not lift up Jesus, it is not real revelation.

For example, many teachings about the end times lift up the antichrist and lift up evil to such an extreme that it is taught that the times will be so bad God will have to rescue His church out of them because they won't be able to handle it. That kind of teaching does not lift up Jesus. Jesus took the keys of death and Hades from the enemy and gave all authority and power to His church. He's coming back for a victorious, pure bride, who is like Him.

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Additionally, revelation will not aggrandize the individual who brings it. (Aggrandize means to make greater or appear greater.) Everything we have we've received from God. This includes revelation. So, if we receive revelation, it has come from the Lord and will bring glory to Him. This doesn't mean people won't be impressed with the revelation we receive, just as they may be impressed with gifts of the Holy Spirit, like prophecy or healing, etc. When you walk in spiritual gifts, you can't help how others respond, but the gifts will exalt Jesus, regardless of how others view you.

It's the same with revelation. You can't help it if you bring revelation and people start to exalt you. You can try to get them stop, just as Paul and Barnabas tried to get the people in Lystra to refrain from sacrificing to them when they healed someone (Acts 14:8-18). Paul and Barnabas were successful, and then the people turned on them and stoned Paul, leaving him for dead. It just goes to show how we cannot put our trust in the opinions of men.

In like manner, the response of others isn't up to you. However, when you receive revelation or hear it from someone else, it will lift up Jesus. All revelation lifts up Jesus.

Most of the revelation you receive outside of personal revelation will come through the apostles because the apostles are tasked with bringing revelation to the church. It is the Holy Spirit who leads us into all truth, including revelation. And it is by the Holy Spirit that the apostles revealed in Scripture. The same is true today. Apostles receive revelation by the Holy Spirit.

As they revelate, Apostles will not be lifting up a book but lifting up Jesus. When you worship a book, every verse holds the same weight. When you worship the Lord, then there's a distinction. Some verses carry more weight than others. It's all based on what the Holy Spirit reveals about Jesus, and it's the apostles who are tasked with bringing the revelation of Jesus to the Church.

In our house churches, we need to remember that our opinions do not count, much study does not count, degrees and doctorates do not count; only revelation of Jesus counts. The Holy Spirit will bear witness to true revelation because He witnesses of Jesus. Therefore, ask the Holy Spirit to lead you into all truth.

## **End Times**

For end times revelation given to us at SGGM, please refer to *The Revelation of Jesus Christ and the End Times* by Tiffany Root & Kirk VandeGuchte. It would be helpful for each house church to have a copy of this book to use and pass around.

## **Visions of the True Church of Jesus Christ**

The following prophecies will help you get a good view of where God is heading. There are many more prophecies regarding the Lord's church than are listed here. Please refer to *The World & Church Prophecies: God's Great Reset*. We will also publish other books of prophecies on a regular basis that include prophecies regarding the Church.

Feel free to use these prophetic words to cast vision in your house churches and to teach from. They are words from the Lord and should be regarded as such.

### **How the Last Days Church will Come into Being – April 17, 2020**

The Lord says, "For understanding regarding how the last days church will come into being, simply look to Nehemiah and also to Zerubbabel. Times of great faith before the rulers of your time, yes and a time to put your hand to the plow in human labor in the Spirit of the Lord. Temptations and trials, mockers, perseverance in labor and in holiness and rejection of things creep in. Build the Temple and the Wall! Refute and cast down the detractors and traitors. Only go forward by My Spirit. I Am is with you. Do not fear, but cast it out! Fear is a liar! Go!"

### **A Vision of the Holy City – July 5, 2020**

The Lord says, "I'm preparing a City."

Kirk sees a vision... I see myself in a very sandy place, a desert. I have in my hand a level and some sort of rod. I am on the perimeter of something. I look up and see a myriad of what I suppose to be angels flying in the heavens. Then I go back to work.

There are others working too. The perimeter we are establishing is immense. I wonder what exactly it is? Then I hear: "I Am establishing the Holy City here."

Again, I wonder, how will there be enough people to fill it? I hear: "Look up again!" So, I look up. One of the beings which I had supposed to be angels comes closer. I saw that it was one of the saints. A cloud of witnesses was watching and waiting. After seeing their number, I started wondering if this place would be big enough!

