

# JESUS' MASTER PROJECT

2000+ years ago, Jesus boldly declared that He would build His '**Church**'. His '**master project**.'

*"And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it." Matthew 16:18 (niv)*

Greek word for **church** "ekklesia." **ek** 'out of' and **kaleo** 'to call.' The Church is the '**called out ones**.'

Jesus declared He was going to build His own *ekklesia* - '*His called out ones*.'

*Colossians 1:13-14 (gnt) He rescued us from the power of darkness and brought us safe into the kingdom of His dear Son, <sup>14</sup> by whom we are set free, that is, our sins are forgiven.*

## Jesus declared His Church would be a force of strength!

In *Acts 2*, Jesus pours His Holy Spirit into the disciples giving them the power and authority they needed to begin to build His Church!

The book of Acts tells the story of the beginning and expansion of the Church.

Despite 2000+ years of persecution, hatred, imprisonment, and slander, **the Church has stood the test of time and still stands today.**

Jesus' declaration that His Church would be a '*force of strength*' and not even the '*gates of hell*' would be able to triumph over it!

**The Church is the hope of the world.**

Jesus has an awesome plan of bringing lost people back to Him and the Church is central to outworking His plan of redemption.

## **Defining God's Master Project**

*"The Church is a community of Christ-followers empowered by the Holy Spirit to participate in God's mission to the world."*

- ***The Church is a community***

God created us to live life in community. Jesus did not do life in isolation but in community!

The early Church, practised community and it was vital to its growth. (*Acts 2:42-47*)

Church is **NOT** a '***building***' or an '***event***' we visit, the Church is a community that God wants us '***connected***' into – *to do life together.*

- The Church is a community of **Christ-followers**

Jesus called His disciples to stop what they were doing and to surrender their lives in following Him.

Jesus told the disciples to go and ‘*make disciples,*’ other followers (*Matthew 28:18-20*)

Who would live according to the new lifestyle Jesus taught and modelled.

The goal of every true disciple is to be like their Master. **Our goal as Christ-followers is to be like Jesus – to live out His example!**

- The Church is a community of Christ-followers ***empowered by the Spirit.***

One of the most important keys to Jesus’ life and ministry was that He was empowered by the Holy Spirit. *Mark 1:10; Luke 4:1, 14, 18-21*

Jesus declared that the power of the Holy Spirit was a crucial requirement for His followers. *Luke 24:49; Acts 1:4-5*

The Holy Spirit influences our character as revealed by *the fruit of the Spirit Galatians 5:22*

The Holy Spirit equips and empowers us for life and ministry. (*Matthew 10:1; 10:8; Luke 9:1-2; 10:1-9; 10:17; Mark 6:12; Ephesians 3:20*)

- The Church is a community of Christ-followers empowered by the Spirit to ***participate in God's mission in the world.***

Jesus left the comforts of heaven to come into the brokenness of earth to make a way for people to be restored back to God - **Jesus was a missionary!**

By engaging in His global harvest, we partner in what Jesus is doing in the world.

The Church is entrusted with the Gospel, which is the basis to ***transform*** the human heart.

## **What does this mean for us?**

It challenges us to be diligent co-labourers for Jesus in fulfilling His mission.

- Are you following Jesus?
- Are you a participant in Jesus' community?
- Are you empowered by the Holy Spirit?
- Are you intentionally participating in God's mission to reach the world?