

The Origin of the CHURCH

1. The Church is a long-promised, mysterious and unique creation of God by the Holy Spirit

- 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)

2. The Father had promised long ages ago that He would send His Spirit to be within His own

- I will put My Spirit within you ...

(Eze 36:26-27)

3. John the Baptist promised it

- I baptized you with water but He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire

(Mt 3:7-12; Mk 1:8)

4. Jesus confirmed the Father's promise – He said:

- 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)

- When the Holy Spirit comes upon you:
 - you will receive power
 - you shall be My witnesses in
 - a) Jerusalem and all Judea
 - b) Samaria
 - c) the remote parts of the earth

(Acts 1:8)

5. Ten days after the ascension, on the day of Pentecost, the Father and the Son kept the promise to send the Holy Spirit

- Jesus began to build His CHURCH

(Acts 1:1-3; Acts 2)

6. When the Holy Spirit came on those gathered in Jerusalem they immediately became witnesses

- a) they were all filled with the Holy Spirit
- b) they began speaking in other languages of the mighty deeds of God
- c) Peter preached a sermon that resulted in the salvation of many who were added to the church

(Acts 2:1-12, 33, 40-41)

7. The church's first years were continual devotion

- to the apostles' teaching
- to fellowship, together with one mind
- to the breaking of bread, common meals
- to prayer and praise of God
 - 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)

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)

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)

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)

11. After about 8 years, it became evident that the church would also include Gentiles.

- 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)

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)