

**Where Do Churches Come From?
Part II – The Right Way (continued)
August 4, 2013
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Good morning, Lighthouse!

Last week we began what has now become a series of messages entitled, “Where do Churches come from?”

At the conclusion of last week’s message we announced that we would be sponsoring the birth of a new Lighthouse Baptist Church over in the West Pearland area, led by Brother Gary Milbourne, who the Lord IS calling to this work.

Last week you learned some of the various ways that new Churches can begin.

Some begin from fragments of a Church that either from without or from within become divided. This is usually brought about because a Church is not obeying the Lord’s command to go and start new Churches.

You learned some of the sources from which false Churches arise; “they went out from us because they were not of us.”

Today we will be expanding on the final point of last week’s message; “The Right Way” for a new Church to begin.

Let me make something abundantly clear to you: the birthing of this new Church IS NOT a “dividing” or a “split” or a “splinter” or a “chip” or any kind of a fragmentation of this Church!

NO, Sir! The birthing of this new Church is going to be done the right way.

The birthing of a new Lighthouse Baptist Church in the West Pearland area is a united Church-wide effort led by the same Holy Spirit, holding forth the same doctrine, winning the lost with the same gospel, baptizing them with the same authority, glorifying the Lord in the Church just like we do it here in Dickinson; and hopefully even better as that new Church grows in grace.

The question the Lord will be answering for us today is, “Where exactly will this new Church come from?”

Our text passage for today is

Matthew 28:18-20

18 And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth.

19 Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:

20 Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, *even* unto the end of the world. Amen.

The Great Commission given to the first Church as well as the scriptural examples of how to properly go about the establishing of a new Church tells us many things. First, this new Church will come from:

I. Winning Souls.

A. The true success of every real Church lies ultimately and primarily in winning lost souls to Jesus Christ.

1. Churches send out men all the time who are not soul winners.
2. When they do, those efforts drag on and on and on; sometimes years without success and nearly always end up failing.
3. Brother Gary is a proven soul winner; were this not true, neither his calling from the Lord nor his sponsorship to head up this work would either have been a reality.
4. Without getting people saved, there is no one to baptize.
5. Without baptisms there are no new members to grow the Church.
6. Without new members, there is no Church to teach.

7. Everything we are doing this for depends on soul winning!

B. There is very little profit for the Kingdom of God in Churches trading members back and forth.

1. The primary duty and the Lord's primary command for this new work is that whatever team the Lord calls and sends is to go over there and win souls; lots of souls.
2. That means a full and heavy and consistent schedule of setting up and teaching Basic Bible Truth classes.
3. Programs come and go.
4. Various classes and training and outreach efforts all come and go.
5. Consistently reaching and teaching sinners how to know Jesus is the backbone, the bread and butter, the absolute basis, the core, the heart of every real and successful Church!
6. Oh, with marketing and charisma you can build a crowd, but real Churches come by winning the lost!

This new Church is also going to come from:

II. Working Hard.

A. What kind of work ethic do you suppose is going to be required by the Lord of this ministry team heading up this new work?

1. Here is our scriptural example: In

Acts 20:27-35 Pauls writes:

27 For I have not shunned to declare unto you all the counsel of God.

28 Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood.

29 For I know this, that after my departing shall grievous wolves enter in among you, not sparing the flock.

30 Also of your own selves shall men arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away disciples after them.

31 Therefore watch, and remember, that by the space of three years I ceased not to warn every one **night and day** with tears.

32 And now, brethren, I commend you to God, and to the word of his grace, which is able to build you up, and to give you an inheritance among all them which are sanctified.

33 I have coveted no man's silver, or gold, or apparel.

34 Yea, ye yourselves know, that these [Paul's own] hands have ministered unto my necessities, and to them that were with me.

35 I have showed you all things, how that so laboring ye ought to support the weak, and to

remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he said, **It is more blessed to give than to receive.**

2. Years ago, when Brother Gary was broken and weak, others did double duty and sacrificed to support him and now he is going out strong to do the very same for others.

B. Self starting hard workers are always the human factor.

1. Someone once said, "It's really strange, the harder I work the luckier I get."

2. Brother Gary and Tammy are proven hard workers; were this not true neither their calling from the Lord nor this sponsorship to head up this work could either have been a reality.

3. Hard work was the example set for them and hard work is the example they will set for others.

3. As hard as they work here, it will seem light duty compared to what is ahead for them.

4. Working double duty; up early working a job or jobs; teaching classes every night; counseling, countless hours of prayer and study; on call 24-7.

