

## SCRIPTURAL RESOURCES GOD HAS GIVEN TO BELIEVERS

- 1. The HOLY SPIRIT OF GOD** - to indwell and guide us! – God has not left us to provide for ourselves!  
**John 14 v 16-17** - Comforter, a Divine Person (He, Him) - He dwelleth with you, and shall be in you.  
5 important aspects of His work - ch 14 v 17: He **Resides** - ch 14 v 26: He brings to **Remembrance** - ch 15 v 26: He **Reassures** - ch 16 v 8: He **Reproves** - 16 v 13: He **Reveals**.  
**Eph 1 v 13** - After ye believed, sealed with Holy Spirit - **1 Cor 6 v 19** - body is temple of Holy Spirit!
- 2. The WORD OF GOD** - to instruct us - it is our spiritual food to sustain us!  
**John 17 v 14** - I have given them thy Word - **v 17** Sanctify them through thy truth, thy Word is truth.  
**1 Peter 2 v 2** - Desire to read and meditate on His Word - families should read and pray together!
- 3. The SON OF GOD** - to intercede for us in all our needs – He has provided the throne of grace!  
He is our Saviour (Luke 2 v11) - He is our Great High Priest (Heb 4 v14) - He is Advocate (1 John 2 v1)  
**Heb 5 v 5** - My Son, His Deity and ability - **v 7** - His humanity and sympathy - **v 9-10** - His authority.
- 4. The CHURCH OF GOD** – which is a local assembly of believers scripturally gathered to the Lord's Name!

The only other aspect of the “church” in the New Testament is the “church which is His Body (Eph 2), which is comprised of every believer from the day of Pentecost (Acts 2) to the rapture (1 Thess 4), and the great majority of those saints are already in heaven!

Because of Israel’s rejection and crucifixion of the Messiah, God’s plan has always been to take out of the Gentiles in this present unique “church age”, a people for His Name, as a Bride for His Son (Acts 15 v 14). It was unknown to O/T prophets (Eph 3), but revealed by the Lord in Matt 16 v18 “I will build my church”, and commenced in the book of Acts after His ascension and the descent of the Holy Spirit in Acts ch 2.

There are many contrasts between this “church” and a local assembly of believers in any given locality!

### THE CHURCH – His Body

It is spiritual and invisible to us now (Matt 16)  
Not gathered together on earth  
Lord Jesus is the builder -- “I will build ”  
Entered at conversion – (we trusted Christ)  
Every genuine believer in it (Acts 2 to Rapture)  
Neither male or female – Gal 3 v 28.  
Nothing false can enter – Matt 16 v 18.  
It has perfect unity - John 17 v 11.  
Impossible to be put out of this church  
Will reign with Christ eternally.

### THE LOCAL ASSEMBLY

A visible local company -- 1 Cor 1 – Rev 2 & 3  
Are gathered together regularly – Matt 18 v 20  
Men given responsibility to build – 1 Cor 3  
Entered by reception – Acts 9 – Acts 18  
Every believer not in a scriptural assembly  
Clear distinction male and female  
Grievous wolves can enter – Acts 20  
It can have divisions – 1 Cor 1 v 10  
There is a “within and a without” – 1 Cor 5 v 12.  
Assemblies will cease at the rapture.

It has always been God’s intention that **all** genuine believers should enjoy local assembly fellowship, but sadly, as we draw nearer to the end of this “church age” so many are not prepared to be guided by the scriptural pattern of the Lord’s commission in Matt 28, enlarged upon in the book of the Acts, 1 & 2 Cor, 1 & 2 Timothy, Titus, and Rev 2 & 3.

This established pattern till the “end of the age” in Acts ch 2 v 41-42 is very clear – 1. they gladly received His Word – 2. they were baptised – 3. they were added to the assembly – 4. they continued stedfastly in the apostle’s teaching and fellowship (which is the basis of fellowship), breaking of bread and in prayers! This pattern is endorsed in the N/T epistles, and still holds good for us today! – (Matt 28 v 20).

### 3 FEATURES THAT SHOULD MARK US!

1. The Attraction of His Person – 2. The Acknowledgment of His Lordship – 3. The Authority of His Word!