



PRINCIPLES

FOR THE GATHERING
OF BELIEVERS UNDER
THE HEADSHIP OF
JESUS CHRIST

PRINCIPLES FOR THE GATHERING OF BELIEVERS
UNDER THE HEADSHIP OF JESUS CHRIST

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We dedicate this work to *our Lord Jesus Christ* and His kingdom work. For from Him and to Him and for Him are all things.⁴ *Amen.*

¹ Romans 16

² 2 Corinthians 11:28, Ephesians 5:27

³ 2 Corinthians 4:7

⁴ Romans 11:36

“I WILL BUILD MY CHURCH,
AND THE GATES OF HADES
WILL NOT OVERCOME IT.”

The Words of Jesus Christ our
Lord and *soon coming King*.⁵

⁵ Matthew 16:18



Table of Contents

Foreword.....	11
Preface.....	13
Introduction Letter.....	17

PRINCIPLES FROM THE BOOK OF ACTS

Principle 1 - Solely Looking to the Person of Jesus Christ.....	23
Principle 2 - Where 2 or 3 are Gathered Together.....	27
Principle 3 - God's People Scattered in Sects.....	31
Principle 4 - God Directed Churches Needed.....	35
Principle 5 - The Book of Acts Our Example.....	39
Principle 6 - Not Depending On or Needing Buildings.....	43
Principle 7 - The People of God Are the Church.....	47
Principle 8 - Taking a Stand For the Testimony of the Church...	51
Principle 9 - The Early Apostles Didn't Seek After Money.....	55
Principle 10 - Preaching the Good News.....	59
Principle 11 - Leading is Serving in Humility.....	63
Principle 12 - Jesus Christ: The Head of the Church.....	67
Principle 13 - A Growing Vibrant Movement.....	71
Principle 14 - Making Disciples Not Just Converts.....	75
Principle 15 - Not Pleasing Men but God Alone.....	77
Principle 16 - The Church Was Birthed in Prayer.....	79
Principle 17 - The Spirit is Essential.....	83
Principle 18 - The Satanic Counterfeit.....	85

Principle 19 - Dependence on the Spirit of Jesus.....	89
Principle 20 - Holy Spirit Normal Christianity.....	93
Principle 21 - Hungering After the True Holy Spirit Baptism	97
Principle 22 - God Uses the Weak by His Spirit.....	99
Principle 23 - Cults, False Gospels and Division.....	103
Principle 24 - Christ the Unity of the Body.....	105
Principle 25 - Not Judging Others.....	107
Principle 26 - Having a Right Doctrine but Wrong Spirit.....	111
Principle 27 - The Priority of Love.....	115
Principle 28 - Examine Yourself and Correction in Love.....	119
Principle 29 - Being Rich in Mercy.....	123
Principle 30 - Reading the Entirety of Scriptures.....	125
Principle 31 - Godly Disciplines for Assemblies.....	129
Principle 32 - Godliness Through the Act of Submission.....	131
Principle 33 - The Obedience of Believers Baptism.....	135
Principle 34 - The Body of Christ: An Army of Evangelists.....	137
Principle 35 - The Lord's Supper: The Death of Christ.....	141

PRINCIPLES FROM THE UNDERGROUND CHURCH IN CHINA

Principle 36 - Dependence on the Moving of the Holy Spirit	147
Principle 37 - Jesus Christ As Lord and Head.....	151
Principle 38 - The Spirit of Martyrdom.....	155
Principle 39 - God Actually Answers Prayer.....	159
Principle 40 - The Body of Christ Is the Church.....	161
Principle 41 - The Back To Jerusalem Movement.....	165
Principle 42 - The True Mission of the Church.....	167

PRINCIPLES FROM THE UNDERGROUND CHURCH IN NORTH KOREA

Principle 43 - North Korea's Leader, an Image of Antichrist.....	173
Principle 44 - A Cost to Be Part of the Church.....	177
Principle 45 - Five Challenging Reminders.....	181
Principle 46 - Meeting in Home Churches.....	185
Principle 47 - The Lord's Day Can Be Everyday!.....	189
Principle 48 - We Are a Body of Christ Together.....	193
Principle 49 - Sharing and Memorization of Scripture.....	197
Principle 50 - Not Merely Listening.....	201

Principle 51 - Measuring True Christian Growth.....	203
Principle 52 - The Practice of Teaching Children.....	207
Principle 53 - Raising Up Many Leaders in the Body.....	211
Principle 54 - Remembering the Poor.....	213
Principle 55 - Witnessing and Missions Work by Faith.....	217

