



Sunday August 02, 2009 The Church Jesus is Building

Testimonies

29 June to 03 July : Pastor and others spent 5 days of prayer

We prayed for 4 focus areas for the church:

1, First Love

- that we would break out of spiritual lethargy, burn with genuine passion for Jesus and have a deep hunger for more of God. That we would return to our first love, do the first works, and choose the good part.

2, Breakthrough

- that we would breakthrough our current limitations - personally and corporately into new levels in our spiritual lives, in our fellowship with one another, in our ministry in the Body and in our witness to the world.

3, Greater Glory

- that we would be a church manifesting greater glory than the Early Church - signs, wonders and miracles, thus affecting our world with authentic Christianity

4, Make Changes

- that God will clearly reveal to us the changes and adjustments we need to make, to move up as a church to new levels. Without change, we will not move from glory to glory.

We saw God lead us step by step during the five days:

Day 1: Followed prayer plan. Prayed for the 4 focus areas for APC

Day 2 : Moved in to a time of REPENTANCE AND CONFESSION of the sins and failures of APC.

Day 3 : Moved in to a time of TAKING AUTHORITY OVER DEMONIC POWERS that may have gained entrance into APC.

Day 4 : Moved in to a time of issuing DIVINE DECREES AND PROPHETIC PROCLAMATION over APC.

Day 5 : The morning session went in to a time of MILITANT PRAISE where we proclaimed and shouted victory and triumph.

On Day 2, the Lord spoke something out of Matthew 16:18,19 which is the basis of the message this morning and also will set the direction for us as a church for the days to come.

Matthew 16:18,19

18 And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it.

19 And I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven."

When you speak with the architect or builder of this building and the architect want to say something briefly about this building – he will normally state the two or three most important, most unique characteristics of this building. He will not speak about common things like "this building has doors and windows". Rather, he is going to highlight the two or three unique identifiers of this building, perhaps – this building has an indoor, fully heated swimming pool, etc.



Similarly when Jesus spoke about the Church He would build, He stated two most unique characteristics of this Church – two things that uniquely identify the Church He would build:

- 1, the gates of hell will not prevail against the Church
- 2, the Church has the keys of the Kingdom of heaven to bind (disallow, prohibit) on earth what has been bound in heaven, and to loose (allow, permit) on earth what has been loosed in heaven

During that time of prayer, the Lord asked: “this is the kind of Church I am building. What kind of church are you building?”

How many of you want to be part of the Church that Jesus is building? Then we must move from where we are to becoming a body where every one of us will be doing 1 and 2. These two should uniquely identify us in this city – here are a people who overthrow the gates of hell and here are a people who have the keys of the kingdom of heaven!

Lets understand Matthew 16:18,19

On this rock I will build my Church – the Church is built on the foundation that “Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the living God” (vs 16)

The gates of hell will not prevail against it – the city gates was the place of power, where the leaders sat together, made decisions, etc. It was also the place of power, in that who ever controlled the gates controlled the city. God had promised Abraham that his descendants will “possess the gates of their enemies” (Genesis 22:17). The “gates of hell” represent the “powers of hell”. The powers of hell cannot stop the Church. Gates are stationary. Gates don’t move. So it is the Church that must move towards the gates. The Church does not sit around waiting for the gates to come to it! So to sum up, **The Church Jesus is building is a Church that confronts and overthrows the powers of hell.**

I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven – keys represent authority. Jesus said that He had the keys of hell and death (Revelation 1:18), meaning He had conquered and therefore had authority over hell and death. The Church has the authority of the Kingdom of heaven. To do what? The correct rendering of the rest of the verse is: “to bind on earth what has been bound in heaven, to loose on earth what has been loosed in heaven”. **The Church Jesus is building is a Church that has the authority of heaven to bind on earth what God has declared bound in heaven and to loose on earth what God has loosed in heave. The Church bring heaven to earth.**

This is what you and I are to be doing, as part of the Church Jesus is building.

