

The Church

Questions to make us think.

Have you ever seen a building go or a business move into an area and wonder why they put that here? There is no business here for that in this area.

Have you every passed a building that did not have a sign, but you saw people going in and coming out of it? Wondering what they do in there. Curiosity will arise of what the he heck they do there.

Have you ever gone to a store, to shop for something and the person working there didn't even know about the products the store offered? And you left there more confused and frustrated than when you went in. Shaking your head and maybe saying how can you be a part of a company and know so little about it.

Many people are the same way about the church, and that is a great deal of our problem today. People in the pews do not know why the church was created nor it's God given purpose. Many pastors have not been teaching the meaning of the church. We have taught about the products such as Healing, Deliverance, Prosperity, Success and Sin, things like this are the byproduct of the Church.

There is nothing wrong with teaching and preaching on this thing. But we need to let the people know why God established the church.

The Churches main product is Salvation!!! Healing, Deliverance, Prosperity, and success is the Byproduct of the church.

Unless you understand the mindset of the owner of the company, how could you know what the company stands for? And in this case the owner is God.

Some people would say the Church is not a business!!

Well to answer that question Jesus said in **Luke 2:49 (NKJV)** And He said to them, "Why did you seek Me? Did you not know that I must be about **My Father's business?**"

God produced one begotten Son and look how many sons and daughters He has now.

I know this is Pentecost Sunday in my view, what is important today is not only Pentecost, but also what was happening during Pentecost. What was happening in the book of acts in chapter 1 & 2?

Let's talk briefly about Pentecost

The word Pentecost is only used in the New Testament in three different places, but it is referred to in other places but the word Pentecost is not used. But the applied meaning is given to Pentecost.

The day of Pentecost] The second of the three great Jewish feasts, the Passover being the first, and the third, the feast of Tabernacles.

Pentecost is the Greek name of the feast, derived from *Pentecostos* = fiftieth; because it was kept on the fiftieth day after the Passover-Sabbath. In the Law it is called "the feast of harvest, the firstfruits of thy labours" ([Exodus 23:16](#)), and also, from being seven weeks after the Passover, it is named "the feast of weeks" ([Exodus 34:22](#); [Deuteronomy 16:9-10](#)). The offering in this festival was the two first loaves made from the first portion of the wheat-harvest of the year, as a thank-offering.

How many days after the Resurrection does Pentecost start?

The Christian holy day of Pentecost, **which is celebrated fifty days** after Resurrection Sunday, commemorates the descent of the Holy Spirit upon the Apostles and other followers of Jesus Christ while they were in Jerusalem celebrating the Feast of Weeks, known also as **Pentecost** as described in the Acts of the Apostles (Acts 2:1-31).

How long after Jesus ascended to Pentecost?

According to Acts 1:3 Jesus' ascension to Heaven took place **40 days** after His resurrection. That means Pentecost was **9 days** later.

How many days after the Resurrection did Jesus go to Heaven?

According to Acts 1:3 Jesus' ascension to Heaven took place **40 days** after His resurrection. That means Pentecost was 9 days later. On the day of Pentecost, the Holy Spirit fell upon the Christians in Jerusalem (Acts 2). During that time of the year,...

But what I want to focus on here today is the commencement of the "CHURCH"

Acts 2:40-42 (NKJV) And with many other words he testified and exhorted them, saying, "Be saved from this perverse generation." ⁴¹ Then those who gladly received his word were baptized; and that day about three thousand souls were added *to them*. ⁴² And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers.

The Solution to the questions asked

I asked you earlier have you ever seen a building go or a business move into an area and wonder why they put that here? There is no business here for that in this area.

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We cannot be people that do not understand clearly why the church was instituted and the true God given purpose of the church.

Today we hear that we are coming closer to reopening our churches, I disagree with that statement we are coming closer to reopening our buildings. The place where the church you and I assemble.

The Church has never closed!! The building is just a structure.