PRINCIPLES FROM THE UNDERGROUND CHURCH IN IRAN

Principle 56 - Explosive Growth in an Antichrist State.....	223
Principle 57 - Sharing the Faith Constantly in All Situations.....	229
Principle 58 - New Converts Every Church Meeting.....	233
Principle 59 - Networking Small Groups of Believers.....	237
Principle 60 - Martyrs Esteemed in the Church.....	241
Epilogue: The Call to Gather as Fellowships.....	245

Appendix I - PREPARING THE BODY OF CHRIST FOR PERSECUTION

Preparing for Persecution; To be a Christian by brother Edgar...	251
The Coming Tsunami of Persecution by brother Greg.....	261
A Plain Vision for Coming Persecution by brother Brian.....	269

Appendix II - SELECT TEACHINGS FOR GOSPEL FELLOWSHIPS

Chinese House Churches Interview by brother Denny.....	299
God's New Thing by brother David.....	307
Submission and Leadership by brother Zac.....	323
Baptism of the Holy Spirit by brother Denny.....	335
Without the Holy Spirit of God by brother Chadwick.....	351
Loving Your Brothers and Sisters by brother Edgar.....	359

Appendix III - GOSPEL FELLOWSHIPS ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Statement of Faith for Gospel Fellowships.....	369
Chronological Bible Reading of Scriptures.....	379
Guidelines for Gathering.....	391
Gospel Fellowships Hymnal.....	395
Gospel Fellowships Readings.....	455



Foreword

THERE IS only one house that will stand in the coming storm, and only one people who will not be swept away in a flood of last-day deception. There is only one temple that God will fill with His indescribable glory, and only one lighthouse that will forever shine as a pure testimony of God's saving grace. There is only one kingdom that can never be shaken, and only one ark that will be spared in the sudden outpouring of God's righteous judgment. There is only one Bride for the Bridegroom; there is only one, called to the marriage supper of the Lamb.

This one and only is the beloved Church of the Lord Jesus Christ. She is the apple of His eye. This is His body and this is His Bride. This is what Christ has promised to build.

"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."⁶

The book you are now reading is a clarion call to return to the Lordship of Jesus Christ and to join Him in building the Church He started on the day of Pentecost when He sent the promise of His Holy Spirit. This book is not an authority; nor are the brothers who wrote it. They are simply humble men who have a burning passion for the Glory of God and the exaltation of Jesus Christ alone! I believe you will find the principles here to be thoroughly Biblical, intensely practical, and very helpful to any who wish to gather as a true Church under the Lordship of Jesus Christ. The messages are

⁶ Matthew 16:18

prophetic, and the examples of our brothers and sisters who make up the persecuted Church in China, Iran, and North Korea are sobering and convicting.

The false church, Babylon, will one day fall under the Mighty hand of God's awful judgment never to rise again, and all of heaven will shout, "Alleluia!"⁷ Therefore, God says, "'Come out of her, My people,' so that you will not share in her sins, so that you will not receive any of her plagues."⁸

The time is now. Count the cost. You will be persecuted, tested, and tried. You will be misunderstood, hated by the world, and sometimes hated even by the members of your own household.⁹ There will be tears, heartache, tribulation, suffering and pain. But, you will be living for the One who is worthy of all, and whose eternal kingdom cannot be shaken nor ever fade away. You will have the privilege of serving the King of kings and the Lord of all lords. Moreover, you will one day have the awesome indescribable experience of seeing His glorious face and hearing Him call you by name as His own.

May God stir up the burning hearts of a Remnant who love Jesus Christ more than their own lives!¹⁰ May the Lord bring them together as one so that the fire burns hotter and the light shines even brighter! May Christ have a true and holy testimony on the earth where He has called you to gather with other saints today! May the whole earth be filled with the knowledge of the glory of The Lord, even as the waters cover the sea!¹¹ May we be found ready when He suddenly returns for His Bride!

Looking to Jesus, the Author and Finisher of our faith,¹²

- brother Brian

⁷ Revelation 19:1

⁸ Revelation 18:4

⁹ Matthew 10:34-36

¹⁰ Revelation 12:11

¹¹ Habakkuk 2:14

¹² Hebrews 12:2



Preface

THIS VOLUME has been developed out of a burden to see vital gatherings of God's people established in these last days.¹³ The time of pressure and persecution that is coming worldwide will be such that it will demand the unity of the true body of Christ. For in the Gospel of Matthew it is declared by our Lord: "Then you will be handed over to be persecuted and put to death, and you will be hated by all nations because of Me."¹⁴ This truth of persecution is Biblical and repeated often in the Scriptures.¹⁵

Some specific goals for writing this book are:

1.) To assist true believers and Biblical churches in preparing for coming persecution by assembling in smaller groups.¹⁶

2.) To encourage true believers to leave churches that no longer teach the whole Word of God and to gather as believers under the Headship of Jesus Christ.

