



World Christian Fellowship

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Third Pillar- Spirit of God in the Church

Three great pillars!

- ✓ **The glory of God**
- ✓ **Lordship of Christ**
- ✓ **Holy Spirit's revelation concerning the church.**

God the Father's glory, God the Son's Lordship, and God the Holy Spirit's revelation for the life of the church.

Wonderful theological truths that God is to be glorified, Christ is to be acknowledged as Lord, and The Spirit of God is to be obeyed as to His revelation concerning the life of the church.

1 Thessalonian 1: 2-7-&10, *We give thanks to God always for you all, making mention of you in our prayers, ³ remembering without ceasing your work of faith, labor of love, and patience of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ in the sight of our God and Father, ⁴ knowing, beloved brethren, your election by God. ⁵ For our gospel did not come to you in word only, but also in power, and in the Holy Spirit and in much assurance, as you know what kind of men we were among you for your sake.*

⁶And you became followers of us and of the Lord, having received the word in much affliction, with joy of the Holy Spirit, ⁷so that you became examples to all in Macedonia and Achaia who believe.

¹⁰and to wait for His Son from heaven, whom He raised from the dead, even Jesus who delivers us from the wrath to come.

1 Thessalonians 2:13-16, *For this reason we also thank God without ceasing, because when you received the word of God which you heard from us, you welcomed it not as the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God, which also effectively works in you who believe. ¹⁴For you, brethren, became imitators of the churches of God which are in Judea in Christ Jesus. For you also suffered the same things from your own countrymen, just as they did from the Judeans, ¹⁵who killed both the Lord Jesus and their own prophets, and have persecuted us; and they do not please God and are contrary to all men, ¹⁶forbidding us to speak to the Gentiles that they may be saved, so as always to fill up the measure of their sins; but wrath has come upon them to the uttermost.*

1 Thessalonians 2:19-20, *For what is our hope, or joy, or crown of rejoicing? Is it not even you in the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ at His coming? ²⁰For you are our glory and joy.*

Thessalonian church are Paul's glory and his joy!

You hear so many sad stories of conflict that pastors have with their congregation.

Jonathan Edwards, greatest theologian in American history, preacher, Bible teacher, scholar, theologian, writer, and his church mistreated him. Did everything they could to destroy him!

But we need understand that all that we have experienced together has been the goodness of God.

What I really love about our church and the viewers online is that an openness to the hearing of the Word of God, and it has never ever changed. Thank our Lord for that.

Pastors, ministers are using the successful model of Apple, Google, IBM or some other corporation and take the principle out and then use it for the church growth.

There are gurus and organisations will work for you to show the principles in which you can grow your church.

But personally, I never looked at any principle or any steps to bring in church growth except the New Testament in the Bible.

The church belongs to Jesus Christ and if He expects us to serve Him in His church faithfully, then He will have revealed for us on the pages of Scripture what is necessary for the church.

I am sure now you will understand why we do expository preaching of the scripture and Christ exalting sermons always.

1. Authority of Word of God

Characteristics of Thessalonian church.

- ✓ They were in God our Father and in the Lord Jesus Christ.
- ✓ They were elect.
- ✓ They were a saved church.
- ✓ They were a sanctified church.
- ✓ They had received grace and peace from the Lord.
- ✓ (The grace what they have received was empowering their lives because their faith was growing, and their love was manifest, and their service was effective.)
- ✓ They were a suffering church.
- ✓ They were willing to take that suffering in the process of living out their holy lives in the community.
- ✓ They were a serving church, labour of love, patience of hope, work of faith.
- ✓ They were a second coming church.
- ✓ They were waiting for His Son from heaven.

You will find we almost role model many of these in our church!

1 Thessalonians 2:13, *For this reason we also thank God without ceasing, because when you received the word of God which you heard from us, you welcomed it not as the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God, which also effectively works in you who believe.*

Is this church the result of what they have done? Or

Is this church the result of what the Lord has done?

