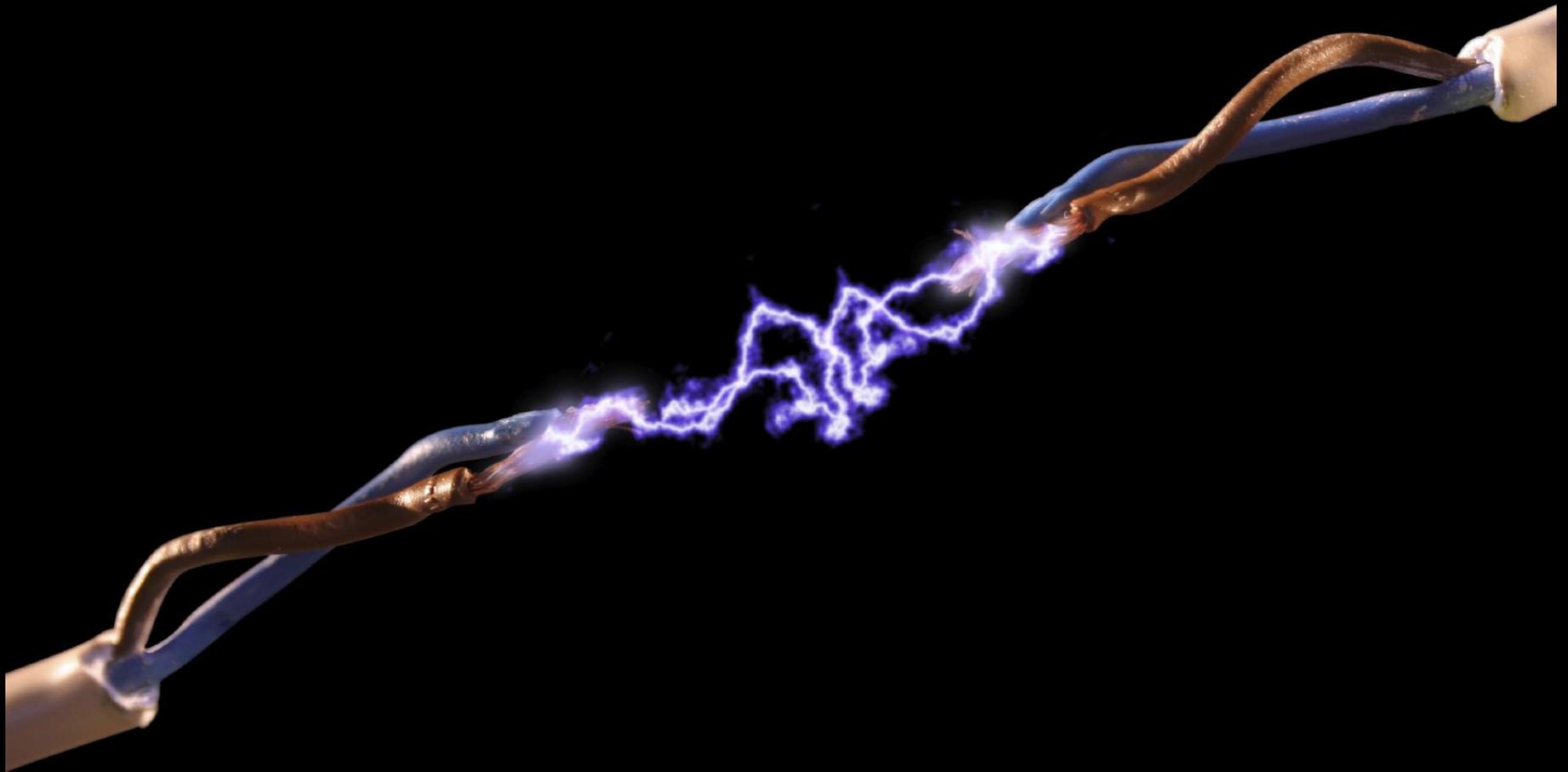


Be
the
Church



“If the Holy Spirit was withdrawn from the church today, 95 percent of what we do would go on and no one would know the difference. If the Holy Spirit had been withdrawn from the New Testament church, 95 percent of what they did would stop, and everybody would know the difference.”

