## TOPIC: I AM THE CHURCH

The "church of Jesus Christ" is not a building – it is His "body", active and alive in our world.

### KEY POINTS

- We gather from time to time in the house of God and have a wonderful time in worship to God and fellowship with each other. We usually say, "We're going to church", but we certainly understand we're going to a building we call a church. The building is really not the church but rather the place where the church meets.
- We, the people, are the church, the 'ekklesia', the called-out ones, the body of Christ. He is the head and we are His body.
- The head never travels alone! The body is always attached to the head. Likewise the body never travels alone - the head is always attached to the body. Therefore, wherever we are, the Lord is with us! We truly need to plant this understanding in our minds: wherever we are, Jesus is. All of God is with us at all times, no matter where we are or what we're doing.
- What would you do if you knew for sure that the Lord Jesus was with you - everywhere and at all times? What would you say? What would you attempt? How big would your faith be?
- All of us face situations where we need divine intervention. We meet people almost every day who need a divine intervention in their lives. In fact, if we were sensitive to those around us and truly listened to what they were saying, we would see countless ministry opportunities.
- Here's the main point: you never need to wait to 'go to church' to see God move. When you face a situation that demands an act of God, deal with it right there and then. There is no more of God available to anyone in the world than what's in you right now as a Holy Ghost-filled believer! There's no more power, no more anointing, no more possibility than what you possess right now. And God has no favourites. He'd be just as happy to work a miracle through you as He would through any 'super-saint' you've been comparing yourself to.
- At the end of Acts 2, there is a description of the church we need to pay close attention to (see vv42-47):
- These folks were in a constant state of awe – they never took their relationship with God for granted. They were in the mode of praise and worship to God at all times and they had good relationships with those who were not yet believers. They were known everywhere they went.
- Does this sound like us? Are we in a constant state of awe in the presence of God? Is praise always on our lips? Do your friends and colleagues outside of the assembly think well of you?
- Special miracles took place on the streets of Jerusalem as the apostles went by. The lame man was healed outside the temple through the faith and anointing of Peter and John. People were healed by Peter's shadow. An angel delivered Peter from the innermost prison through prayer.
- Stephen took the message to the streets and preached to the high and mighty in Jerusalem. Philip went to Samaria and preached to the outcasts. The whole city was turned upside down. The word of knowledge was in operation in the case of Ananias and Sapphira. Praise broke the chains and opened prison doors for Paul and Silas.
- When you find yourself in a conversation or a situation that demands a miracle, don't wait to come to the house of God on a Sunday in order to pray for the need. Pray right where you are with the person in need. Give God an opportunity to work outside the four walls around you.
- Attempt great things for God – *you* are the church, not the building. Call on the head of the church, who is always with you. He will come through.

**KEY SCRIPTURES:**
Colossians 1:9-20; 1 Peter 2:4-9;
Acts 2:42-47

### DISCUSSION/REFLECTION TOOLS

1. Why are you important to the body of Christ?
2. How can we be devoted to the things of God and also be effective in other areas of our lives? Are we living testimonies of Jesus Christ, both within the walls of our physical church and outside of it too? Discuss.
3. Do you think God has a purpose for your being a part of a particular church or fellowship group? Discuss.

**Prayer Time**

Lord, may we constantly be in awe of You and never take our relationship with You for granted. Enable us, Lord, and strengthen our faith that we may fulfill our calling in You.

**L.G. ice-Breaker: In what places of life do you feel indispensable or essential? Why do you feel that way?**

## WEEK OF SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 2018

### NOTES

Meditate as you read through/listen to this week's message. If it helps, use symbols for your notes.

(Reminds me/Confirms) (New idea) (Think about)

! (Do this) (Speaks to my heart) (Must share)

### PRAYER NEEDS/THANKSGIVINGS