

**Word**

**2024**

**Beyond**



- **Beyond** – to the distance, to cross, across, beyond in the spatial sense
- **Excel** - To go beyond; to exceed; to surpass in good qualities or laudable deeds; to outdo.
- **You** - In familiar language, it is applied to an individual
- **Outlook** - a person's point of view or general attitude to life
- **Notice** - *notice* then is the act by which we gain knowledge of something within the reach of the senses, or the effect of an impression on some of the senses.
- **Depend** - To be connected with anything, as the cause of its existence or of its operation and effects; to rely on; to have such connection with anything as a cause, that without it, the effect would not be produced; gain knowledge of something within the reach of the senses,

- **Transition** - the passing from one condition, place, or activity to another.
  - From death to life
  - From the passive to the active
  - From the talk to the walk
  - From the lukewarm to the hot
  - From lack to abundance
  - From mediocrity to action
  - From meetings to ministry
  - From the mechanical to the Spirit moving
  - Transition is a constant reality in life!
- **Greatest Transition Ever – Jesus Christ the once for all time sacrifice**
  - Hebrews 10:11-13
  - 1 Peter 3:18

# CHURCH

- What is your church background?
- How do you define church?
- When did the church begin?
- Why are there so many different denominations?
- How many church transitions have you had? Why
- What is the purpose or Mission of the Church
- What does the term Spirit Filled Church mean to you?
- Should we see the church as natural or supernatural?
  - Our Comfort Factor!
- What about transition? Do we need it? Do we really want it???

## How do you define church?

- In the New Testament it is the translation of the Greek word *ecclesia*, which is synonymous with the Hebrew *kahal* of the Old Testament, both words meaning simply an assembly, the character of which can only be known from the connection in which the word is found. There is no clear instance of its being used for a place of meeting or of worship, although in post-apostolic times it early received this meaning. Nor is this word ever used to denote the inhabitants of a country united in the same profession, as when we say the "Church of England," the "Church of Scotland," etc. . (from Easton's Bible Dictionary, PC Study Bible)

## When did the church begin?

- On the day of Pentecost?
- John R. W. Stott gives us an important note. He writes: Of course, the church did not begin that day, and it is incorrect to call the Day of Pentecost “the birthday of the church.” For the church as the people of God goes back at least 4,000 years to Abraham. What happened at Pentecost was that the remnant of God’s people became the Spirit-filled body of Christ (John R. W. Stott, *The Message of Acts: The Spirit, the Church & the World, The Bible Speaks Today* [Leicester, England; Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1994], 81).

# Why are there so many different denominations?

- Several different groups (sects) made up the religious community of New Testament times.

Estimations show there are more than 200 Christian denominations in the U.S. and a staggering 45,000 globally, according to the [Center for the Study of Global Christianity](#). So why does Christianity have so many branches?

- A cursory look shows that differences in belief, power grabs and corruption all had a part to play.

## Common factors today that lead to denominations:

- Biblical Interpretation
- Salvation
- Ordinances or sacraments
- Worship Styles
- Charismatic – Gifts of the Spirit

## The Church and its Mission

- Acts 1:6-8
  - vs. 8 And you will be my witnesses, telling people about me everywhere—in Jerusalem, throughout Judea, in Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." NLT
- Luke 24:44-49
  - vs. 47 It was also written that this message would be proclaimed in the authority of his name to all the nations, beginning in Jerusalem: 'There is forgiveness of sins for all who repent.' NLT