The Lord's voice came again: "Do your work well prophet! Your Apostle, and yes, the saints wait and watch. The world, the nations are wondering what you will do. All are in anticipation, but I Am not in wonderment. I have trained up Apostle and Prophet and I Am standing in faith with you."

I then turned and went back to work with the tools and those who worked with me.

As I work with my Apostle, I notice that a shadow is trying to creep in. At first, I don't understand. My angel says: "It's a demon. They have no idea what's going on, because they live in an atmosphere of lies and deception. They have no capacity to know the truth from a lie, but they are curious anyway."



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I watch the shadow as it crosses the perimeter, going underneath things, behind, and tries its best to stay hidden. As it crosses, suddenly a loud shriek and a small puff of smoke where it had been. Again, my angel speaks: "There are no shadows or places to hide behind the veil. Everything is laid open and no evil can exist there."

Explanation:

The Lord says that the tools in someone's hand are indicative of that person's work. As Prophet, Kirk has a level and a rod. He receives the Word of God, and it keeps things level and is the measure by which all things are measured/judged. Kirk's rod is more like a staff. It has to do with leadership and discipling. The level has to do with discernment to see where the word is being abused. He's building the true church. Many people don't understand who the church is, what it is, who Jesus is. The watered down, lame excuse for the church is done. It's going to be the real deal or nothing at all.

As Apostle, Tiffany is holding a book and an iron scepter. The iron scepter is judgment and the execution of the judgment rendered. It's indicative of a ruler who rules, like overseeing, as well as rendering judgment. The book is indicative of revelation that apostles receive. Then the LORD gave Tiffany a vision regarding the book she holds:

I see cement steps. There's a concrete door. I push open the door. There's cool air. It's dark. There's light in the center where Jesus is. I walk toward the Light. It's warmer and of course brighter by Him. He hands me a book. A book of mysteries, of revelation. I wonder if it's the Bible and I'm reminded of a vision Kirk had years ago where I was surrounded by scrolls of revelation. Jesus says, "Your Prophet will tell you mysteries that you will understand as revelation and write in a book." I tell Him I can't do it without Him. He says, "Of course you can't. I've raised you up to know that, so you won't even try. You will rely on My Wisdom, on Me, not your own wisdom."

The apostles and prophets the Lord is raising up will work together to help to build the city of God, the true church, the one built on the revelation of Jesus Christ, and Him alone.

### **Psalm 34 Instructions to the Church – January 10, 2021**

The Lord is showing us that right now, as of today, it appears the USA will become a socialist state. The tech giants have cut off our president from communicating with us. Twitter, Facebook, and even Parler are affected. Speaker of the House Pelosi is calling for the impeachment of President Trump and he only has 10 more days to serve. Big Media is pumping out lies 24/7 about the supposed break in at the capital. Trump's cabinet members are quitting on him. Yes, we can see the dust rising from the army in hot pursuit and the water of the Red Sea in front of us. Praise God!

- I will bless the Lord at all times!
- My soul will make its boast in the Lord!
- O magnify the Lord with me!
- I sought the LORD, and He answered me!
- He delivered me of all my fears!
- Our faces will **never** be ashamed!

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- The poor man cries and the LORD hears him and saves him from his troubles
  - The angel of the LORD encamps around those who fear Him! And He rescues them too!
  - The Lord is good; taste and see!
  - Blessed is he who takes refuge in Him!
  - Fear the LORD, you His saints!
  - For those who fear Him there is no want!
  - Come and listen, I will teach you the fear of the LORD!
  - Keep your tongue from evil and lips from deceit!
  - The eyes of the LORD are toward the righteous, and He hears their cry!
  - The fear of the LORD is against evildoers!
  - The righteous cry and the LORD hears them!
  - The LORD delivers the righteous out of their troubles!
  - The LORD is near the brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit!
  - Many are the afflictions of the righteous, but the LORD delivers him out of them all!
  - Evil shall slay the wicked!
  - Those that hate the righteous shall be condemned!
  - The LORD redeems the soul of His servants!
  - NONE of those who take refuge in Him will be condemned!
- (Psalm 34 NASB)

The Lord says,

“To the **Apostle** – stand! When you have done all to stand, then, STAND!

To the **Prophet** – No hedging! Speak My words. No more. No less!

To the **Evangelist** – Get excited! Listen to the Prophets and fearlessly evangelize!

