

The Origin of the CHURCH

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| <p>1. The Church is a long-promised, mysterious and unique creation of God by the Holy Spirit</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ the Spirit, the "breath of God" has always been the giver of life, both physical life as well as spiritual life
(Job 33:4, 34:14-15; Jn 3:5-8; Jn 6:63) <p>2. The Father had promised long ages ago that He would send His Spirit to be <u>within</u> His own</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ I will put My Spirit within you ...
(Eze 36:26-27) <p>3. John the Baptist promised it</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ I baptized you with water but He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire
(Mt 3:7-12; Mk 1:8) <p>4. Jesus confirmed the Father's promise – He said:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ those who would believe in Him were to receive the Holy Spirit
(Jn 7:38-39)➤ He abides with you, but He will be in you forever
(Jn 14:16-18, 26)➤ He will guide you into all the truth He will glorify Me
(Jn 16:7-14)➤ Just before His ascension Jesus said: I am sending the promise; stay in the city and wait
(Lk 24:49; Acts 1:4-5) | <ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ When the Holy Spirit comes upon you:<ul style="list-style-type: none">- you will receive power- you shall be My witnesses in<ul style="list-style-type: none">a) Jerusalem and all Judeab) Samariac) the remote parts of the earth
(Acts 1:8) <p>5. Ten days after the ascension, on the day of Pentecost, the Father and the Son kept the promise to send the Holy Spirit</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Jesus began to build His CHURCH
(Acts 1:1-3; Acts 2) <p>6. When the Holy Spirit came on those gathered in Jerusalem they immediately became witnesses</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">a) they were all filled with the Holy Spiritb) they began speaking in other languages of the mighty deeds of Godc) Peter preached a sermon that resulted in the salvation of many who were added to the church
(Acts 2:1-12, 33, 40-41) <p>7. The church's first years were continual devotion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- to the apostles' teaching- to fellowship, together with one mind- to the breaking of bread, common meals- to prayer and praise of God<ul style="list-style-type: none">→ with gladness and sincerity of heart→ had favour with all the people→ the Lord was adding to the church day by day those who were being saved
(Acts 2:42-47) | <p>8. The apostles went about preaching the gospel of Christ and God confirmed their testimony by signs, miracles and gifts of the Holy Spirit
(Acts 3-6; Heb 2:3-4)</p> <p>9. Hostility and opposition by the priests and elders continued and Stephen became the first martyr of the church; a great persecution began and the believers were scattered
(Acts 7-8:3)</p> <p>10. The word of God was received in Samaria and the apostles came from Jerusalem to lay hands on the Samaritan believers; then they also received the Holy Spirit
(Acts 8:14-17)</p> <p>11. After about 8 years, it became evident that the church would also include Gentiles.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Peter preached the gospel to Cornelius and many other assembled Gentiles- they received the Holy Spirit as at Pentecost- the Jewish believers were amazed
(Acts 10:44-48) <p>12. The mystery of the church is Jew and Gentile together in one body, one NEW MAN; "Christ in you, the hope of glory"
(Eph 2:14-15; Col 1:25-27)</p> |
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