5. Why? Because God said in

1 Timothy 4:12 ...be thou an example of the believers, in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity.

C. This new Church will come out of struggle.

1. Why does it always have to be a struggle?
2. Could not God just provide everything needed?
3. Does not the Lord have unlimited resources?
4. Babies are born through surviving a life and death struggle to get through the birth canal.
5. A butterfly or a moth struggles and struggles and finally breaks through the cocoon to fly free.
6. You could take your knife and separate the cocoon a little and help the little guy get through; but if you do, he will not survive.
7. It is only through the struggle that he becomes strong enough to survive what is ahead.
8. That is the way it was for this Church and that is the way it will be for Lighthouse Pearland.

This new Church will come from Winning Souls, it will come from Working Hard and it will come from:

III. Wearing out.

A. What level of commitment to a new Church do you suppose it takes for that Church to survive and prosper?

1. One of the statements made by the Apostle Paul gives us a glimpse of the level of commitment he had to the Corinthian Church.

2. **2Corinthians 12:15** And I will very gladly spend and be spent for you; though the more abundantly I love you, the less I be loved.

3. Since your Church is the Body of Christ; as you should have learned by now; to be committed to the Lord is to be committed to your Church.

4. To build a Church with members who are truly and sacrificially committed to it; Gary's level of commitment must be absolute and can only be taught to others by example.

5. **1Peter 5:2-3**

2 Feed the flock of God which is among you, taking the oversight *thereof*, not by constraint, but willingly; not for filthy lucre, but of a ready mind;

3 Neither as being lords over *God's* heritage, but being examples to the flock.

6. In a recent interview about a staff position the subject of the job description came up: the Lighthouse staff job description is simple; “whatever it takes!”

7. What if two or three jobs, long hours, every kind of labor; yes Lord, “whatever it takes.”

B. Jesus is the foundation, but who will become the pillars of this new Church?

1. God sets the members in the Body as it pleases Him; and He doesn’t move them around like He is playing checkers.

2. Every pastor learns by experience that, by far, most of those who become committed and loyal to a Church are those who get saved through that Church.

3. Thankfully there are exceptions, but rarely do those who come from somewhere else ever have the loyalty and the commitment it takes to survive the struggles of a new Church being born.

In Conclusion:

Do you think you have the metal it takes to not only survive, but contribute to the birth of a new Church?

**Do you tithe? It will take more than tithing!
In those early days when this Church was**

struggling just to keep the doors open Lisa and I on several occasions borrowed the money we put in the offering to make sure the bills got paid and our Church's name remained unblemished.

Are you completely faithful? Nothing less will do.

Are you called of God; How do you know it for sure?

I remember about 38 years ago, when I asked Pastor Turk, "How do you know if you are called to preach?"

His reply was right on; he said, "If you can do anything else, do it."

Now that you have had a full week to be all freaked out about Gary and Tammy leaving to begin this new work and rumors have been flying like a covey of quail been kicked up; here, from the Lord, is how it is going to be:

If Jesus is the Master and you are His obedient servant, you don't get to decide whether you are going to stay here or go with Brother Gary; Jesus does.

And if you are not an obedient servant who is willing to be under authority; Brother Gary does not need you or want you; you will be a hindrance not a help.

God does not divide one Church to start another one when that Church is doing this the right way.

Every member of Lighthouse is going to play a role in the birth of this new Church because Churches start Churches.

This Church is not my Church and the new Church is not going to be Gary's Church; they both belong to Jesus!

If you think God is calling you to this new work, then you will need to do exactly what Brother Gary did; set up an appointment with your Elder board; of which Brother Gary is a member and if in fact that is the case, the Lord will show us as He always does.

If I told you that you are not wise enough or mature enough to make these decisions on your own; you probably would not like it much; I wouldn't like it much either.

Jeremiah 10:23 O LORD, I know that the way of man *is* not in himself: *it is* not in man that walketh to direct his steps.

If it makes you feel any better, none of us are wise enough either.

You see Brother Gary and I stand up here together every week; we are still standing together and it is going to stay that way.

You don't get to be on Pastor Dill's side or Brother Gary's side; there are two sides all right; Jesus' side and the Devil's side; and Brother Gary and I are on the same side!

So, relax and rejoice; this is not a divorce; it's an expansion. Everybody gets to play a part and Jesus will get the glory!