To the **Pastor** – Guard the sheep! Do Not allow the message from those who are weak, are hedging, those who are falling away!

To the **Teacher** – the Gospel. Ignore the circumstances altogether!

To the **Faithful** – Look up! Your redemption draws nigh! Listen to My voice!”

### **Prophecy Regarding the Church According to Jesus’ Example – April 17, 2021**

“Therefore bear fruits worthy of repentance... And even now the ax is laid to the root of the trees. Therefore every tree which does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance, but He who is coming after me is mightier than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fan is in His hand, and He will thoroughly clean out His threshing floor, and gather His wheat into the barn; but He will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire.”  
(Matthew 3:8, 10-12)

The addition of the New Testament to the book doesn’t change God’s view of the Bible. You still don’t find salvation in Scripture. Jesus said, “**You search the Scriptures, for in them you think you have eternal life; and these are they which testify of Me. But you are not willing to come**

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**to Me that you may have life.”** (John 5:39-40) Therefore, salvation is found only in Jesus. So, the bearing fruits worthy of repentance ... that’s in Him.

You cannot say you are saved and have no fruit worthy of repentance. Man can baptize you with water, but if you want the baptism of the Holy Spirit and fire that Jesus gives, there must be repentance.

Wouldn’t repentant people desire the Holy Spirit? Isn’t that agreeing with God? Even NOW the ax is laid to the root of the trees. Even NOW the winnowing fan is in the hand of the LORD! Now is the time! Repent and receive the Kingdom of Heaven.

“Who is this ‘church’ that looks nothing like Me, says the LORD? What is this religion that makes a mockery of Jesus Christ by claiming His name and bearing no fruit? Do I bear no fruit? I tell you, NO! I always bear fruit. A repentant heart is one found in Me, one that agrees with Me.

The time of the Church Age has begun, the real Church Age, the real Church – the one that glorifies Me, the one that lifts up only Me! This is the age of the Apostles. This is where the Apostles and Prophets will once again work together as one to bring the Kingdom of Heaven to earth. This is the age where My body will bring glory to Me, the Head. I Am cleaning out My threshing floor. None shall escape. Repent and be saved!

You who believe that you do not NEED the baptism of the Holy Spirit, was John the Baptist wrong then? Did the disciples not NEED the baptism of the Holy Spirit that Jesus told them to wait for? Jesus has the winnowing fan in His hand. You must decide.

Kirk and Tiffany, you have been teaching about the fivefold ministry. Rightly so. But I say that My church without spot or wrinkle will be the one after My words and My example – not another way. Not by wisdom of men, not by theology and doctrine or programs. It will be the one that follows My Spirit, says the LORD.”

### **The Time of the Apostles – April 23, 2021**

God is preparing for the time of the Apostles. The time of the Prophets is coming to an end. Not that He will not use the Prophets! He most certainly will. The Prophets who have stood, meaning those who have only stood on His words, no more, no less – yes, those Prophets who didn’t change their minds when the things that they had prophesied looked impossible, these, He will certainly use! However, the time of the Apostles is coming! His Prophets will take a back seat during this season, and they will be expected to come to the aid of the Apostles, yes, to serve them and literally lift them up before the people. The Prophets will then in turn be lifted up by the Apostles because the Apostles whom Jesus have chosen know how to lead and also that true leadership in the Kingdom is servanthood. The Apostles will be lifting up the rest of the fivefold ministers as well, who will then in turn lift up the true church.

So, the Lord is saying, “Apostles, you need a Prophet! Yes, each one of you! Prophets, you need an Apostle. Yes, everyone one of you! This is the Jesus way of doing things! He has given the Church gifts. Did you really think you could do it another way?”

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Also, the Lord is saying that most of the ministers in the fivefold are currently unknown! He is doing a new thing – do you not perceive it? These new ministers in the fivefold mostly know who they are and are waiting for the dam to break so that they can be poured out and cover the land. The Lord is looking for disciples of Jesus Christ of Nazareth. Yes, signs and wonders – the greater things Jesus said that believers would do! He wants to once again shake the ground during prayer meetings! He wants to set prisoners free because someone prayed in power! He is ready to be poured out in the Latter Rain in POWER!

