



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



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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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