A.W. Tozer











John 14:1-7 > “The rescue”

“Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me.
² In my Father's house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? ³ And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also. ⁴ And you know the way to where I am going.” ⁵ Thomas said to him, “Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?” ⁶ Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. ⁷ If you had known me, you would have known my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him.” ESV

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Being the church = a personal acceptance of Jesus' sacrifice on the cross for you and living a life fully submitted to God.

Major points:

- God wants to live reunited with mankind
- Jesus' work on the cross made a way for us to reunite
- Jesus is the *only way* back to God

John 14:8-14 > “The result”

⁸ Philip said to him, “Lord, show us the Father, and it is enough for us.” ⁹ Jesus said to him, “Have I been with you so long, and you still do not know me, Philip? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, ‘Show us the Father’? ¹⁰ Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own authority, but the Father who dwells in me does his works. ¹¹ Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me, or else believe on account of the works themselves. ¹² “Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever believes in me will also do the works that I do; and greater works than these will he do, because I am going to the Father. ¹³ Whatever you ask in my name, this I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. ¹⁴ If you ask me anything in my name, I will do it. ESV

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John 10:25

Jesus answered them, "I told you, and you do not believe. The works that I do in my Father's name bear witness about me, ESV

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Being the church = living as Jesus did – a purposeful, incarnational life modeled on His life.

Major points:

- We have a deep longing for, and are made for, living a life in community with God.
- “Showing” Jesus to the world is just as critical as “telling”
- You (the church) have a commission to continue Jesus’ work
- You will have a direct connection to God through prayer

John 14:15-21 > “The means”

¹⁵ “If you love me, you will keep my commandments. ¹⁶ And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever, ¹⁷ even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, for he dwells with you and will be in you.

¹⁸ “I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you. ¹⁹ Yet a little while and the world will see me no more, but you will see me. Because I live, you also will live. ²⁰ In that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. ²¹ Whoever has my commandments and keeps them, he it is who loves me. And he who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I will love him and manifest myself to him.” ESV

1 John 2:1

My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. ESV

Jesus = the first “paraclete”

The Holy Spirit = the second



John 15:4

⁴ Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me.

ESV

Being the church = living an intimate, deep relationship with God through the power and presence of His Holy Spirit.

Major points:

- Loving Jesus means living like He did
- The Holy Spirit is necessary to empower you to do this
- God will dwell with you forever
- The Holy Spirit is Truth
- The Holy Spirit is critical to the upcoming/ongoing mission of the church

John 14:22-27 > “The journey”

²² Judas (not Iscariot) said to him, “Lord, how is it that you will manifest yourself to us, and not to the world?” ²³ Jesus answered him, “If anyone loves me, he will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him.

²⁴ Whoever does not love me does not keep my words. And the word that you hear is not mine but the Father's who sent me.

²⁵ “These things I have spoken to you while I am still with you. ²⁶ But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you. ²⁷ Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid. ESV

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1 Corinthians 2:11

The Spirit searches all things, even the deep things of God. For who among men knows the thoughts of a man except the man's spirit within him? In the same way no one knows the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God.

“Earthly wisdom is doing what comes naturally. Godly wisdom is doing what the Holy Spirit compels us to do.”

