

Part 2, Chapter 1 – Life in the Church

Where did the church come from? When/how was it established? What is the purpose of the church locally and globally? This will be addressed over the next 3 weeks.

Days One and Two:

Today and tomorrow, we want to observe the events surrounding the beginning of the church. Read and observe with 5 Ws & H **Acts 1:1-15**. The passage is printed out for you at the end of this week's lesson.

Who is Acts written by? To? About? Who is featured in this passage?

What is the main event? Then what do the disciples do?

Where does Jesus tell the disciples to stay? Where does He go?

When will they receive power?

Why will power be given to the disciples?

How will they receive power?

Ask/answer your own questions below. **Hint for leaders:** Questions asked and answered in your personal study will become the basis for your group/table discussions. The more you develop your question asking skill and the better you anticipate the questions of your group, the better your group discussions will become!

- 1) What command did Jesus give the disciples?

- 2) Mark Holy Spirit. List everything you learn from mentions of the Holy Spirit. What results from the Holy Spirit's coming? How far will the results extend?

- 3) What question did the disciples ask the Lord? How does He answer it?

- 4) Where did Jesus go? Will He return? How? Who delivered the message?

- 5) When will Jesus return? Does verse 7 relate?

- 6) What did the disciples do next? Why?

7) What were they doing in the upper room? With whom?

Now read and observe **Acts 2** also located at the end of this lesson. Remember that our purpose here is to observe the beginning of the church. We will not attempt to study or discuss all the topics and Old Testament references mentioned by Peter. Feel free to study on your own as time allows! (Just kindly stick to the main topic during your group discussions.)

Hint: When studying the historical books of the bible - Acts, the Gospels, and Genesis through Esther - observe the text by asking, "What happened? What happened next? Then what happened?" This will give you the basis for asking why these particular events were recorded and what lessons can be learned from them?

1. List the events of Acts 2. *Briefly* summarize what happens in each paragraph. Again, please **DO** plagiarize God's word! Using the exact words from the Scriptures helps get God's inspired word locked into our hearts and minds.

Verses 1-4

Verses 5-13

Verses 14-21

Verses 22-28

Verses 29-36

Verses 37-42

Verses 43-47

2. How does Acts 2:1-4 relate to Jesus' promise in Acts 1:4-5?

3. According to Acts 2:4-13 how is the power of the Holy Spirit initially displayed? Be careful to observe "What does it say?" What did the crowd hear? **Hint:** Context *always* determines the interpretation (meaning) of a particular word or passage.

4. Who makes up the crowd? What was their reaction? What does the crowd ask or conclude?

5. What does Peter declare is happening? What does He use to make his point?

11. Beginning in verse 37, what is the reaction of the crowd? What do they ask? How does Peter answer and continue to exhort them?

12. What is the response of the people? What action(s) did they take? How many people?

13. In verses 42-43, what characterized their lives? How did everyone feel? What was happening?

14. From verse 44-47, who is together? How do their lives demonstrate repentance and salvation?

15. In verse 47, what do you learn about the Lord?

16. Review your study. Summarize what you have observed about the beginning of the church. What event marks the beginning? What transformations occurred? Who was ultimately responsible for these changes?

17. Have you personally followed Peter's exhortations in verses 38-40? If not, please don't wait another moment. The time to do so is now! Record the time and place so you can always remember. Share this with members of your group when you meet so they may rejoice with you, just like in Acts.

18. Has your life been transformed by the Holy Spirit's work? Take time to praise God! Write out your prayer to the Lord.

19. Acts 2:44a says "*And all those who had believed were together....*" Do you regularly gather with other believers for teaching? Share with believers who might have need? Break bread together (fellowship)? Praise God together? As you prayerfully answer these questions, ask the Lord to show you areas where you might need to make some changes.

20. The local church body is where all of these take place. Have you publically joined the church as a member? For more information, visit <http://mcleanbible.org/membership>

Read *p.51-54* from **multiply** and answer question #1 from the book in the space below:

Day Three:

As we continue to look at “Life in the Church,” you may recall that we have already studied Ephesians 2 (What is a Disciple? Days 3/4) and Ephesians 4:11-16 (The Command to Make Disciples, Day 5). Review your study notes.

Read through Ephesians 4:1-16 and begin your observations on Ephesians 4:1-7 with 5 Ws & H.

Who is writing to whom? Who is the recipient(s) of love?

What is it about? What is implored/urged of the church?

Where is Paul? Where is unity found?

When were you called?

Why respond in this way?

How was grace given?

