



# What Does Church Look Like?

5 July 2020

(Part 5)

**Acts 2:42-47**

Psalm 34:1-11

Acts 9:26-31

## Are You Growing as a Disciple of Christ?

- Are your brothers and sisters growing because of your growth? (Eph 4:15-16)
- ALL Christians grow. Not everyone who says they are Christians grow, but those you have truly been saved grow and are a part of the growth of others. (2 Cor 3:18; Romans 8:29)
- We are commanded to grow. (1 Peter 2:2; 2 Peter 3:17-18; Ephesians 2:21; Psalm 92:12; Colossians 1:9-11; 2 Thessalonians 1:3; Ephesians 4:11-13)
- What are you doing so that your brothers and sisters grow?
  - Are you a student of God's Word? If you are a student in the university or a student at any time in your life, do you study God's Word with the same or more diligence than your other studies? Do you study with your brothers and sisters? (Acts 2:42)
  - Are you praying with your brothers and sisters or do you believe that it is not necessary to pray together? (Acts 2:42)
  - Is your growth visible to others? (1 Timothy 4:15; Matt 5:16)
  - Is your life as a disciple of Christ an example for others to imitate? (1 Timothy 4:12; 1 Corinthians 11:1)
- Examine yourself . . .
  - ☆ I am more committed to walk as Christ walk than I was at the beginning of 2020. (1 John 1:6-7; 2:6; Ephesians 4:1; 5:2; Col 1:9-11; 1 Peter 2:21)
  - ☆ My love for my brothers and sister has abounded more and more. (Philippians 1:9; 1 Thessalonians 3:12; 4:1, 8-10; 2 Thess 1:3)
  - ☆ My knowledge of God has significantly increased over the past six months. (Colossians 1:9-10; Philippians 1:9; Eph 1:17; 2 Peter 3:18)
  - ☆ My burden for the lost around me and around the world has grown. (Luke 10:2; 2 Thessalonians 3:1; Romans 10:1; 1 Corinthians 3:6-9)
  - ☆ My prayer life has become more meaningful. I am more disciplined in my praying. I pray more with my brothers and sisters than I did at the beginning of the year. (Luke 18:1; Matthew 6:9-15; Colossians 4:2, 12; 1 Thessalonians 5:17; Romans 12:12; Ephesians 6:18; 1 Peter 4:7)

- ☆ I tremble as I approach God's Throne to pray. (Psalm 2:10-12; 89:7; 99:1; Philip 2:12; Heb 12:28-29; 4:16; 5:7; 10:19; Rom 11:20; 1 Peter 1:17)
- ☆ I am praying that God will open a door of service to my church and that He would use us for His glory. (Colossians 4:3; Revelation 3:8)
- ☆ I am more active in serving the Body of Christ in the church I am attending. (Ephesians 4:7-16; 1 Peter 4:10-11)
- ★ I am growing/maturing as a disciple of Christ.

## What Would Christ Write in His Letter to Us? (Revelation 1:11)

- What would He find to commend us?
- What would He find to criticize us?
- For what would He call us to repentance?
- So, it is wise for us to examine ourselves! (2 Corinthians 13:5; 2 Peter 1:10)
- BUT we must examine ourselves by Christ's standard - the **written** Word of God
  - not man's traditions, teachings, or customs.

## What Does Church Look Like? (Acts 2:42-47)

### They Continued Steadfastly (v. 42)

- (v. 42) **Continuing steadfastly** (devoted) προσκαρτερέω - committed to each other.

### TOP Four Priorities of a Church and Her Members

- ① Continuing steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine - God's doctrine - His **written** Word.
  - ② Continuing steadfastly in fellowship/koinonia.
  - ③ Continuing steadfastly in breaking bread together and remember who they are by the works of God in sending His Son into the world to die for **them**.
  - ④ Continuing steadfastly in prayer together.
- ★ Are these **TOP** priorities for you? Are you **being** Church to your brothers and sisters?