### **Craftsman Style House Church – Open and Clean – May 27, 2021**

Today as I (Kirk) close my eyes to pray, I see a small house of the "Craftsman" style. I go closer to look at it. It has openings for windows, but there are simply openings, no actual windows. It also has an opening for a door, but no door is installed. Looking in, I see that it is completely empty – no furniture, wall hangings, decorations, nothing. It is, however, clean, very, very clean. There's no dust or dirt of any kind. Strange. Asking the Lord why I am seeing this...

After a while He says, "This is My church."

I'm not understanding what He means. It's empty. As I puzzle about this, the Lord says, "I expect the doors to always be open. I want whoever wants Me to be able to enter unobstructed. I also want the windows to allow those on the outside to see inside. I want everyone to know that there is nothing secretive or exclusive going on inside of My Church. I also want My Church to be clean! There are no decisions or deals being made that exclude anyone who might be interested. The wind of My Spirit is able to blow through, and My truth is there without obstruction.

My fivefold ministers are the craftsmen who build My house. These 'Craftsmen' follow My Spirit exclusively and are very bold and open about this! They do not pander but are dedicated to Me alone, says the Lord. They do not bow the knee to the people, to the 'church,' to anything or anybody, but Me. It has been said that anyone who kneels before Me will be able to stand before any man. This is true. The new wine, My wine, My Spirit, can be poured into these small 'churches' and My watchmen and Apostles are to be 'over' My churches, even as the evangelists, pastors, and teachers do their work there. They are all servants of Mine. I have chosen them, and, in My Kingdom, I Am is King and chooses as He will. So be it, says the Lord."

### **Craftsman Style Vision 2 – How the Church Operates – June 10, 2021**

This morning, I (Kirk) am seeing the craftsman style house again. It's the same one I was seeing on May 27, 2021. As before, I approach the house. This time I hear voices from within. As I approach, I hear the voice of the Lord saying, "This is My pastor speaking."

Then I hear the pastor speaking of recent events of the church as well as things coming up. He speaks as a servant of those gathered with the authority that comes from the Lord. As he finishes his part, he invites an evangelist to take the lead. She comes to the forefront and invites those gathered to a time of praise. Afterwards, she gives a short word from the Lord and invites those who do not know the Lord to accept Jesus as their Lord! After this, the pastor again raises his voice in inviting anyone with a praise or a word to raise their voice and bring their encouragement.

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Also, those who need healing or other kinds of needs are invited to receive prayer for those things.

I notice that those attending this church seem to all be friends. There are no "outsiders" or anyone who looks marginalized or alone. I'm wondering if these people have been here for a long time and are like "old friends"?

The Lord's voice comes again, "Kirk, about half of these people are new followers of Me. The reason you're wondering is because in My church there is no fear. No one is worried how they will get this or that done or if the new addition will be paid for, etc. There is no addition! The pastor isn't concerned that someone will 'take over' his place or he won't get his way because this is My church. In My church, there isn't a problem with 'unity' for those who are in Christ or issues with doctrine and theology because all of My fivefold ministers are only concerned with following My Spirit. They know Me and will not follow another," says the Lord.

As the time together ends at the church, a teacher gets the floor and invites anyone who wants to go deeper in the Lord to meet with him...

Amen.

### **Vision of House Churches – Apostles and Nodes – December 14, 2021**

The Lord is showing me what the "church," His church, the Bride of Christ, will be like. I saw that the Bride of Christ will be mainly made up of House churches. There may be a few churches that actually have a building that is set aside as a church building, but these will be very few in number.

The house churches will require a great number of fivefold ministers. They will be very great in number. Apostles and their Prophets will be given a number of these churches which they will preside over, and there will also be some Apostles with their Prophets who will be over Apostles. This arrangement will be set up in the same fashion as a Network. It will have connections like a web and nodes at the places where the connections come together. For example, an Apostle may have a "node" with his twelve churches, another's "node" will have five churches, etc. There will be an Apostle over the two apostles and their nodes, and on and on.

The Lord will cause each "node" to specialize in a particular facet of the Gospel, like mission work or evangelism, healing, the prophetic, etc. So, if training were needed in one of those areas, a person could simply be sent to the proper Apostle's node to be trained in that area.