As always, ask/answer your own questions below:

Mark the following key words: “*calling*,” “*one/unity*,” “*God*,” “*Christ*,” and “*Holy Spirit*” along with the corresponding synonyms and pronouns. **Hint:** The purpose of marking key words is to S.l.o.w. ... y.o.u.... d.o.w.n.... Not to make a piece of art work ☺. We are often tempted to read quickly and dash off the answers as if this were just another “fill-in-the-blank test.” The Scriptures are *life* to us. Allow the Holy Spirit time to transform your mind and renew your spirit. Don’t rob yourself by rushing past the treasures of the word.

- 1) List what you note from marking “*calling*.”
- 2) List what you learn from marking “*one*.” Be sure to mark “*unity*” the same way if you haven’t already.
- 3) What do you observe from marking “*Spirit*,” “*Christ*,” and “*Father*?”

- 4) Although the word "*trinity*" is not used in the bible, Ephesians 4:1-7 is one of the passages where we see the 3 persons of the triune (three-in-one) God. What does Paul emphasize about the Spirit, Lord Christ, and God the Father? How are we to emulate them?

- 5) How are we to walk or live according to verse 2?

- 6) What were you called to in verse 4?

- 7) What characterizes the "*unity of the Spirit*?" How are believers to treat one another?

- 8) Using your word study tools, look up "*calling*" (klēsis - Strong's #2821: κλήσις) and "*called*" (kaleō - Strong's #2564: καλέω). See appendix for "How to do a Word Study."

For those who do not have access to word study tools, a brief definition is provided below:

Calling (2821) – klēsis

- 1) *a calling, calling to*
- 2) *a call, invitation*
 - a. *to a feast*
 - b. *of the divine invitation to embrace salvation of God*

Called (2564) – kaleō

- 1) *to call*
 - a. *to call aloud, utter in a loud voice*
 - b. *to invite*
- 2) *to call i.e. to name, by name*
 - a. *to give a name to*
 1. *to receive the name of, receive as a name*
 2. *to give some name to one, call his name*
 - b. *to be called i.e. to bear a name or title (among men)*
 - c. *to salute one by name*

- 9) Take what you learned from your word studies back to verses 1 and 4. How does this help your understanding? Note any additional insights.

Hint: Context guides and ultimately determines the interpretation a passage. In Ephesians we have not observed an invitation to a feast, but chapters 2-3 clearly speak about God's salvation and our being co-heirs (family) with Christ. With this in mind if you plug the definitions back into verse 1 it might look like:

4:1 Therefore I, the prisoner of the Lord, implore you to walk in a manner worthy of (the divine invitation to embrace the salvation of God) with which you (have received His name to bear among men)...

10) Connect verse 7 with your previous study of verse 11-13. What has Christ given? Why? How long?

11) Continuing through verse 16, where is the unity of the Spirit to be lived out and demonstrated?
How?

Answer question #2 on *p.54* from **multiply** below:

Days Four and Five:

Bearing One Another's Burdens

- 1) Read **multiply** p.55-59 and answer questions #3-6. Be sure to use your inductive study skills to observe Galatians 6:1-2 and Mark 7:18-23 when you come to them. Ask/Answer your own questions and mark key words you observe in your own bible or right in your **multiply** book.

- 2) If we truly want to get to the heart of the problem, we need to know what the Lord says about the heart of mankind, the power that can transform it, and the results of being eternally changed. Read the passages below in context and note what you learn about the condition of mankind.

A. Mankind at Creation:

1. Genesis 1:26-31

2. Genesis 2:7, 8, 15-25 – In addition to the condition of mankind, note the command and consequence of disobedience given to the man by the LORD God.

B. The Fall:

1. List the events of Genesis 3. Briefly summarize what happens in each section. Again, please **DO** plagiarize God's word!

Verses 1-7

Verses 8-13

Verses 14- 15

Verse 16

Verses 17-19

Verses 20-21

Verses 22-24

2. What is the resulting condition of mankind? Are they blessed?

3. What was their relationship to God before their disobedience? See Gen 5:1, 2 also. Afterwards? Hint: Where were they physically before? Are they close to or separated from God now?

4. Genesis 1:17 said, "... in the day that you eat from it you will surely die." They obviously did not die physically because they go on to have children and Adam's death is recorded later (Gen. 5:5). So what died?