### Then Fear Came Upon Everyone (Acts 2:43)

- "THEN" -
- Different translations.
- (v. 43) "fear" - φόβος - "fear, dread, terror"; "that which strikes terror"
- Two kinds of fear: 1) to be greatly afraid of someone/something threatening danger to you, 2) awe; deep reverence.
  - ★ BOTH share the idea of dread, terror and trembling.
    - 1) 2 Timothy 1:7; Romans 8:15
    - 2) Acts 2:43; Philippians 2:12; Hebrews 12:28-29; 2 Cor 5:11; 7:1

- Definition of AWE: a feeling of respect or reverence mixed with dread and wonder, inspired by something/someone majestic and/or powerful.
  - Terror, dread, admiration, amazement, astonishment, veneration (a profound respect or reverence; honor)
  - Profound: 1) having, showing, or requiring great insight or understanding, 2) deeply felt or held; intense.
- (v. 43) “everyone” - not just some!
- What was happening in the lives of the people of Church was something that produced AWE/FEAR in others.
- This fear/awe was produced by the real feeling of the closeness of God.

### Are Christians Suppose to Be Filled with the Fear of the LORD?

- DO YOU FEAR GOD? Are you filled with the AWE of God?
- Does your worship of God show your AWE of Him?
- What does this AWESOME GOD (Deut 7:1; 10:17; Nehemiah 1:5; 4:14; Job 37:22; Psalm 47:2; 111:9; Daniel 9:4) demand?
  - (Psalm 34:3) Magnify the LORD, let us exalt His name together.
  - Psalm 99:5) Exalt the LORD our God, and worship at His footstool.
  - (Psalm 29:2) Give unto the LORD the glory due His name; worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness.
  - (Psalm 95:6) O come, let us worship and bow down; let us kneel before the LORD our Maker.
  - (Psalm 96:9) O worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness! Tremble before Him, all the earth.
  - (Hebrews 12:28-29) Serve God with reverence and fear. (Psalm 2:11)
  - (2 Corinthians 7:1) Cleanse yourselves from all the filthiness of the flesh and spirit perfecting holiness in the fear of God.
  - (2 Corinthians 5:11) The terror of God persuades us to tell others.
  - (Philippians 2:12) Work out **your** salvation with fear and trembling.
  - (Luke 12:5) Fear Him who can kill the body and cast the soul into hell.
  - (Isaiah 66:2, 5) He comes near to those who tremble at His Word.
  - (1 Peter 1:17) Conduct our time here in fear.
- Handout: The Fear of the LORD.

### Do We Live in This Fear of God?

- Did your God create the entire universe out of nothing?
- Did your God create the universe for Himself?
- Does your God command everything that happens in the world today?
- Does your God control the minds of presidents, kings, governors, etc.?
- Does your God control all spirits, both good and evil?
- Does your God create evil, calamities, etc.?

- Does your God determine your eternal destiny?
- Does your God move the armies of the nations?
- Does your God control hurricanes, earthquakes, tornados, cyclones, etc.?
- Does your God control famines, droughts, plagues, and pestilences?
- Does your God control the sinning of people?
- Does your God do whatever He pleases, always as He please, whenever He pleases, with whatever He pleases, however He pleases - to include your life?
- Does your God know everything there is to know and has known it for all eternity?
- Does your God cause men to fulfill His plan/purpose/will?
- Does your God control every detail of life?
- Does your God control the wills of men?
- Did your God predetermine everything that has ever happened, is happening, and will ever happen?
- Does your God control and use nations for His own purpose?
- Does your God build up nations and destroy nations?
- Does your God appoint the leaders of nations?
- Does your God decide if you live today?
- Does your God decide the moment and how you will die?
- Does your God kill and make alive?
- Does your God control every aspect of your life?
- Does your God decide what you will or not do today?
- Does your God know your thoughts and the motives of your heart?
- Can your God destroy this world today?
- Did your God sacrifice His own Son on a cross so that sinners like you might be one of His special people?
- Did your God provide the only way to heaven through His Son and His Son alone?
- Will you stand before this God and be judged?

## ARE YOU FILLED WITH THE FEAR OF GOD?

There is no god besides this God!  
(Deut 32:39; Isaiah 44:6, 8; 45:5, 21-22)