



I. The Modern Church

II. The First Church

Matthew 16:13-19

Established

Acts 1:6-11

Enlightened

Acts 2:1-4

Empowered

III. Being The Church

Personal Reflection

Take time this week to pray & respond to the following:

Beginnings are important—they mark the start of a journey & initiate the telling of a new story. Knowing the beginning helps one to better understand the present & enables more effective preparation for the future.

It is vital for individuals, families, churches & even nations to avoid losing sight of the past. There is a danger in not knowing or forgetting from where one has come. Ignorance about origins can contribute to insecurity, uncertainty & ineffectiveness. When possible, questions about origin should not be left unanswered.

The beginning of the Church was miraculous & unique—unlike any other beginning in history. Nothing like the it had ever existed before nor has existed since.

The Church was established by the Lord Jesus—He is its founder & foundation. Jesus began the Church to carry out God’s plan to take the Gospel to the world. Through the Holy Spirit, He has sealed & empowered the Church to achieve this task. Being part of the Church means recognizing the Lordship of Christ, being submitted to His will & being committed to His mission.

What is your place in God’s Church? Are you relationally & spiritually engaged? Are you participating in the ministry or merely attending services? Is the command to reach the lost & make disciples of all nations one that you take personally?

Prayerfully ask God to reveal the areas in your life where you need to be a more diligent participant in His Church. Thank God for the opportunity to be part of the most important mission ever entrusted to human beings. Commit to faithfully serve alongside your Christian brethren.