5. What was the impact of their decision? Look up Romans 5:12 and record what you learn.

C. Status of Fallen Mankind:

1. Genesis 6:5-6; 8:21

2. Isaiah 64:6

3. Jeremiah 17: 5-7, 9-10

4. John 3:18

5. Romans 1:18- 2:2, esp. 18-20 and 2:2

6. Romans 2: 5-8

7. Romans 3:23, 6:23

8. I Corinthians 6:9, 10

9. Colossians 3:6

10. James 4:4

11. Revelation 1:17,18; 20:11-15

12. Summarize what you have learned about the status of fallen mankind. What is their ultimate destination?

D. Transforming Power: Now let's look at the power that can transform the heart of mankind. As you read these passages consider questions like: What is this power? Who brings this power and how are they described in the Scriptures? What does it achieve and/or produce? How does is the heart affected ... before and after?

1. Romans 1:16, 17 – Write it out! Memorize it!

2. Mark 15 – 16:8 – List the main events.

Verses 1-15

Verses 16- 20

Verses 21-32

Verses 33-41

Verses 42- 47

Verses 16:1-8

3. 1 Corinthians 15:3-8.
4. John 1:19-37, esp. 29, 33-36
5. Isaiah 53:1-12, esp. 4-7
6. Psalm 51:5-10

7. Ezekiel 36: 25-27

8. 1 Peter 1:10-13 – Note how these Old and New Testament passages are related.

E. Believe: How does someone obtain this power? What unlocks it in a person's life?

1. John 1:12

2. John 3:16-18

3. John 11:25, 26

4. John 20:30, 31

5. Acts 16:30, 31

6. Romans 4:3, 22-25

7. Romans 10:9-13

F. Changed Lives: Note what changes result and how they come about. What does God use to effect life change?

1. John 6:63

2. 2 Timothy 3:16-17

3. James 5:16-20

4. Hebrews 4:12

G. Free in the Spirit! Note what is true of all those who put their trust in Christ.

1. Romans 6:4-11 -- What are you dead to? Alive to?

ACTS 1:1-15 NASB
OBSERVATION WORKSHEET

- 1 The first account I composed, Theophilus, about all that Jesus began to do and teach,
- 2 until the day when He was taken up *to heaven*, after He had by the Holy Spirit given orders to the apostles whom He had chosen.
- 3 To these He also presented Himself alive after His suffering, by many convincing proofs, appearing to them over *a period of forty days* and speaking of the things concerning the kingdom of God.
- 4 Gathering them together, He commanded them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait for what the Father had promised, “Which,” *He said*, “you heard of from Me; 5 for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.”
- 6 So when they had come together, they were asking Him, saying, “Lord, is it at this time You are restoring the kingdom to Israel?”
- 7 He said to them, “It is not for you to know times or epochs which the Father has fixed by His own authority;
- 8 but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth.”
- 9 And after He had said these things, He was lifted up while they were looking on, and a cloud received Him out of their sight.
- 10 And as they were gazing intently into the sky while He was going, behold, two men in white clothing stood beside them.
- 11 They also said, “Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into the sky? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in just the same way as you have watched Him go into heaven.”
- 12 Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a Sabbath day’s journey away.

ACTS 1:1-15 OBSERVATION WORKSHEET CONTINUED...

- 13 When they had entered *the city*, they went up to the upper room where they were staying; that is, Peter and John and James and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James *the son* of Alphaeus, and Simon the Zealot, and Judas *the son* of James.
- 14 These all with one mind were continually devoting themselves to prayer, along with *the women*, and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with His brothers.
- 15 At this time Peter stood up in the midst of the brethren (a gathering of about one hundred and twenty persons was there together)....

ACTS 2:1-47 NASB
OBSERVATION WORKSHEET

- 1 When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place.
- 2 And suddenly there came from heaven a noise like a violent rushing wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting.
- 3 And there appeared to them tongues as of fire distributing themselves, and they rested on each one of them.
- 4 And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit was giving them utterance.
- 5 Now there were Jews living in Jerusalem, devout men from every nation under heaven.
- 6 And when this sound occurred, the crowd came together, and were bewildered because each one of them was hearing them speak in his own language.
- 7 They were amazed and astonished, saying, "Why, are not all these who are speaking Galileans?"
- 8 And how is it that we each hear them in our own language to which we were born?
- 9 Parthians and Medes and Elamites, and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia,
- 10 Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the districts of Libya around Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes,
- 11 Cretans and Arabs—we hear them in our own tongues speaking of the mighty deeds of God."
- 12 And they all continued in amazement and great perplexity, saying to one another, "What does this mean?"
- 13 But others were mocking and saying, "They are full of sweet wine."
- 14 But Peter, taking his stand with the eleven, raised his voice and declared to them: "Men of Judea and all you who live in Jerusalem, let this be known to you and give heed to my words.
- 15 For these men are not drunk, as you suppose, for it is only the third hour of the day;

ACTS 2:1-47 OBSERVATION WORKSHEET CONTINUED...