I asked you earlier have you ever gone to a store, to shop for something and the person working there didn't even know about the products the store offered? And you left there more confused and frustrated than when you went in. Shaking your head and maybe saying how can you be a part of a company and know so little about it.

We can no longer ignorant to what is our function, coming and going without doing what the church was birth to do.

We can no longer have people in the church and those coming to the church being confused and frustrated not knowing why they come. Because those of us that are the church do not know why it exists.

A great deal of the problem today is we do not see the church as God intended for us to see it. We have been evicted from our churches, given the opportunity to reset ourselves.

We are so much after the Byproducts such as Healing, Deliverance, Prosperity, and success that we have forget the main product which is Salvation.

Some come for the presence of God and many others just come for the presents (the gifts)

To become a true disciple, you are going to need discipleship.

Once these men followed started following Jesus, they were immediately in a discipleship program learning from Jesus what the Kingdom of God was and what it was about.

Matthew 6:10 (NKJV) Your kingdom come. Your will be done On earth as it is in heaven.

How many of you listening to me today have or would give up three and a half years of your life to be discipled?

Many people today can't give up two days a week consistently for a year to learn who they are in Christ and what he has provided for them. They really do not know who Christ really is. That is why Jesus presented this question to Peter in Matthew 16:13-20

Matthew 16:13-20 (NIV2011) ¹³ When Jesus came to the region of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, **"Who do people say the Son of Man is?"** ¹⁴ They replied, "Some say **John the Baptist; others say Elijah; and still others, Jeremiah or one of the prophets.**" ¹⁵ **"BUT WHAT ABOUT YOU?"** he asked. **"Who do you say I am?"** ¹⁶ **Simon Peter (Petros) answered, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God."** ¹⁷ 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.**" ¹⁸ And I tell you that you are **Peter, (Petros) and on this rock (Petra) I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it.** ¹⁹ I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven." ²⁰ Then he ordered his disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah.

But unless you understand the mindset of the owner of the company and in this case God.

Matthew 7:24-27 (NIV2011) ²⁴ "Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the **ROCK**. ²⁵ The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it **had its foundation on the rock**. ²⁶ But everyone who hears these words of mine and does not put them into practice is **like a foolish man** who built his house on **SAND**. ²⁷ The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell with a great crash."

There are two contrast here

1. One who hears the Word and put it to use
2. One who hears the Word and does nothing with it

1. One who built on a Rock (The Wise Person)
2. One That built on Sand (The Foolish Person)

Both Houses were hit with the same conditions

1. The Rain, The Streams and The Wind
2. Hearing, Learning, and Applying

Matthew 5:45 (NIV2011) ⁴⁵ that you may be children of your Father in heaven. He causes his sun to rise on the evil and the good and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous.

With all that is happen now in this world we can see that rain is falling on us all. On the good and the evil on the entire world. The only thing that is going to keep us is being on a solid foundation.

Not being built on what someone told you, that is Sand. But on what you know for yourself, about Jesus the Rock.

Which brings us to our Main text today. **Matthew 16:13-20 (NIV2011)**

TEXT: Matthew 16:13-20 (NIV2011) ¹³ When Jesus came to the region of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, “**Who do people say the Son of Man is?**” ¹⁴ They replied, “Some say **John the Baptist; others say Elijah; and still others, Jeremiah or one of the prophets.**” ¹⁵ “**BUT WHAT ABOUT YOU?**” he asked. “**Who do you say I am?**” ¹⁶ **Simon Peter (Petros) answered, “You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.”** ¹⁷ 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.**” ¹⁸ And I tell you that you are **Peter, (Petros)** and on **this rock (Petra)** I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it. ¹⁹ I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.” ²⁰ Then he ordered his disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah.

What we can see and learn here within these passages of scriptures

1. **Transformation:** a thorough or dramatic change in thinking or appearance.
2. **Illumination:** Giving light to something
3. **Revelation:** To be revealed or uncovered

Illumination must become Revelation as it happen with Peter

The church is you

The building Is where we meet it is the structure