



## **WHAT IS THE CHURCH FROM THE HEAVENS STANDPOINT?**

As a local church, if we are to be acceptable to the heavens, it is necessary for us to humble ourselves and be delivered from all that is called traditional, religious and historical Christianity. *The recovery of the apostolic principles in the church demands that we be first delivered from the mentalities that prevail in our midst today.* Please do not misunderstand me. We must get out of that frame of mind. We need an absolute emancipation from all earthly conceptions to the conceptions of the Holy Spirit, individually and corporately. We have to see what the Church really is, as God sees it. *We must be set free from the confusion which has been brought about by the historical institution called 'the church'.*

If we desire to come into that which is born of the Spirit, we need to have a great yearning to be a real expression of the church of the living God. We need to give ourselves to the Holy Spirit — not just a few of us, but all of us who recognise that by an act of God we have been joined to be members of His church in this place.

Look at the confusion that exists in the present evangelical world! I have seen in some measures, the confusion that exists in these circles. In my younger days, I witnessed the reality of this prevailing confusion, when a young sister and her brother, from a Hindu background, were born-again. They expressed a strong desire to know the Living God. They were prepared to pay any price to

### **Scripture**

*"Unto the church of God which is at Corinth, to them that are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints, with all that in every place call upon the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, both theirs and ours:"*(1 Cor 1:2).

### **Ponder over this!**

We need to revise our thinking about the Church. It is not an organization to be planned, nor is it just a company of people to be completed. It is not a concept to be grasped, nor an ideal to be attained.

follow Christ. The Spirit of Christ in them burst forth in zeal and undiminished fervour. It appeared that their growth would be rapid and dynamic. But when they faced the confusion that prevailed in the church, they even became uncertain of their salvation! Some well-meaning Christians told them that baptism by sprinkling was enough; others said that baptism by immersion was necessary; and yet some others said that they did not need the experience of the baptism of the Holy Spirit. Some said they ought to speak in tongues, and some others said that Christ had already given them all that was necessary. Confusion and chaos reigns in the Christian world today. What we need is an absolute emancipation from the dungeons of historic Christianity. We must come into a revelation and understanding of the Church eternal, whose steps are destined and ordained by the Lord Himself. We must be delivered from this confusion, which has been brought in and through the historical and institutional Christianity.

What is the Church from the heavens standpoint? It does not look upon titles, names and mere doctrines. Heaven ignores all that. Heaven looks for that which is born of the Spirit, that new constitution. It looks for that *two or three that is born of the Spirit and sustained by the Spirit, which others are not!* Today, we are held in the lifeless grip of a thing called 'church' that has lost the spiritual power because it has lost its true spiritual identity and true nature which is spiritual.

"We need to revise our thinking about the Church. It is not an organization to be planned, nor is it just a company of people to be completed. It is not a concept to be grasped, nor an ideal to be attained. Like so much else that is ours in Christ, the Church is a reality to be seen with the help of the Holy Spirit through the Word. When we recognize the real heavenly character of the

Church, then the heavenliness of our own renewed nature dawns upon us, and we know that our starting point as Christians is not earth but heaven".

What Shall This Man Do by Watchman Nee

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