Charles Stanley

Being the church = actively taking a personal journey with God through the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

Major Points:

We are to live in “obedient servanthood” as followers of Christ

We are God’s dwelling place

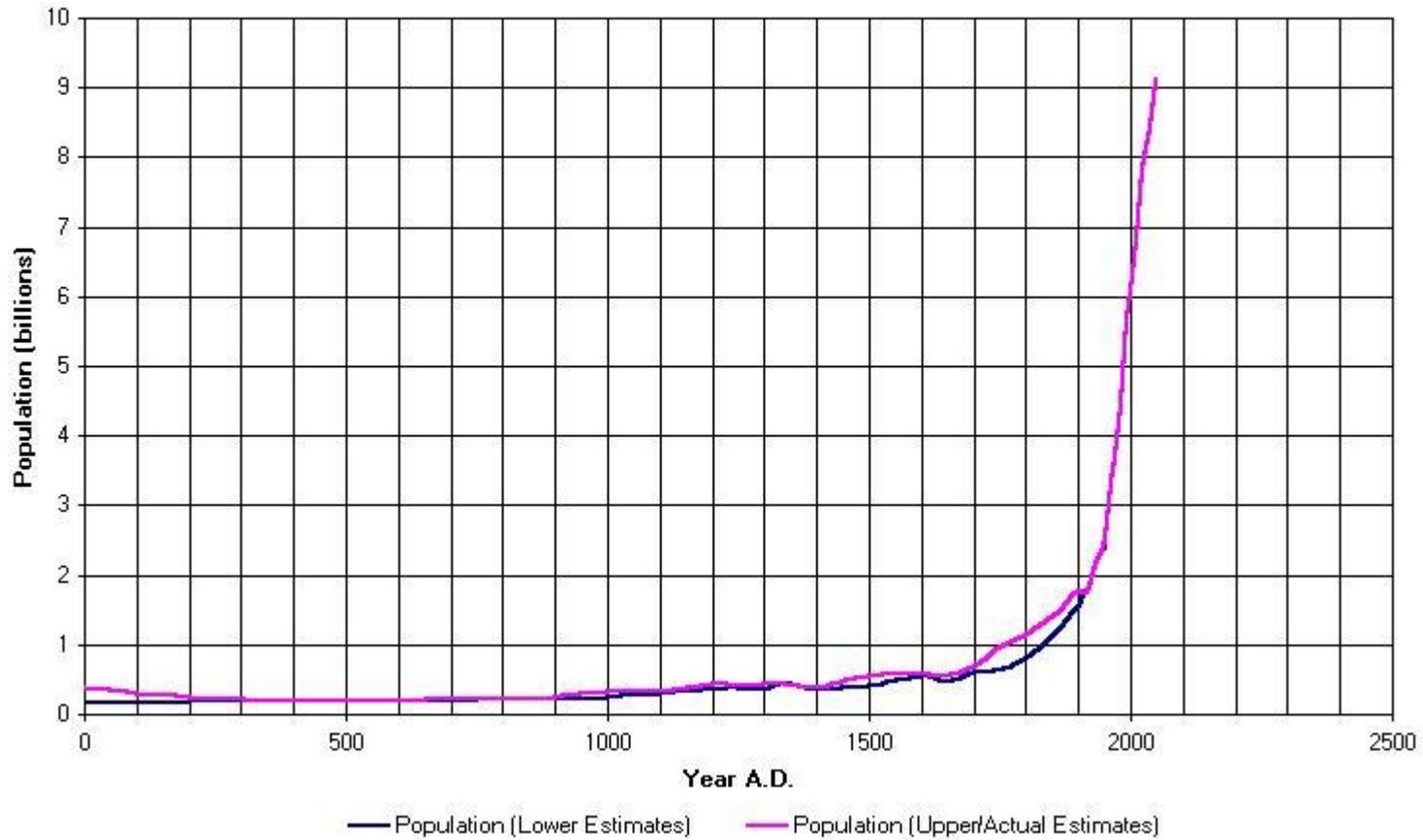
The Holy Spirit is the interpreter of God’s Truth

The Holy Spirit will guide us in life and mission with God

And what was the result of that little chat with the disciples?

