Church:

A People of Refreshing and Restoration

"Repent, then and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out, that times of refreshing may come from the Lord, and that he may send the Christ, who has been appointed for you — even Jesus."

Acts 3:19-20 NIV

It must be natural for believers to long for a greater sense of God's presence in their lives.

"I'm hungry for another Asbury."

Human beings have an innate longing for meaning, purpose, and inner well-being beyond the natural realm.

Increasingly, people realize that worldly systems are limited and cannot address the deeper issues of the heart, soul, and spirit.

This world (i.e., the natural world, worldly philosophies, and social structures) cannot satisfy our deep longing for meaning, purpose, and connection, nor can it sustain our spiritual vitality or inner well-being.

Sin ruins the life God gives us by destroying our confidence and joy and stealing happiness from our relationship with God and others.

We all sin and feel shame, guilt, failure, and embarrassment, and we tend to seek relief and salvation from sources other than King Jesus.

Repentance, returning to God, and receiving remission of sins is necessary for experiencing His refreshing presence.

While God's love remains constant, spiritual refreshment isn't automatic.

Word from February 4th, 2024

...To feel and know my presence. I am beginning to turn the fire up in this place. I am beginning to turn up My presence in this place, and you My people are boiling places; you will begin to boil as you come near Me. More and more and more.

The boiling will occur and it will boil up the dross and it will bring My refining fire and you will know the love of God and express it to those you see outside these WALLS — that they may know that this is My place, My boiling place, My caldron of God's love, My place, in Jesus name. Amen.

A Purpose Clause

"...turn to God, so that..."

"Repent, then and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out, that times of refreshing may come from the Lord, and that he may send the Christ, who has been appointed for you — even Jesus."

Acts 3:19-20 NIV

We want a better way of being and living!

Even with this fantastic promise of refreshing, our seasons with God are not all the same, and that's the mutual ground we share.

Together, we recognize that the depth and richness of our seasons and relationships are directly impacted by our obedience to the indispensable instructions set forth by God and His word.

The Father, Son, & Holy Spirit

Refreshing from God

Acts 3:19-20

Jesuscentered, Spirit-filled, Kingdom living

Human Beings

The seasons of refreshing from God are distinguished by key traits evident in the early church and the lives of Jesus' followers.

What are the key traits of "refreshing" within the life and mission of the early church and Jesus' followers, as seen in the book of Acts?

Allegiance to King Jesus!

Acts 5:29, 17:7, 20:24, 21:13

Holy Spirit empowered living.

Acts 1:8; 2:4; 4:31; 6:5; 7:55; 8:29; 10:44-45; 11:12 24; 13:9, 52; 19:6

"If we are going to count for much in the post-modern world in which we now live, the Spirit must remain the key to the church's existence."

Fee, Gordon D.. Paul, the Spirit, and the People of God (p. 179).

Baker Publishing Group. Kindle Edition.

Divine boldness in gospel proclamation and missional living.

Acts 2:14-40; 3:12-26; 4:8-12, 29-31; 5:42; 8:4-12; 9:27-28; 10:34-43; 13:14-52; 14:3; 18:9-11; 17:22-31; 19:8-10; 20:20-21

Uncommon diverse relational hesed and fellowship.

Acts 2:42-47; 4:32-35; 5:12-16; 11:19-26; 15:22-31; 20:7-12

Lives of committed prayer.

Acts 1:14; 2:42; 3:1; 4:23-31; 6:4; 9:11; 10:9; 12:5; 13:2-3; 16:25

Lives of radical generosity.

Acts 2:44-45; 4:32-37; 9:36-39; 10:1-4; 11:27-30; 20:35

Enduring faith during trials and tribulations.

Acts 4:18-20; 5:41-42; 7:59-60; 9:16; 12:5; 14:1-3, 19-22; 16:23-25; 20:22-24

Operating in the ministry gifts of the Spirit.

Acts 2:4; 3:6-8; 5:15-16; 6:8; 8:6-7; 9:17-18, 40; 10:44-46; 13:6-12; 14:1-3, 8-10; 16:16-18; 19:11-12; 28:3-9

Commitment to gospel sharing and discipleship.

Acts 2:42; 4:2, 18-20; 5:42; 8:4, 11:19-21; 14:21-22; 15:35; 16:10; 17:2-3; 18:11; 19:9-10; 20:20, 27; 28:31

Leadership development.

Acts 1:21-26; 6:1-7; 11:19-26; 13:1-3; 14:21-23; 15:36-41; 16:1-5, 11-12; 18:24-28; 20:17-38; 20:28-31; 21:8-14

How are we doing when we examine our lives next to the early church and Jesus' followers?

God-given refreshment is crucial for growing spiritually, showing our faith in action, and spreading the Gospel across cultures.

Refreshing is needed until restoration is established.

Sincerely pray...

"Spirit of God, we yield ourselves to You. Kindle in us a fresh longing for You, King Jesus, and the Father.

We say 'yes' to being receptive vessels, ready to embody the spiritual refreshment You provide."

Church:

A People of Refreshing and Restoration