The Lord will require that each Apostle is paired with a Prophet and together they will, with the other Apostles and Prophets, pull in the same direction as directed by the Spirit of God. There will be no competition for congregants, power, or resources, because the Spirit of the Lord will lead them and direct them to the Truth. Also, the different ministers in the fivefold will not be paid positions. They will be "part time" in nature due to the size of the house churches and the number of house churches that could be easily handled in a "part time" way. There will be a few who actually are full time in the Apostle's position, and they will be the servant of all they are over and will be called to this position by Jesus Christ Himself.

## **Warrior Bride – July 6, 2022**

Today the Lord wants to speak about His bride.

"My bride is not weak and in need of constant tending in the last days! For My bride is tried and true, and there is no falseness in her at all. As I have said before, both love and faith need to be tested to find their strength. My bride is a warrior, and in these last days, she will be tried, but she will not be found wanting.

Just as a war horse runs to battle, she is also always at the ready to do battle. Yes, but her every move is made in love! Yes, she is My bride! Her strength as a warrior is not in her ability to destroy, nor her ability to kill, but it is in her ability to love! My warrior bride's strength is found in Me. She has died once to herself, and now only finds life in Me. Because of that, she will never die!

Cowards look for a way of escape, for a way to avoid conflict and tribulation. My bride stands at the ready to charge the very gates of hell at My word! She has no fear at all because her love for Me was perfected when she died to herself.

Spot or wrinkle? No. She trembles at My word, and I love her more than she can even imagine! Amen."

## **The Apostles – March 3, 2023**

The Lord says, "Look at this mess! Even My fivefold ministers look like the blind leading the blind! This should not be! I AM has called them, and yet there is infighting among them as if they were of the world!

Look! You see My Teachers and Pastors, yes and My Evangelists are easy to spot, just as My Prophets, again easy to spot! But where are My Apostles? Oh, there are those who believe that they are Apostles. They have been given much grace as an Evangelist or Prophet, or maybe even a Pastor. Then people start to call them 'Apostle,' and they believe it. But there is One who calls. Only One!

It is written that the gifts and callings are irrevocable, and this is true! If I Am calling you as a Prophet, then that's what you have been called to. It is irrevocable. Don't you know what this word means? It means this: Incapable of being recalled or revoked; unchangeable; irreversible or unalterable. So, it does not matter what the person in the office desires to be or thinks they are. It doesn't matter what they are called by others. I AM calls you to your office, and He has decided that it will not change! Once He has called you, you are what He has called you to. You will not someday graduate to another office.

In the case of a Prophet, you must be called to the office of Prophet to have the office of Prophet. If you have the gift of prophecy and use it to an amazing effect, and you tower over those in the office of Prophet, you are still not a prophet with an office of Prophet. And if you, as a Prophet in the office of Prophet, tower above all prophets in accuracy and authority, you will neither ascend to the office of Apostle nor exceed an Apostle's authority. Those in the offices of the fivefold ministers are irrevocably chosen by Jesus Christ, and that is the one and only way to a fivefold minister's office.

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Apostles then are leaders in the fivefold. They are charged with authority over the other offices. Prophets prophesy – Evangelists evangelize – Pastors pastor churches – and Teachers teach. (This is simplified.) The measure of success is measured in this way, but the Apostle's measure of success is how they lead. If the other offices under an Apostle are very successful, then the Apostle is successful.

My Church is a mess because usurpers and charlatans have called themselves Apostles, but these have no real power, only persuasive words of men's wisdom. The Church is about to be rocked by real power and authority that comes from the Lord Himself. The authority and power seen in the first few chapters in Acts as the new Church is established will look like child's play. My church in these last days will again be filled with Power and Authority as exemplified by My Apostles. They will come on the scene in much the same way, except that the power will be released by My Spirit in greater measure.

Watch for the Apostles then. A few will come on the scene to call the rest of them from their normality. They know who they are already, but they need to be released. Amen."

### **A Vision of the Apostles – March 10, 2023**

I (Kirk) was taken to a place where I stood with Jesus in the middle of a huge group of Apostles. At the front of this group were the first Apostles – the "Twelve." I also saw Paul, Junia, and others I hadn't heard of before.