Application

(a)confronting and overthrowing powers of hell and (b)bringing the kingdom of heaven on earth - in every day life:

The book of Acts is a record of the birth of the church and the early days of the church. It was the church Jesus began to build.

In the book of Acts we see the Church (a)confronting and overthrowing powers of hell and (b)bringing the kingdom of heaven on earth - in every day life.



In our world today we are to be the church that confronts and overthrowing powers of hell and brings the kingdom of heaven on earth - in every day life.

In our worlds – where ever we are – we must confront the works of darkness and put a stop to it.

Other facets of the Church Jesus is building

Of course there are other facets to the Church Jesus is building. We are not disregarding any of these. But we must place the focus and emphasis where Jesus did – on being a people who confront and overthrow the powers of hell and bring the kingdom of heaven on earth.

Family of God

The church is called the household (or family of God) in 1 Timothy 3:15. We are a family – a Christ-centered community of believers.

We have to live together as a church family without violating the smaller unit of the “natural” family.

Fellowship of the Spirit

We enrich each others lives by ministering to one another, encouraging one another, etc.

House of prayer, worship & Praise

We are a people of prayer, worship and praise which is our ministry to the Lord and our silent ministry to people.

Upholder of truth

The Church is also the upholder of truth in the community. When people see us they must see the embodiment of righteousness and truth.

Every member uniquely designed to play a part

We also know that the Church is a body where every member is uniquely gifted and different in their function and orientation. While each are uniquely gifted and called to perform different functions, we are all to be filled with Jesus.

Disciple all nations

The church is here to win lost souls and make disciples of all nations

Works of mercy and compassion

The church is here to show the mercy and compassion of the Lord in real tangible ways through works of mercy, i.e. feeding the poor, caring for the widows, poor, destitute, etc.

While all of the above are true facets of the life of the Church Jesus is building, we must place the focus and emphasis where Jesus did – on being a people who confront and overthrow the powers of hell and bring the kingdom of heaven on earth. In all that we do, lets be uniquely identified by the two characteristics Jesus highlighted. Lets focus on these while we be all the other things we are called to be.

Changes at APC



Emphasis on spiritual growth and maturity at all levels – living the Christian life Monday-To-Saturday, and coming together on Sunday to be empowered to live Monday-To-Saturday.

Emphasis on manifesting the glory of God through the supernatural – raising up a prophetic community, a supernatural community that manifests God’s glory Monday-To-Saturday. This will be our evangelism strategy, our primary way of impacting our city.

Monthly Seminars:

MEGA (one annual MEGA event) – rest through LGs.

EWM – discontinued. Will address from pulpit.

GLOW – will wait and see.

Worship Team – moving in to new levels in P&W and move in to prophetic

Youth – emphasize on discipling young lives giving them a good strong foundation in the Word and the Spirit, preparing them to be ministers of the Lord where ever they go, what ever they do later in life.



USEFUL RESOURCES



Watch our online Sunday Church service live stream every Sunday at 10:30am (Indian Time, GMT+5:30). Spirit filled, anointed worship, Word and ministry for healing, miracles, and deliverance.

YOUTUBE: <https://youtube.com/allpeopleschurchbangalore>

WEBSITE: <https://apcwo.org/live>

Our other websites and free resources:

CHURCH: <https://apcwo.org>

FREE SERMONS: <https://apcwo.org/resources/sermons>

FREE BOOKS: <https://apcwo.org/books/english>

DAILY DEVOTIONALS: <https://apcwo.org/resources/daily-devotional>

JESUS CHRIST: <https://examiningjesus.com>

BIBLE COLLEGE: <https://apcbiblecollege.org>

E-LEARNING: <https://apcbiblecollege.org/elearn>

WEEKEND SCHOOLS: <https://apcwo.org/ministries/weekend-schools>

COUNSELING: <https://chrysalislife.org>

MUSIC: <https://apcmusic.org>

MINISTERS FELLOWSHIP: <https://pamfi.org>

CHURCH APP: <https://apcwo.org/app>

CHURCHES: <https://apcwo.org/ministries/churches>

WORLD MISSIONS: <https://apcworldmissions.org>