



Inner Growth - Church 2

And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.

Matthew 16:18

Christ - Ephesians 5:23

Holy Spirit - Hebrews 3:7

United - Psalms 133:1, Ephesians 4:3

Refuge - Psalms 46

Congregation - Psalms 107:32

Holy Presence - Psalms 31:20

The church. Is it possible to be a Christian or a believer and not attend the house of God? Hebrews ten, verse twenty-five, states not forsaking the assembling of ourselves. Coming together among other saints is the reward for the child of God because when two or three assemble, as in Matthew eighteen, verse twenty will invite the Holy One to come on the scene. The other advantage is the opportunity for public worship to occur as a body of people where it becomes more solid with others than just one person.

The church allows the believer to get the chance to recharge or reset. Similar to the Sabbath Day: where the saints of God put aside the twenty-four hours to focus on the Lord and approach the day differently from the rest of the days of the week in dedication to Him. The House of God

provides the opportunity to cleanse and filter out the previous things we encounter in what we have seen or heard throughout the week. The ungodly environments such as the workplace, business, social events, family gatherings, and other meetings on our agenda might occur. Church attendance benefits the saints to consecrate the mouth or tongue: which happens to do the most damage to others and ourselves.

In the theme verse in Matthew sixteen, verse eighteen, the point is the rock, build my church, the gates of hell. What is the rock? Is it Peter's faith? Or the truth he confessed? Or Christ Himself?

The facts of the case, the balance seems to incline in favor of the last view. Christ and not Peter is the rock in First Corinthians ten, verse four, and the foundation in First Corinthians three, verse eleven from the New Testament. However, the Old Testament starts in Deuteronomy thirty-two, verses four and eighteen, Second Samuel twenty-two, verse three, chapter twenty-three, verse three, Psalms eighteen, verses two, thirty-one, and forty-six, Isaiah seventeen, verse ten, and Habakkuk one, verse twelve, accordingly. The rock on which the church was to establish was Peter himself. The verse that supports this statement is in Matthew seven, verse twenty-four.

I will build my church refers to structure: to form into something that was not previously. For example, if a person would like to be a professional swimmer, what would they need to do to accomplish that goal? The first thing would be to educationally get acquainted with that profession to understand the basics before such an attempt. Then fulfill the physical demands to begin a program to adapt the body to such a sport. The other factor of becoming a professional swimmer is changing diet and time management to develop the physical requirements to compete and challenge

the opposition, which includes practice and repetition.

Building the church from the perspective of a believer refers to feeding the inner person and disciplining the outer. The consistency of the believer reading the Word of God daily and studying scripture during leisure time. The discipline of praying with devotion to the God we expect in faith to guide and lead the way every day. Praise, worship, and allow ourselves to grow and develop our spiritual relationship with the God we serve. To refer and depend upon Him in adversity and patience through trials knowing deliverance will eventually come. The gates of hell are the place of torment. The shadow-world of the dead, the unseen counterpart of the visible grave, all-absorbing, all-destructive, into whose jaws or gates all things human pass, and from which issue all forces that destroy, is half-idealized, half-personified, as a power, or polity of death. However, the gates of hell today are spiritual forces unseen in an attempt to sway any plan, purpose, or success of the endeavors of the saints in Christ. The devil and his cohorts will use anything to aggravate and frustrate the people of those who serve the Lord, especially the believers that are a problem and do damage against the enemy. Whatever it is, whether big or small, the devil tries to intercept matters that mean the most to the saints of God: If the enemy knows something about us, such as likes and dislikes, he will use it against us.

The body is the church, and Christ is the head of it. The difference between church and being at home is that Christ would be our focus. At the House of God, our attention will be on being in the presence of the sanctuary where we, as saints, dwell. There will be no sort of carnal interference as with our place of residence. The accessory to worldly things

that surround us will hinder our concentration.

In Luke four, verse sixteen, Jesus Christ, our living example, went to church as a regular practice on the Sabbath day. He went into the synagogue, as was his custom. Mark one, verse twenty-one, states Jesus went to Capernaum and entered a church to teach. Jesus, the Son of God, went to church on the Sabbath Day. How much more the saints of God that claim to have Him in their hearts serving should be at home, not attending? The church must be in us for us to connect with God in the church.