As I walked with Jesus, it was like walking through time. The Apostles we saw were dressed according to their ethnic dress of the day and time period. All of these had been called by Jesus as His ministers and as Apostles. He didn't speak to me, and as we walked on, I noticed a greater and greater number of Apostles which He had called. As I looked at them, I started to try to pick one out of the group to look at. And as I did, his name would come to me. I had not heard of any of these! Finally, I asked Jesus why I had not heard of any of these Apostles except a few of the very early ones.

He said, "These are truly My great ones. They have ministered before Me in purity and devotion. They were virtually unknown by men, however. And most never served in the 'church' of their time. Truly, these Apostles were the forgotten ones. But I remember each one! The 'church' wanted nothing to do with these, and in fact 'got rid' of a great number of them. 'The church' did not want true followers of Me, nor did they want My Spirit. They wanted control. All of My ministers were persecuted, tortured, mocked, or ignored during this season. None more than My Apostles and Prophets, however."

We continued to walk. I started to notice modern dress among the Apostles, and then I saw kids! Little ones! I asked Jesus if these too were Apostles? And why were there so many of them? Jesus answered, "These are My End Times Apostles, and yes, there are a great many of them! Some of these little ones already know that they are called as Apostles. Others will be brought forth later in their lives. There are a very large number of them, and indeed, a great number of all the fivefold ministers, because this is the season of the end times harvest. The 'church' the way it is now could never handle this influx of people. In fact, not enough buildings could be built of the



modern 'church' type to house them. They will be overwhelmed, confused, and ineffective. The move to house churches is of necessity."

We walked a ways further, and suddenly there were no more Apostles, and we were standing alone. We turned and looked back at the crowd we had just walked through. Jesus' face lit up and shown with light. He was so in love with these men and women who had been chosen to be His Apostles. He turned to face me, and said, "Prophet, tell My people the time of the Apostle approaches. Embrace them. They are My chosen ones who will lead My Church, the true Church. I AM going to release power in this season too, and it's for anyone who is willing to carry it. But none will receive more if it than My Apostles. Amen!"

### **The True Church – June 30, 2023**

Vision given to Kirk.

I'm taken in the Spirit to a place where I find myself seated in what appears to be a theater. It's dimly lit, and I believe I'm all alone there. I sit quietly waiting for something to happen. Then, in front of me, curtains spread open. There is a movie screen there. A movie begins, and a narrator comes on the screen. He either appears as an angel, or a thought comes to me that he is an angel. The movie shows the rise of Christianity around the globe. The narrator starts from the beginning (Judaism) and goes through the time of Jesus being on the earth. It's interesting, but I'm feeling like I really desire to see something more relevant, like a time when I could have an impact on what's going on.

As the speaker goes on, I realize that this isn't about religion. This is the true Church, the one after the heart of the Lord! As I watch, it comes into the 1900's and quickly moves into the 2000's. But the data presented is skewed. It doesn't look like what I'd learned. By the 2000's, the population of Christ followers elsewhere in the world looks much larger than in the USA.

The presenter then begins to show future growth of Christ followers. Dots appear where new followers are. The spread looks like a matrix where there are so many of these "dots" that the area is almost solid in color. Also, the spread starts slowly but builds so quickly that it's amazing! And what's really amazing is that there are very few places on earth where the "dots" are spaced far apart. I believe I was being shown churches, so how could there be so many?

Just then, on the screen, there're videos and videos of churches! Five, 10, 20 or so people meeting together in huts, houses, apartments – all over the globe! House churches!

Suddenly I found myself at a table, like a kitchen table. As I cleared my eyes, I saw the Lord Jesus! He was making coffee, and the room was filled with the smell of the coffee! It smelled – well, heavenly! Just then He turned around and came to where I was sitting. He set two cups of coffee down on the table, pushed one over to me, and began to sip on the other.

"Kirk," He said, "I've been excited to see you again!"

(In my mind I thought, "Wow! What a greeting from the Great I AM!")



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Before I could speak, He said, "Oh come on now, you love Me, and I love you. We are able to sit and talk."

Yeah, He knew what I was thinking. In a kind of nervous voice, I said, "Yes, of course," and began to cry because of Him. Just then He reached over and touched my hand. My head cleared, and the tears stopped. Great peace came over me, and I could speak without quivering in speech. We spoke of some private matters, and after a bit, moved into what He really wanted to say to me.