The reason this church is what it is because of what God has done with His Word by His Spirit in your lives.

When people of the church affirm that if they do what the Word of God says, no matter what the price then you will see the change happen in the church.

So, we as a church will do whatever the Scripture says, and we will endeavour to be faithful.

What God says and what the Word says so we will, and we can do it.

1 Thessalonians 1:5, *For our gospel did not come to you in word only, but also in power, and in the Holy Spirit and in much assurance, as you know what kind of men we were among you for your sake.*

As a Pastor and your elder brother, I understand my role perfectly.

- I am not the source of truth.
- I am merely the messenger who brings it to you from God.
- I have been given a stewardship, a responsibility to discharge.

➤ I am nothing but a slave to my Lord Jesus Christ.

Over the years things changes and our church has changed.
Styles change, Technology changes.
We have changed quite a bit but not the message.

What can't change, doesn't change.
The Lord Jesus Christ doesn't change.
Jesus is the same yesterday, today, and forever.
The eternal God is immutable, and the Word never changes.

Church is what it is because of the Word of God.

The authority that belongs to Scripture and only Scripture. It is complete authority and it is singular authority. There is no other authority.

Nobody else is an authority.
No tradition is an authority.
No creed is an authority.
No history is an authority.

The Bible is the only authority and it is an absolute authority.

When we come together, it's as if the Word of God is brought to us from God Himself. This is inseparable, by the way, from the priority of preaching, because Paul says, "Preach the Word." Preach the Word, at all levels of church ministry.

Paul says it beautifully to the leaders of Ephesus.

Acts 20:20, *how I kept back nothing that was helpful, but proclaimed it to you, and taught you publicly and from house to house,*

Why Paul gave everything to the church?

Because the scripture is inspired by the Holy Spirit.

2 Timothy 3:16-17, *All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness,¹⁷ that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.*

All Scripture is inspired by God, profitable to accomplish everything regarding spiritual perfection and spiritual maturity, both for the preacher and for all under his influence.

2 Peter 1:21, *for prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit.*

Word of God is not a document that comes from a human source, but from the Holy Spirit Himself.

It is not the word of men, but it is the Word of God.

As a church we understood that salvation comes through the Word.

We have been born again by the word of God.

1 Peter 1:23, *having been born again, not of corruptible seed but incorruptible, through the word of God which lives and abides forever,*

We are sanctified by the truth.

John 17:17, *Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth.*

We understand the comfort of the Scriptures.

We understand the hope in the Word.

We understand the power is in the word.

2. Worship

Commitment to worship is another mark of the church.

One thing we are commanded to do is worship. Everything in our church is driven toward God,

- exalting Him,
- honouring Him,
- praying to Him, and
- praising Him.

The exposition of the Word of God is with the intention of worship.

Generally, people sulk that we preach for nearly an hour and not enough time to worship.

How can you worship?

How can any church worship if you don't take the time preaching?

Preaching is informing the people about God that enriches their worship. No need to divide this service into worship and education. The whole thing is worship.

You are going to worship Him in the depth and breadth and height and length of His revelation of Himself!

This commitment to worship is what drives us, because it's what defines us.

What are you going to do forever in heaven?

Worship.

We were saved to worship.

John 4:23-24, *But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for the Father is seeking such to worship Him. ²⁴ God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth."*

You were saved, to be a worshiper.

There is a Gospel being proclaimed that is you are in charge and God really wants to worship you. God wants to come alongside and give you everything you want. That is just the opposite.

We understand we are here not to worship us but to worship Him. God is the ONLY audience.!

You are not even the audience.

You listen to the message so that you can worship Him.

These days people come to church and say that they didn't get anything out of the worship service.

Did you think that the worship service is for you?

What did you bring to God?

What did you lift up to Him of adoration, praise, thanks?

The more you know about Him, the more you worship.