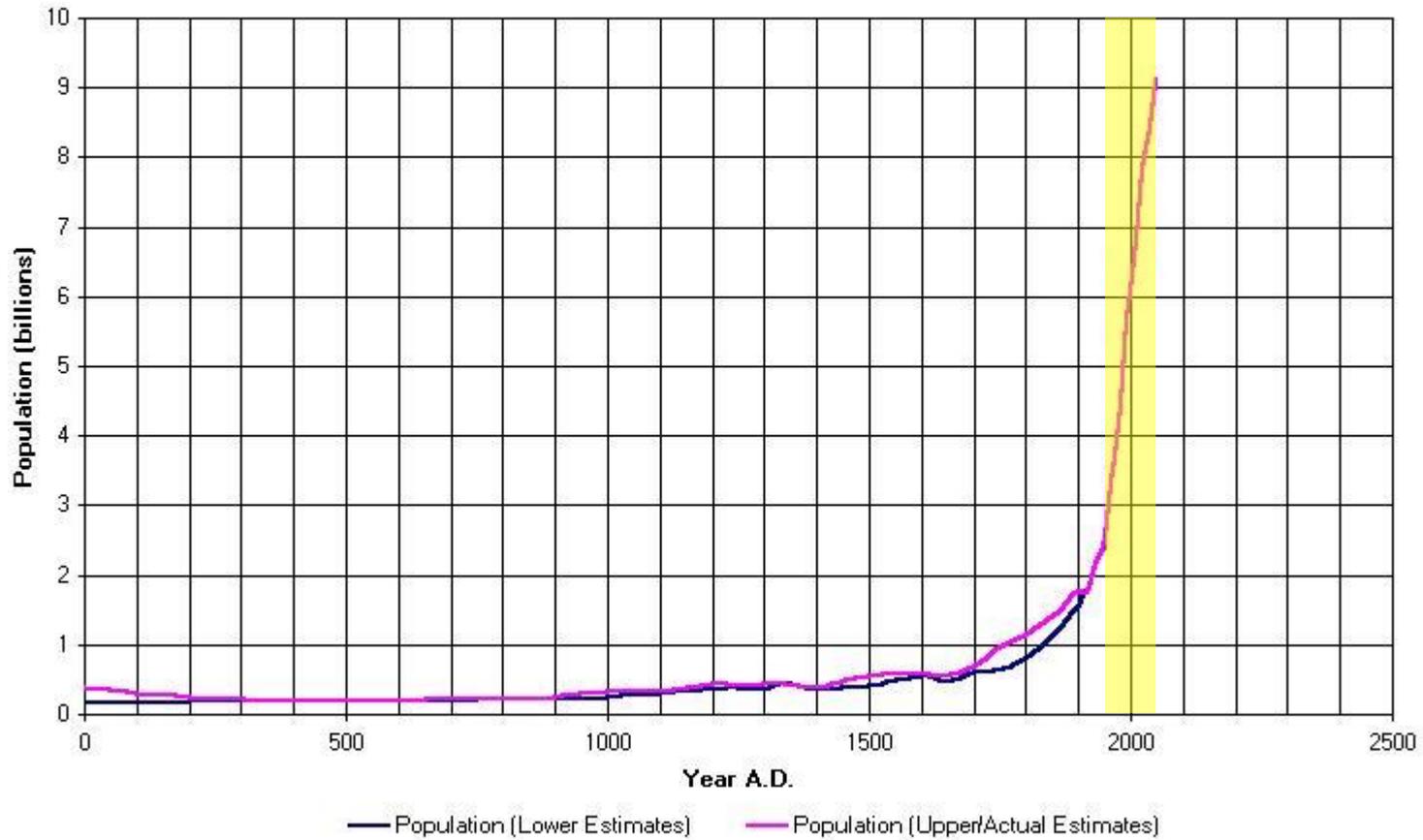
Historical Estimates of World Population

Source: U.S. Census Bureau



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Ask God:

Lord, where do I need to submit my life and follow You onto the ledge? Where am I compromising and taking the “safe” route?

I glorified you on earth, having accomplished the work that you gave me to do.

John 17:4