3.) To provide a manual of Biblical principles and guidelines for gatherings of believers.

4.) To unify believers who have been separated by various denominational issues, within a gathering under the Headship of Christ.

¹³ Hebrews 1:2

¹⁴ Matthew 24:9

¹⁵ 2 Timothy 3:12, John 15:18, Luke 6:22, Revelation 6:9-11

¹⁶ To gather in smaller groups where servant leadership can be fostered and where believers can grow in maturity in their Christian walk is essential for coming persecution.

God is desiring to bring great glory to His Son through the body of Christ (*gatherings of true believers*) on the earth. The Scriptures declare that the “Gospel of the kingdom will be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come.”¹⁷ This preaching and spreading of the Gospel will be done not by the ingenuity of men, but by the working of the Spirit of God. God is raising many servant leaders to shepherd His Church in these end times. Yet, most will not be men of renown or of prestige. God is raising up many obscure godly servants—who share the Spirit of the True Shepherd—to call for the gathering of His body in our day.

The vision of the book is for gatherings of believers in local areas under the Headship of Jesus Christ, to assemble even with just 2-3 other believers. The name the Lord gave us for this burden is *Gospel Fellowships*.¹⁸ You are free to use that term to associate what God is doing in your area in response to this book.

We do not consider ourselves, or this book, to be an authority, but rather seek to provide simple guidelines to help those who will hear the voice of God and gather with like-minded believers to accomplish God’s eternal purpose in the earth.

Many brethren have given their time and consideration in making this book more readable and a reflection of the mind of the Lord. We truly believe this effort has been a collective effort of the body of Christ and a concern of many, not just of a few brothers and sisters in the body. Therefore, we pray that this book can be received by many more in the body of Christ.

The appendices contain, among other resources, some longer transcribed sermons of consequence preached in the last decade that reflect the Lord’s heart towards the gathering of believers. There are over 1000 footnotes in this volume—mostly Scripture references. The references are not exhaustive, but they are more than sufficient to be a help to believers. We encourage you strongly to look up many of these verses as you go through the *Principles* book.

May God Himself unify the people of God by His Spirit for encouragement and strengthening in these last days.

¹⁷ Matthew 24:14

¹⁸ This name does not need to be used to denote your gathering. To learn further how this name *Gospel Fellowships* came about read the *Statement of Faith* section in *Appendix III*.

Holy Father, we desire to see Your Son glorified and lifted up in our midst. We are everyday humbled to be children of Yours and to be a part of Your body, the Church. We are tired of seeing what men can do in Your Name, and our burden is to see You do a fresh work of Your Spirit to allow many more to become disciples of Jesus Christ. Please Lord, breathe upon Your servants, give us renewed commitment to carry the cross and follow You in the narrow way that leads to life. May we be full of Your love by the Holy Spirit for others and look for a wonderful end times expansion of Your kingdom into the entire world. We ask that You would do these things and much more for the glory of Your holy Son, Jesus Christ. Amen.



Introduction Letter

DEAR SAINTS scattered abroad,¹⁹

Greetings in the precious Name of our Lord Jesus Christ. To all who are reading this book, called to be saints and beloved of God, grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

With such powerful modern movements of the Spirit such as the house Church Movement in China,²⁰ the underground Church in North Korea, and the underground Church in Iran, we need to reevaluate the fruitfulness of the body of Christ in our countries. There is a great need to see such a move of God's Holy Spirit in many of the churches in the world. As the Church, we believe that there is a need to again learn godly discipline, prayer and discipleship from these suffering brothers and sisters, especially in countries where no strong persecution is yet taking place. The Lord is in deep pain.²¹ He is mocked and He is blasphemed.²² The Lord wants us to return to Him.²³ As we compare our lives to the Christians in China, in North Korea, in the Middle east, in other persecuted countries and even Christians in the Book of Acts, there is little similarity.

¹⁹ Paul in Ephesians 1:1 and other verses declares all Christians *saints* or *holy people* so this letter is addressed to all believers in Jesus Christ.

²⁰ Referring to the unregistered underground rural house Churches

²¹ James 4:4

²² 1 John 2:15

²³ Revelation 3:19

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