He said, "I want you to tell the people that the Great Reset of God is very near. You just saw a video regarding how it will work. The House Church Movement seems weak, but I AM assuring you that it is not! My strength is perfected in weakness, and this movement is of My doing! My church will have My government. The fivefold ministers will be that government. And their only desire will be to follow My Spirit in everything they do.

This movement, My movement, will seem to be in weakness because none of the temptations of the institutional church will be present. There will be no getting rich on the backs of My sheep, no career clergy. I AM will be the Head of this Church, not men. And because of that, the power-hungry will also be thwarted. I Am giving an Iron Scepter to the Apostles and Prophets, and they will rule over it in righteousness and love because I AM giving of Myself to them.

I AM beginning down this road today, and I AM not stopping until I have created the greatest army of believers that nothing can stop. This then IS the beginning of the End Times Harvest. Amen."

### **Vision of Mankind & the Church in and Out of the Desert – May 24, 2024**

Vision given to Kirk ...

The Holy Spirit said, "Come and hold My hand." So, I did as requested. Then He said, "Shut your eyes." So, again I did as instructed.

In my spirit I felt as though we were moving, but we were both silent. After a time, I heard the Holy Spirit say, "Okay, now open your eyes." So, I did.

It appeared that we were in the middle of a very large desert. We were standing on a high hill from which we could see any direction we chose to look. As I looked all around, I could see nothing but desert. There were no distinguishing mountains, hills, or other landmarks. It would be very difficult to navigate from there because of the lack of landmarks.

Just then the Holy Spirit told me to close my eyes again. I did and once again it felt like we were moving. After a little while He (Holy Spirit) once again said, "Open your eyes."

This time when I opened them, we were standing on a mountain top. I started to look around, and the first thing I noticed was that my eyes seemed to see clearer than they ever had. Then I began to notice the greenery that surrounded us. I could see what looked like farms and their fields – lush and rich. I saw roads with a few vehicles on them (they looked rather futuristic).

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Looking to my right as I turned, I saw a city too, but it was different. There were buildings and roads there, but it looked like it “fit in” with the surrounding landscape. There were a great deal more trees, and it looked like there were areas that were left free of buildings too. In these areas were what looked like gardens, some with flowering plants, some with vegetables or fruit.

I kept looking, and then I noticed that there were no herd type animals. When I noticed this, I turned toward the Holy Spirit. (This is when I noticed that once again, He had no face.) Facing me He spoke into My mind that mankind didn’t live like it did in my time. He said, “Mankind was never told that they couldn’t eat meat, but because of love people just preferred not to.”

I wondered how this had come to be. And where were the churches? And why was I seeing all of this?

Just then the Holy Spirit put His hand on my shoulder and again faced right toward me. He said, “Prophet, the desert is where mankind has been, along with the Church. There have been very few who have known that this was the case. They were mostly ignored. But right now, I Am showing you how different things are going to be. You are so used to the desert that you don’t even realize you’re in one. The drastic difference that you have seen today is mild when compared to what is coming.

You asked how this would come to be. It will come to happen because of Me. You are in the Covenant of the Spirit of Christ. Mankind will walk according to the Spirit. Honesty, uprightness, power, creativity, and general mastery over the created things will be the result of this change. Everything they are and do will be according to the Spirit of Christ within them. The increase in health, welfare, creativity, goodwill, etc. will have no limits.” Amen.

### **Rise of the Apostles – June 21, 2024**

"Prophet, tell the people that I Am watching over and instigating the rise of the Apostles right now. I Am building a network of Apostles that will span the globe, and I Am selecting each one of the Apostles Myself for this network.

There are, of course, imposters who have elevated themselves to the position of apostle. These will be easy to spot by those who have My Spirit, and even by those who don't. These false apostles will be trying to elevate themselves and are lawless and crude compared to My true Apostles!

My true Apostles will have a desire to ‘come under’ My chosen leaders in the Apostolic Network. They will be humble but carry great power, for they will be fortified by My Own Right Arm. These will be true revelators and shall understand the ‘great mysteries’ of all the scriptures. In truth, these so-called ‘mysteries’ are not mysteries at all. They are simply things that the ‘natural man’ could never understand.

These great ones (Apostles) shall always see the ‘big picture’ and My truth shall never hide from them. They shall always have My ear through their Prophets, and small details will never cloud

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their vision or lead them down rabbit trails. Great wisdom and honor shall be theirs, even though they will only allow worship of Me.

