

The Missing Piece:
Characteristics of a True Church
Acts 2:22-24; 32-34, 36-47

Review: Many believers are living the Christian life without seeing God's power or miracles.

Why? There is a missing piece! It is the church.

There is no doubt that Christ . . .

- designed the church.
- instituted the church.
- died for the church.
- empowers the church.
- loves the church.

So, to disconnect yourself from the church is to disconnect yourself from God's purpose, plan, and power for your life.

Many Christians desire the power of Jesus without the church of Jesus, because you've been hurt by a church.

Is it possible that you've been hurt by a group that called itself a church, but in fact, was not?

Characteristics of a true church:

1. It is devoted to the apostle's teaching (doctrine).
 - Repentance, and faith through Jesus, alone is the only way of salvation.
 - The Bible is the inspired revelation of God, and is authoritative for our lives.
 - The church is God's only plan for the proclamation of the gospel and disciple making.
2. It lives in fellowship (koinonia):
 - Love
 - Caring for one another
 - Unity
3. It is devoted to prayer.
4. Generosity is in its DNA.
5. It exudes worship, thanksgiving, and praise.
 - Baptism
 - Breaking of bread
6. It cannot help but be happy and glad.
7. God is continually adding new believers to the family.