Philippians 3:3, *For we are the circumcision, who worship God in the Spirit, rejoice in Christ Jesus, and have no confidence in the flesh,*

We are, Christians, those who worship God in the Spirit, glory in Christ Jesus, have no confidence in the flesh.

We are worshipers.

Word informed worship.

We as a church, emphasized

- high view of God,
- high view of Christ, and
- high view of the Holy Spirit.

The most magnificent glorious purest most perfect picture of God is in Christ. That is why He is the most compelling, riveting subject of all subjects. We have given most of our times to know the Lord Jesus Christ.

Knowing Jesus Christ, we will know God.

What did Jesus say?

John 14:11, *Believe Me that I am in the Father and the Father in Me, or else believe Me for the sake of the works themselves.*

It is our clear understanding of who God is, who Christ is, who the Holy Spirit is, it is that trinitarian understanding that is at the heart of our worship.

Don't let anybody tell you that somehow worship is something that happens apart from knowledge.

3. Doctrinal Clarity

When we preach the Word of God and studying the Word of God, the sound doctrine is necessary.

What is true about God?

What is true about Christ?

What is true about the Spirit of God?

What is true about man?

What is true about sin, righteousness, heaven, hell, every issue of Scripture?

We exposition the Scripture with theological exposition. You dig into the Word of God, you determine what the passage is saying and therefore what immutable, unchangeable truths it is affirming.

Every text drive us to some doctrine, some affirmation of truth. And then, if you're kind of giving away trade secrets here, if you follow what I do, I will usually, having taken the passage, pulled out of it those doctrines, I will then trace them in other parts of the Scripture to show you how they are supported elsewhere in Scripture with a view to have you understand that doctrine with the hope then that that understanding becomes not just information but conviction.

Paul was thankful for the Thessalonians because the Word came to them with full conviction.

1 Thessalonians 1:5, *For our gospel did not come to you in word only, but also in power, and in the Holy Spirit and in much assurance, as you know what kind of men we were among you for your sake.*

Conviction means you believe it. You own it. You guard it. You defend it. You live out your convictions.

In teaching the passage, extracting the doctrine, showing how this doctrine is consistently taught in Scripture, so that you understand it and believe it, with a view that it will become a conviction in your life that will be a factor determining your conduct.

Doctrinal clarity is absolutely critical.

Titus 2:1, *But as for you, speak the things which are proper for sound doctrine:*

Titus 1:9, *holding fast the faithful word as he has been taught, that he may be able, by sound doctrine, both to exhort and convict those who contradict.*

Paul says to Timothy repeatedly.

1 Timothy 1:10, *for fornicators, for sodomites, for kidnappers, for liars, for perjurers, and if there is any other thing that is contrary to sound doctrine,*

1 Timothy 4:7-8, *But reject profane and old wives' fables, and exercise yourself toward godliness.⁸ For bodily exercise profits a little, but godliness is profitable for all things, having promise of the life that now is and of that which is to come.*

1 Timothy 6:3, *If anyone teaches otherwise and does not consent to wholesome words, even the words of our Lord Jesus Christ, and to the doctrine which accords with godliness,*

2 Timothy 1:13, *Hold fast the pattern of sound words which you have heard from me, in faith and love which are in Christ Jesus.*

2 Timothy 2:2, *And the things that you have heard from me among many witnesses, commit these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also.*

2 Timothy 4:3, *For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, because they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers;*

Paul tells the Ephesians even after warning the elders in Acts 20.

Ephesians 4:14, *that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting,*

4. Spiritual Discernment

Only when you have doctrinal clarity you can have spiritual discernment.

Only when you know the truth can you tell the counterfeit.

1 Thessalonians 5:19-20, *Do not quench the Spirit.²⁰ Do not despise prophecies.*

Now the Spirit is the fountain of living water that comes to us with the truth of God. The Spirit is the author of revelation.

So, when the flow of the great life-giving, life-changing water of the Spirit comes to us through the Word, do not quench the Spirit.

How does the Spirit minister?

Not in some mysterious, mystical way.