The foundation of My Church shall be formed once again, and its strength shall be its Cornerstone – Jesus Christ. Its Capstone shall also be My Son. This Church, My Church, shall never leave its foundation which is laid by My Apostles and Prophets. Its foundation shall be stronger and more resilient than the world has ever seen! My Church will choose to follow Me by My Spirit and will not deviate from this. Even if it makes a mistake due to deception, it will correct this mistake by My Spirit and celebrate the victory over the deception! It will not point fingers and accuse, but rather it will overcome by My Spirit and keep right on marching forward without looking back.

My Apostles will never rest! Their desire to go forward will be insatiable and unstoppable. Yes, they will, each one of them, spend time in the desert! It will be a time of great difficulty for them because of their desire to simply do or go. But they shall also be encouraged in the desert, and it shall not best them. In fact, when they come out, they will exclaim that they 'would not want to have missed one minute of their desert experience.'

They must not forget that they did not choose to be an Apostle, but that I, the Lord of all, has chosen them! I did not choose them because I thought they would fail, but because I knew they would turn their face towards Me. And even as they did this, they would never lose! Amen!"

### **Church of No Excuses – November 17, 2024**

While listening regarding the Lord's Church, Kirk heard that the church would be one of "no excuses." This means the church will walk in faith, power, and love. She will not make excuses as to why she cannot or does not follow what Jesus said and says. Doing what the Holy Spirit says, going where He leads, speaking what He is saying is "normal" Christianity. The Church that bears His Name will no longer be a lame church that just gets together once a week to sing praise songs, listen to someone preach for thirty minutes, goes home, and never sees anything change.

The Lord is releasing power in these last days and the faith to accompany it. Those who sit on the sidelines will be left watching but never participating. Those who continually test the limits of power will know when it has been turned on. Those who oppose the power will fall back unable to recover.

"I Am the LORD! Did I not say I was doing a 'New Thing,' one which no one had ever seen before? One which people could not look back and point to as something they read about in their Bible? This is new! My Church, the one I will come back for, will be spotless. There will be no deception, lies, or carnality in My Church. There will be no weakness, fear, or sickness in My Church. I Am raising up warriors to spearhead this New Thing. They will come with revelation, power, wisdom, and love! As I have said previously, the least in My Church will be able to easily refute the 'wisest' in the world or in religion. The least in My Church will have more power than the most powerful in the enemy camp. I Am not releasing My Spirit so that the earth can be taken over by darkness and evil men. I Am releasing My Spirit to empower My Church to be like Me! I WILL have My reward. Those who are with Me will reap a recompense beyond their wildest dreams! Amen."

## **My Church! Prophecy – November 20, 2024**

The Lord says, “My Church will not fall to the deception of disappointment and unbelief! My Church will be tested, and it will be found worthy to carry My authority and My power. My Church will keep its eyes on Me and shall not turn away! My Church only has eyes for the Bridegroom! My Church has put its faith in Me! Therefore, My Church only pays attention to the truth and has faith in the truth, and there is nothing that will sway it from the truth, from Me!

Is My Church focused on My hand, or is it focused on My face? No! My Church is focused on Me! Am I divided somehow? Is one part more important than another? No! My Church is being made into the likeness of Me! Not a part or piece of Me – the likeness of who I AM, all of Me! My Church will be and is being tested in this, and nothing short of it will be acceptable.

My Apostles and Prophets will NOT settle or accept something less than this, and they will be, and are, very pragmatic about enforcing this in MY Church. So then, what is acceptable in My Church will be laid out by My fivefold ministers at the behest of My Apostles and Prophets. My Spirit is upon them to lead My Church, and they are only concerned with following the Spirit of truth. Pressure from religion, the world, or even from people within My Church to turn from My Spirit will only solidify, embolden, and harden their resolve. It is their duty to make disciples of Me and prepare them for works of service! Crowd size, money, and fame will not tempt or sway them from My mandate regarding My Church.

The testing for those who desire to serve Me will be difficult and long, and their recompense shall be equal to it. To some this testing may even look brutal, but My warriors will never be sent into a test they cannot win. Therefore, rise up, My Chosen Ones.

Rise up, everyone I Am calling to service. Believe that I Am and also that I will reward those who diligently seek Me! Amen!”