



WHEN THE SPIRIT
MOVES

Releasing the Spirit-Empowered Church

September 15, 2024 Message Notes
Ephesians 1:18-19

NOTES

“Is there a place for me when I know there’s not?” Tony Berg

- This question speaks to the consequences of our relational pain, lost expectations, lost opportunities and failures.
- Yet it also speaks to our deepest desire to be needed and known, to have a place to belong and to become enraptured in a mission and a vision bigger than ourselves.



YES! It's the church. There is no other community like it in the world – the community of our living Lord, Jesus Christ.

“I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know... the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in his holy people and, his incomparably great power for us who believe.” Ephesians 1:17-19

Christ's salvation provides -

- Eternal Hope
- Enduring Power
- Glorious Inheritance

“This hope will not lead to disappointment. For we know how dearly God loves us, because he has given us the Holy Spirit to fill our hearts with his love.” Romans 5:5

“... The eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the riches of his glorious inheritance in his holy people.” Ephesians 1:18

In between hope for tomorrow and power for today is **God's gracious gift of one another.**

The church isn't merely a gathering. It is a portion of your salvation inheritance

“Our Heavenly Father decided in advance to adopt us into his own family by bringing us to himself in Christ Jesus. This is what he wanted to do, and it gave him great pleasure.” Ephesians 1:5

“For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.” John 3:16



“God showed his great love for us by sending Christ to die for us while we were still sinners.” Romans 5:8

God is inviting us to learn how to love like him by choosing to love one another - even when it feels difficult, seems unfair or might even cost a percentage of our reputation or status - and that is more difficult than uniformity.

“I am praying not only for these disciples but also for all who will ever believe in me through their message. I pray that they will all be one, just as you and I are one—as you are in me, Father, and I am in you. And may they be in us so that the world will believe you sent me.” John 17:20-21

The mission of the church is unified reconciliation.

“God has now revealed to us his mysterious will regarding Christ—which is to fulfill his own good plan. And this is the plan: At the right time he will bring everything together under the authority of Christ—everything in heaven and on earth.” Ephesians 1:9-10

The church that chooses unity:

- offers respect and dignity to every person as an image bearer.
- learns how to disagree without dishonoring.
- seeks to reconcile with humility rather than divide over pride.

The journey begins by inviting the Holy Spirit to do a work in your heart.

“Contemporary America isn’t set up to promote mutuality, care, or common life..... Our American lifestyles maximize individual accomplishment as defined by professional and financial success. Such a system leaves precious little time or energy for forms of community that don’t contribute to one’s own professional life, or as one ages, the professional prospects of one’s children.”



“The Misunderstood Reason Millions of Americans Stopped Going to Church”, The Atlantic

“72% of American adults say they’re open and curious about spirituality - and even maintain a positive view of Jesus - but cultural shifts and changing perceptions about churchgoing have led to a decline in church attendance.” “Engaging the Spiritually Open,” Barna Group

“We Christians are the Church and whatever we do is what the Church is doing. The matter, therefore, is for each of us a personal one. Any forward step in the Church must begin with the individual.” A.W. Tozer

The church is not a duty or an obligation, not an institution or a building. **It’s us.** It’s God’s design for touching heaven on earth. The church is God’s Plan A. There is no Plan B.

How do we do it? Read Ephesians 4.

- Verse 1: Lead a life worthy of our calling. A great church begins in your heart
- Verse 3: Bind yourselves together in peace.
- Verse 4: You’ve been called to one glorious hope. This world is not all there is.
- Verse 10: One day, Jesus will fill the whole universe with himself. This is the direction of history.
- Verse 15: We speak the truth in love, growing more like Jesus every day.
- Verse 16: Jesus fits us together, as we live out our calling. We entrust him with all outcomes.



- Verse 22: Throw away your sinful nature. You don't need to live in shame any longer.
- Verse 24: Put on your new nature, created to be like God—truly righteous and holy.
- Verse 25: Tell the truth.
- Verse 26: Don't let your anger control you.
- Verse 27: Use your hands for good hard work. Give generously to others.
- Verse 29 Don't use foul or abusive language. Let everything you say be good and helpful, so that your words will be an encouragement to those who hear them.
- Verse 32: Be kind to each other, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, just as God through Christ has forgiven you.

As our Father's adopted sons and daughters, we are children of light. When we unite together, our light shines bright and far in a dark world.

Let's invite God's Holy Spirit to **unleash us with his hope, his power alive in us to do his work.**

