

1. Part 1: Back To The Basics

WATCH VIDEO: BACK TO THE BASICS

The purpose of this Study Starter is to discover what the Lord's ekklesia will look like in the 21st Century.

a. INTRODUCTION: Scripture must find a place of manifestation in our lives

- i. Too often we read the word and never seek to find ways to bring it to life in our daily walk
- ii. The only thing that separates us from what we read in scripture is our willingness to pursue it in any meaningful way

b. **Read Acts 2:38-42** What has religion done to us?

- i. Religion has taught us to see the bible as a good book to express a form of righteous morality that guides us in our life – and simultaneously it makes practices and principles of scripture historical events that only applied to the season it was written
- ii. Acts 2:42 is a template for us today
 1. Historically it was a the peoples response to the advent of the Holy Spirit – it was an apostolic response to 'What must we do?'

2. **Acts 2:38-39 NKJV 38** Then Peter said to them, "Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. 39 "For the promise is to you and to your children, and to all who are afar off, as many as the Lord our God will call."

Think about the following statement?

People are still repenting today and being baptized in the name of Jesus – but doing so today out of a response to escaping sin rather than response to a message that declared the entrance of the Holy Spirit. Peter declared that the promise of the Holy Spirit was not only for those he was exhorting, but also to their children and included those who were 'afar off'

iii. Questions to discuss

1. Why do you believe receiving the gift of the Holy Ghost was included with the remission of sins?
2. Is the expression of the Holy Ghost different today from what we read in scripture? Why or why not?
3. Make a list of things that scripture says should accompany the presence of the Holy Spirit in our lives (Hint: John 16, Acts 15:28, Romans 8:26-27)

4. Who are 'those afar off' in Acts 2:39? Are these the same people Jesus prayed for in John 17:20?
5. **John 17:20 NKJV 20** "I do not pray for these alone, but also for those who will believe in Me through their word;

In Matthew 28:20 Jesus commanded them to teach others 'everything He had commanded them to do'. Some of what Jesus taught is found in Matthew 10:8 – to go heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead and cast out devils. To teach less than this or to explain it away in denominational doctrine – is direct disobedience to the Lord's command

c. The apostles doctrine included much more than a baptismal methodology

- i. It included teaching people to walk in the full expression of having Christ in them
 1. It meant teaching them to observe – closely look upon something with the intent of practicing it – all things that Jesus had taught them
 2. It included having the expectation that they would heal the sick – cleanse lepers – raise the dead and cast out devils

- ii. Too often we have embraced a 'that was then – this is now' belief system
 - 1. Therefore in this study we will began exploring how the practices and principles in scripture are to be expressed today.
 - 2. The goal is to establish, develop and release believers to fulfill their calling – purpose and ministry assignment

d. Can you see yourself doing what you read in scripture?

- i. Can you see yourself laying hands on the sick and seeing them recover?
- ii. Can you see yourself taking authority over demons?
- iii. If the need arises – do you to see yourself empowered to raise the dead
- iv. Leprosy is not prevalent today – can you see yourself praying that those with aids – cancer or any other such diseases be healed



THE 21ST CENTURY EKKLESIA

STUDY STARTER PART 1 - 5

**IT'S INTENTION – IT'S EXPRESSION – IT'S ACTIVATION
GENESIS 1:26-28 AND MATTHEW 16:13-20**

e. Read Genesis 1:26-28 Never forget God's original plan

God has not changed his plan. He created man with dominion in His image and likeness. He commanded man to be fruitful, to multiply and replenish the earth and subdue it.

Unfortunately it has been obscured by religious rhetoric and division. It has been limited to getting people saved for heaven – but with no emphasis on subduing the earth in the dominion we have been given. It is hanging on waiting for the rapture rather than taking territory for the Kingdom of Heaven.

Read Luke 16:16

Why aren't people pressing into the kingdom today? What will you do?

MY NOTES AND ACTION PLAN BEFORE OUR NEXT GATHERING
