



Prayer and the Birth of True Community: How the Church Began as a Result of Obedience and Prayer

Greg Wendschlag July 28, 2024

““But what about you?” he asked. “Who do you say I am?” Simon Peter answered, “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.” Jesus replied, “Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah, for this was not revealed to you by flesh and blood, but by my Father in heaven. And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it.”” Matt. 16:15-18

Why the Church?

- Restore the **identity** of broken people.
- Create a **family**, a movement, of restored people.
- Empower the family to fulfill His divine **purpose**.
- Change our nature so we will **sacrifice** all to fulfill His purpose.

The Story of the Birth of True Community - Acts 1-2

- The Day of the Lord through the Prophet Joel – 835 BC
- 50 Days of Fulfillment
 - The month of Nisan - March/April
 - Passover – Remembering the passover of the angel of death in Egypt.
 - Feast unleavened bread – Remembering the departure in haste/removal of impurity.
 - Feast of First Fruits – Remembering God’s provision.
- Wait! You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you.
 - Initial confusion.
 - Baptism of water vs baptism of fire.
 - “The promise I spoke about...” John 14-16
- The month of Sivan – May/June
 - Feast of Pentecost – Celebrating the first harvest in the Promised Land.
 - The church empowered to fulfill God’s purpose.
 - True community was born. Acts 2:42-47
- The Month of Tishri – September/October
 - Feast of Trumpets – Rosh Hashanah/Call people to prepare for the Day of Atonement.
 - Day of Atonement – Yom Kippur/Day of sacrifice to atone for all sins.
 - Feast of Tabernacles – Remembering the time God was with the people in the desert.
- “This is that...”
 - Partial fulfillment of Joel 2.
 - Continuous fulfillment of Joel 2.
 - Ultimate fulfillment of Joel 2.
 - “For the trumpet will sound, the dead will be raised...” 1 Cor. 15:51-58
 - “For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God...” 1 Thess. 4:16-18
- We have one job: Obey and pray!