The Holy Spirit ministers through the Word.

In order to avoid quenching the Spirit, do not belittle or despise prophesying – or preaching. This is the means the Spirit has ordained.

1 Corinthians 1:22-24, *For Jews request a sign, and Greeks seek after wisdom;²³ but we preach Christ crucified, to the Jews a stumbling block and to the Greeks foolishness,²⁴ but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.*

Preach the Word!

2 Timothy 4:2, *Preach the word! Be ready in season and out of season. Convince, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and teaching.*

The Spirit is going to flow to you when the Word is preached to you. Do not despise preaching.

We live in a day when preaching is despised.

We are doing what we do, and we will continue to do so because God has mandated us to do it.

1 Thessalonians 5:21, *Test all things; hold fast what is good.*

We ought to be like Bereans!

Acts 17:11, *These were more fair-minded than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness, and searched the Scriptures daily to find out whether these things were so.*

We as a church, endeavoured over the years to help the people of God to develop discernment by,

- giving doctrine that is clear,
- convictions that are true,
- strong and trustworthy, and
- enduring.

We can tell error when you see it.

5. Pursuit of Holiness

Sanctification, Progressive sanctification, we have preached so much about it since this subject is gone out of the churches these days.

The cheap grace, shallow gospel that that produced many hypocritical Christians.

We have strongly emphasised and establish the reality of true salvation and then the necessity of true sanctification. We as a church congregation pursue holiness.

2 Corinthians 7:1, *Therefore, having these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.*

Paul by the power of the Holy Spirit speaks about sanctification but prior to this he lists out the reason why we ought to be holy.

2 Corinthians 6:14-18, *Do not be unequally yoked together with unbelievers. For what fellowship has righteousness with lawlessness? And what communion has light with darkness? ¹⁵And what accord has Christ with Belial? Or what part has a believer with an unbeliever? ¹⁶And what agreement has the temple of God with idols? For you are the temple of the living God. As God has said: "I will dwell in them And walk*

among them. I will be their God, And they shall be My people.”
17 Therefore “Come out from among them And be separate, says
the Lord. Do not touch what is unclean, And I will receive you.”
18 “I will be a Father to you, And you shall be My sons and
daughters, Says the Lord Almighty.”

Peter writes through the Holy Spirit commanding them to be holy. Peter quotes it from the book of Leviticus, Old Testament.

1 Peter 1:15-16, *but as He who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct,*¹⁶ *because it is written, “Be holy, for I am holy.”*

What does holiness it looks like?

Matthew 6:10, *Your kingdom come. Your will be done On earth as it is in heaven.*

Certainly, it includes holiness, because holiness is what defines heaven.

For the first 10 years in our church it was our logo which says ***‘Heaven on Earth’***

The only place holiness is ever going to come to earth is in the church.

Jesus spoke about only twice about the church which is recorded in the Gospels.

Matthew 16 the principles in which the church is being built.
Matthew 18 in the context of Church discipline.

Why?

Because church represent Him on the earth.

1 Corinthians 5:6-7, *Your glorying is not good. Do you not know that a little leaven leavens the whole lump? ⁷Therefore purge out the old leaven, that you may be a new lump, since you truly are unleavened. For indeed Christ, our Passover, was sacrificed for us.*

We have got to get rid of the sinner, the false professor, or he will poison the rest.

Church should pursue holiness; it is not perfection but the right direction towards God.

Conclusion:

When we pursue the above five things,

1. Uncompromising authority of the Word of God,
2. Worship the Lord in Spirit
3. Doctrinal Clarity
4. Discernment in Spirit
5. Pursuit of Holiness

We will produce wonderful disciples, leaders who will have a transformed life. We will be able to love God and love one another to show case the love of God on this earth.

Only a transformed person can transform someone's life.

A true disciple will start making disciples that way the church will be always having new-born babies who can be trained and equipped for the work of God.

Thus, we will fulfil the Great commission given by our Lord to our church.