The church is where the Holy Spirit dwells. However, some sanctuaries do not have the Holy Spirit leading and operating: especially if we do not call out or speak to Him. How do we expect Him to respond? The Holy Spirit has life as in Romans eight, verse two, and has a will in First Corinthians twelve, verse eleven. The Holy Spirit is omniscient, as in First Corinthians two, verses ten through eleven.

The Holy Spirit is eternal, as in Hebrews nine, verse fourteen, and is omnipresent, as in Psalms one hundred and thirty-nine, verse seven. A mere force could not possess all these attributes, but the Holy Spirit does. Not to say the Holy Spirit does not dwell in the home but most likely will not be as strong as within a place that continually reverences God.

The church is a place where the saints of God stand united in unity. There is no such army as a lone ranger. There must be a multitude of people together to build an army. The difference at home is there is no way of fellowship with the other saints. Another disadvantage of not attending church is the opportunity to hear testimonies from the people of God when some show up in His house.

The other church benefits that occur are corporate praise and worship. Praising God together is much more intense than

one person. The voices of praise go up to the Almighty God and may fill the sanctuary in such a way as to bless the soul and bring healing and deliverance through being in His house. Communion and the altar are other spiritual advantages of attendance. United we stand, divided we fall is an old saying but true because corporate prayer and manifestation will operate when in the house of God.

The church is a place of refuge. The chance to attend the house of God, leaving the earthly matters aside, allows for meeting with God. Not to say a person cannot do it at home, but the difference is the atmosphere. A person having a problem at home will not always be in the mode or heart ready to receive prayer or a Word because of their environment. The earthly atmosphere will not be like at church with the people and everything in general.

He hath manifested himself to be so in the course of his providence in time past, and he has engaged to be so in time to come and will not fail to fulfill his engagement. Are we in danger from visible or invisible enemies? God is our refuge, to whom we may flee, and in whom we may be safe. Have we work to do, warfare to accomplish, and sufferings to endure? At church, the Holy Spirit will welcome the opportunity to be delivered: at home, it depends on the environment and the current activity.

The church is the congregation. An assembled group of church-going people that serve the Lord. The advantage of this beneficial atmosphere is the weight. Praying in the spirit corporately will tear down any strongholds or environment. Such an atmosphere will disrupt and wreak havoc on the enemy and his cohorts.

On the other hand, a person not attending church and trying to mimic the congregation in activities will be far less.

Not saying it would not work, but the quality and quantity are far more effective than an individual attempt. To pursue and sustain a congregation-like environment is not possible. Iron sharpens iron, as in Proverbs twenty-seven, verse seventeen. To strengthen, pray, and lift one another is possible in church.

However, at home, who will lift you when you feel down? Spiritual music or a sermon will incorporate a spiritual atmosphere. Still, for someone praying with you and for you is much more effective than praying for ourselves. God inhabits the praises of His people. To worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness is due to the church.

The church contains the Holy presence of God. The importance of being in His presence, there is fullness of joy, as in Psalms sixteen, verse two. The main difference between a church, Bible-based, and a leader living in obedience to someone serving God from home is the holy presence. There is no distraction at church. The only surroundings which should be there are the altar, people praying, worshipping, praising, speaking in tongues, message preaching, healing, and deliverance.

On the other hand, at home, we have the choice of tuning into the radio to a message from some preacher we may not know. The environment may not be a hundred percent prepared for the noise and ungodly things we may have encountered throughout the previous day. No altar or Communion with fellow saints, no testimonies heard for encouragement, no opportunity to witness the manifestations of the Holy Spirit. Only to encounter potential distractions that are mainly unholy such as music, car noise, profanity, and other ungodly conversations that will occur.

How can a believer survive not being in a church where the Holy Spirit dwells? The activities that can happen within the

House of God versus the things we desire to occur at home are most likely not happening. The church, especially on the Sabbath day, is to build you up. While during the week, to maintain spiritually, what we experience in the sanctuary attempts to drain and pull us down.