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# The Keys to the Church, Part III (Believers Assemble)

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## Keys To The Kingdom

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***Sermon: Keys To The Kingdom: The Keys to the Church, Part III (Believers Assemble)***

***Lesson Text***

Hebrews 10:24–25 (KJV)<sup>24</sup> And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works: <sup>25</sup> Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some *is*; but exhorting *one another*: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.

James 5:16 (KJV)<sup>16</sup> Confess *your* faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.

***Introduction***

This third set of keys to the church is about coming together and assembling ourselves.

When the Covid-19 pandemic of 2020 happened, people with underlying conditions of sickness weren't the only victims. There were many other victims who had no physical sickness.

We started working by ourselves, educating by ourselves, living by ourselves, entertaining by ourselves, eating by ourselves, and yes worshipping and churching by ourselves.

The loneliness and social isolation had physical and mental repercussions, including elevated risks of heart disease and stroke, type 2 diabetes, depression and anxiety, suicide and self-harm, dementia, sleep disturbances, and earlier death.

Scores on national tests dropped to historic lows, reversing two decades of progress in reading and math. Five years later, students are still less than halfway to a full academic recovery.

And these same types of affects have hit the church. Those attending church regularly have dipped to 33%. More than 56% of Americans now attend church infrequently or not at all. The younger generations of Millennials and Gen Xers are the least likely to attend church now after the pandemic.

During the time when we need it the most, because we have pulled away from the church; we are losing our power, our authority, anointing, prayer life, bible study, worship and praise.

And yet the bible teaches us that we should do the opposite: Hebrews 10: <sup>25</sup> Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some *is*; but exhorting *one another*: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.

Over the years, I've loved watching Marvel movies such as Avengers: Infinity Wars and Avengers: Endgame. During the darkest moments of the battles, Captain America would shout out the iconic battle cry to earth's mighty heroes, "Avengers Assemble."

It was a rally for the team during critical moments, symbolizing unity, courage, and teamwork.

Well during this time where we are seeing wars and rumors of wars, dramatic shifts in the world's politics, economy, world order, culture, families; now is not the time to pull back.

In the words of Captain America, it's time for us to make a battle cry, "Believers Assemble!"

***Series and Sermon: Keys To The Kingdom: The Keys to the Church, Part III (Believers Assemble)***

(Assemble To Provoke Love, Assemble To Provoke Confession, Assemble To Provoke Encouragement)

***I. Assemble To Provoke Love***

Hebrews 10: <sup>24</sup> And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works:

The first goal of believers assembling themselves is to provoke or to motivate to love.

You know I find it interesting that many Pentecostal and Holiness denominations put a great deal of emphasis on believers being identified by specific gifts, speaking in tongues.

Testimony: “First giving unto God, Pastor, Saints and Friends,... do find me saved, sanctified, baptized, and filled with the Holy Ghost, with the evidence of speaking in tongues.

**BONUS HOMEWORK:** What are the only three scriptures in the bible that spoke about speaking in tongues when people received the Holy Ghost, and why did those events happen?

But I do find it interesting that Jesus, who built the church, never made such a claim that his followers would be identified by the evidence of speaking in tongues.

However, He did speak prolifically about us being identified by Love; actually 71 times.

John 13:34–35 (KJV)<sup>34</sup> **A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another.** <sup>35</sup> **By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another.**

So, I’m curious as to when Jesus comes back, will he be looking for a Church full on tongue talkers who can’t get along, or people who demonstrate uncommon love for one another. Will he judge us based on how fluid and skilled we are in tongues, or how deeply we love each other.

Our first lesson text teaches us that we should assemble ourselves in the church to provoke unto love and to good works.

First, we have too many people trying to work in the church, but they don’t have love.

But more importantly, I believe that it’s not an accident or chance that love came before works.

Hebrews 10: <sup>24</sup> And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works:

Although we should all work in the church, our first goal must be to provoke or motivate each other to love in the church.

Motivate to stop fussing and love, motivate to stop being offended and love, motivate to stop being angry and love, motivate to stop wearing our emotions on our sleeves and love.

Jeremiah 31:3 (KJV)<sup>3</sup> The LORD hath appeared of old unto me, *saying*, Yea, I have loved thee with an everlasting love: therefore with lovingkindness have I drawn thee.