16 but this is what was spoken of through the prophet Joel:

17 'AND IT SHALL BE IN THE LAST DAYS,' GOD SAYS,
'THAT I WILL POUR FORTH OF MY SPIRIT ON ALL MANKIND;
AND YOUR SONS AND YOUR DAUGHTERS SHALL PROPHECY,
AND YOUR YOUNG MEN SHALL SEE VISIONS,
AND YOUR OLD MEN SHALL DREAM DREAMS;

18 EVEN ON MY BONDSLAVES, BOTH MEN AND WOMEN,
I WILL IN THOSE DAYS POUR FORTH OF MY SPIRIT
AND THEY SHALL PROPHECY.

19 'AND I WILL GRANT WONDERS IN THE SKY ABOVE
AND SIGNS ON THE EARTH BELOW,
BLOOD, AND FIRE, AND VAPOR OF SMOKE.

20 'THE SUN WILL BE TURNED INTO DARKNESS
AND THE MOON INTO BLOOD,
BEFORE THE GREAT AND GLORIOUS DAY OF THE LORD SHALL COME.

21 'AND IT SHALL BE THAT EVERYONE WHO CALLS ON THE NAME OF THE
LORD WILL BE SAVED.'

22 "Men of Israel, listen to these words: Jesus the Nazarene, a man attested to you by
God with miracles and wonders and signs which God performed through Him in your
midst, just as you yourselves know—

23 this Man, delivered over by the predetermined plan and foreknowledge of God, you
nailed to a cross by the hands of godless men and put Him to death.

24 But God raised Him up again, putting an end to the agony of death, since it was
impossible for Him to be held in its power.

ACTS 2:1-47 OBSERVATION WORKSHEET CONTINUED...

25 FOR DAVID SAYS OF HIM,
“I SAW THE LORD ALWAYS IN MY PRESENCE;
FOR HE IS AT MY RIGHT HAND, SO THAT I WILL NOT BE SHAKEN.
26 “THEREFORE MY HEART WAS GLAD AND MY TONGUE EXULTED;
MOREOVER MY FLESH ALSO WILL LIVE IN HOPE;
27 BECAUSE YOU WILL NOT ABANDON MY SOUL TO HADES,
NOR ALLOW YOUR HOLY ONE TO UNDERGO DECAY.
28 “YOU HAVE MADE KNOWN TO ME THE WAYS OF LIFE;
YOU WILL MAKE ME FULL OF GLADNESS WITH YOUR PRESENCE.”

29 “Brethren, I may confidently say to you regarding the patriarch David that he both died and was buried, and his tomb is with us to this day.

30 And so, because he was a prophet and knew that God had sworn to him with an oath to seat one of his descendants on his throne,

31 he looked ahead and spoke of the resurrection of the Christ, that He was neither abandoned to Hades, nor did His flesh suffer decay.

32 This Jesus God raised up again, to which we are all witnesses.

33 Therefore having been exalted to the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, He has poured forth this which you both see and hear.

34 For it was not David who ascended into heaven, but he himself says:

“THE LORD SAID TO MY LORD,
“SIT AT MY RIGHT HAND,
35 UNTIL I MAKE YOUR ENEMIES A FOOTSTOOL FOR YOUR FEET.”

ACTS 2:1-47 OBSERVATION WORKSHEET CONTINUED...

- 36 Therefore let all the house of Israel know for certain that God has made Him both Lord and Christ—this Jesus whom you crucified.”
- 37 Now when they heard this, they were pierced to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, “Brethren, what shall we do?”
- 38 Peter said to them, “Repent, and each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.
- 39 For the promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off, as many as the Lord our God will call to Himself.”
- 40 And with many other words he solemnly testified and kept on exhorting them, saying, “Be saved from this perverse generation!”
- 41 So then, those who had received his word were baptized; and that day there were added about three thousand souls.
- 42 They were continually devoting themselves to the apostles’ teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.
- 43 Everyone kept feeling a sense of awe; and many wonders and signs were taking place through the apostles.
- 44 And all those who had believed were together and had all things in common;
- 45 and they began selling their property and possessions and were sharing them with all, as anyone might have need.
- 46 Day by day continuing with one mind in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they were taking their meals together with gladness and sincerity of heart,
- 47 praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord was adding to their number day by day those who were being saved.