



HUME'S CAMP KAJABE

DEVOTIONALS

DEVOTION 1: THE BEGINNING OF THE CHURCH

Have you ever had to change your plans? Have you planned exactly how things would go only to rearrange and restructure your entire plan? These changes are often due to unforeseen events, circumstances, or situations that force plans to change.

We have all experienced a change of plans — but God hasn't.

God has never had to change His plan, because His plan is from “everlasting to everlasting.” God's plan wasn't revised because of man's sin, nor is God improvising His plan as He observes what man will decide. He knows all things, and His plan has been set forth from the beginning of time.

When it comes to the subject of the Church, we must first understand that God didn't send Jesus into the world as a “Plan B” because things went wrong. No, on the contrary, God's plan from before the creation of the world was that Jesus would die for lost sinners, and that those who were saved by Jesus would be joined to Him forever in the Body of Christ, the Church.

1. Ephesians 1 tells us that God's grace toward us was at work long before we were born and long before the foundation of the world. How does this cultivate a heart of gratitude?
2. What do you think are some of the misconceptions other people have about the Church?
3. If the Church is full of imperfect people, why are we surprised when we learn more of the Church's imperfections?
4. If the Church is the only institution that was established *before* eternity, and the only institution thriving for *all* eternity, how does that affect the way we live?



DEVOTION 2: THE MESSAGE OF THE CHURCH

Although much has changed in the last 2000 years, the message of the Church has not.

The message of the Church is the gospel of Jesus Christ. Only those who believe in Jesus as the Son of God, and trust in His death and resurrection, will be joined to the Body of Christ. Often the message of the Church is condensed to, "God loves you and has a wonderful plan for your life," but this falls short of the truth that the Church must profess. Our message is that Jesus is Lord and that He is the *only* Savior. For over 2000 years, the Church has been charged with proclaiming this one message.

Many today want to see change in the world, but the Bible tells us that if we want to see change in our world, there must be a renewal in the Church. There must be a reinvigorated passion to proclaim the sole message of the Church: Jesus is Lord.

1. If the message of the Church is the gospel, what does that mean to those who are members of the Body of Christ?
2. There is often temptation to reduce or relativize the gospel message. How can you ensure that the message of the Church today stays consistent with the message of the Church throughout the New Testament?



DEVOTION 3: THE POWER OF THE CHURCH

Often when we think about various churches, we think of the pastors or musicians that are associated with that church. Inevitably, we start to believe that the power or influence of that church is associated with the giftings of people. Yes, God uses gifts and talents for His purposes, but the Bible speaks clearly about where the power of the Church lies:

God's Word and God's Spirit.

The power of the Church isn't relegated to the personality of the preacher or the voice of a singer; the power lies in the communication of the Word of God. Paul the Apostle is arguably the most influential preacher in history, and yet he reduces his own talents or abilities in order to promote the power of God's Spirit working through His Word. Hebrews 4:12 says that the "...word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart."

1. What are ways that you neglect the power of God's Word in your own life?
2. Does your schedule and priorities reflect that God changes people, cultures, and nations through His Spirit and His Word?
3. Read 1 Corinthians 2:1-5. Whose power is demonstrated as Paul preaches (verse 4)? Where is the Christian's faith grounded (verse 5)?



DEVOTION 4: THE MISSION OF THE CHURCH

Most brands have a slogan, and nearly every institution has a mission statement. These slogans, vision, or mission statements detail what that brand, business, or institution is all about.

What is the Church all about? What does the Church actually do?

Sometimes there is confusion and ambiguity not only regarding the message of the Church, but also its mission and purpose. Jesus puts all confusion to rest in Matthew 28 when He details that the **mission of the Church is to "...make disciples of all the nations."**

1. Why do you think it is important that Jesus didn't merely say "make converts?"

Jesus is clear that church is not merely something that you *attend*, but something that you are an active participant *in*. In order for the Church to fulfill its mission, the responsibility must not only be borne by preachers and "super-saints," but by everyday men, women, boys, and girls, who are faithful in proclaiming the message of the Church to a dying world.

The Bible also tells us that every single Christian has a gift God has given them that is to be used in the Church. No one has the exact same gift or to the same degree, but every believer in Jesus has a gift or *gifts* that God has given them for the purpose of strengthening and building the Church.

2. If you're in Christ, what do you think your spiritual gift is? Maybe you're unsure and that's okay. Sometimes we focus more on finding our gift than we do finding a need in the Church and helping fulfill that need.
3. What are ways you can serve your local church?
4. What prevents you from serving in the Church? How should we live in light of the reality that God has not called us merely to *attend* church, but to actively participate in the Church?



DEVOTION 5: THE DESTINY OF THE CHURCH

Unlike every other earthly institution, the Church doesn't have an expiration date. It will last forever in heaven. In Philippians 3:20-21, the Apostle Paul says: *"...our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, who will transform our lowly body to be like his glorious body, by the power that enables him even to subject all things to himself."* If you're a Christian, God has not only called you into a personal relationship with Him, but also a corporate one that is in the Body of Christ. Heaven, then, does not merely consist of numerous individuals, it consists of one Church.

Rarely do Christians contemplate eternity, but Scripture tells us that the Church has a hope that is imperishable, undefined, and unfading. That hope is: we will one day be with Jesus Christ. Much has been said regarding Heaven being the absence of sorrow, grief, and pain (which is true), but it's more than that — it's the presence of Jesus Christ. What makes heaven, *heaven*, is that Jesus is there, and that's where the Church is headed.

1. Paul tells us that we "await" the return of Jesus Christ, but the "waiting" meant for the Christian is not passive. In fact, our hope should fuel a heart of passionate obedience for Jesus. If you're a Christian, how does your future in heaven motivate you to live boldly while on earth?
2. Read Hebrews 13:14. Do you truly seek the kingdom that is to come? What are some of the things in your life that prevent you from fully anticipating heaven?