Love your neighbor as yourselves, love your enemies, love not the world, have the love of the father, don't let our love wax cold, no greater love than to lay down one's life for a friend.

## ***II. Assemble To Provoke Confession***

James 5: <sup>16</sup> Confess *your* faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.

The next goal of believers assembling themselves is to provoke or to motivate confession.

A lot of believers don't confess to one another because, first, they don't want to be embarrassed, and second, they don't trust one another.

**Stop being a victim of what people think who don't care about you.** Because if they cared about you, they would be there for you, not ridiculing or criticizing you.

People don't have a heaven or hell to put us in. And if they are not there when we need them the most, why should we care what they think.

The only person we should care about is God, and he told us how he thinks!

Hebrews 4:15–16 (KJV)<sup>15</sup> For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as *we are, yet* without sin. <sup>16</sup> Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.

Romans 8:1 (KJV)<sup>1</sup> *There is* therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.

**Find the people who care about you and confess, so they can pray for you.**

No you don't want everybody in your business, but you need to confess to somebody who can help you with your business.

James 5:14 (KJV)<sup>14</sup> Is any sick among you? let him call for the **elders of the church**; and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord:

The reason why we can't trust people is because we are confessing to the wrong people. When you're hurt, don't confess to hurt people. When you are blind, don't confess to blind people.

Luke 6:39 (KJV)<sup>39</sup> And he spake a parable unto them, **Can the blind lead the blind? shall they not both fall into the ditch?**

This is not the time for "Me To," it's time for "Been Through."

We need a Pastor who has God's own heart, and an elder or leader who's been through, and came out victorious.

Revelation 12:11 (KJV)<sup>11</sup> **And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives unto the death.**

### ***III. Assemble To Provoke Encouragement***

Hebrews 10: <sup>25</sup> Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some *is*; but exhorting *one another*: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.

The final goal of believers assembling themselves is to provoke or to motivate encouragement.

- We motivate to love, so that our works will be effective
- We motivate to confession, so that our prayers will be effective
- We motivate to encourage, because we need each other.

There are times in which we need to encourage ourselves: 1 Samuel 30:6 (KJV)<sup>6</sup> And David was greatly distressed; for the people spake of stoning him, because the soul of all the people was grieved, every man for his sons and for his daughters: but David encouraged himself in the LORD his God.

But sometimes you can get to a place so hurt, so distressed, so dark, so deep, so depressed, that you can't encourage yourself. You feel like your prayers are doing nothing. You can't worship. You can't praise. You can't sing. You can't pick yourself up.

And you will need someone in the spirit who can come get you.

Romans 15:1 (KJV)<sup>1</sup> We then that are strong ought to bear the infirmities of the weak, and not to please ourselves.

Matthew 18:20 (KJV)<sup>20</sup> **For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them.**

Ecclesiastes 4:9–12 (KJV)<sup>9</sup> Two *are* better than one; because they have a good reward for their labour. <sup>10</sup> For if they fall, the one will lift up his fellow: but woe to him *that is* alone when he falleth; for *he hath* not another to help him up. <sup>11</sup> Again, if two lie together, then they have heat: but how can one be warm *alone*? <sup>12</sup> And if one prevail against him, two shall withstand him; and a threefold cord is not quickly broken.

We pick each other up, we heat each other up, and we back each other up.

**Midweek Study Lesson Plan (Sermon: The Keys to the Church, Part III (Believers Assemble))**

**Lesson Text**

- Hebrews 10:24–25, James 5:16

**Sermon Outline**

- I. *Assemble To Provoke Love***
- II. *Assemble To Provoke Confession***
- III. *Assemble To Provoke Encouragement***

**Questions: (What was your main takeaway from this message?)**

**I. Getting to Know “Me”**

1. What’s your go-to comfort meal or drink after a long day, and what’s the story behind it?
2. If you could add one extra hour to your week just for you, how would you spend it?

**II. Into The Bible**

1. The power of agreement:
  - a. What does the word “agree” in Matthew 18:19 mean?
  - b. What principle about believers coming together is supported by Leviticus 26:8?
2. Read John 13:34-35. What do you think all men will see that will convince them of believers’ love for one another?

**III. Life Application**

1. How does our assembling together weekly inspire you to renew and recommit to your faith? How does this affect your daily spiritual practices for the week?
2. What steps do you take in integrating visitors, new members and members you don’t know personally into the community of the church?