

## IS JESUS IN OUR MIDST?

**Deuteronomy 23:14; Joel 2:27**

**Introduction:** Ever attend a Church service that seemed dead, dry and formal? Sadly there are a lot of those around now days. What happened to the miraculous? A lot of people can sing, everyone can pray, some can preach, some visit hospitals and absent Church members and some serve on committees but all becomes routine and there seems to be nothing exciting about doing "Church" things. Some of the summer youth camps, retreats have better spiritual results than the Church's Sunday Schools. Think about it, just what happens in the Church that requires the presence of God? What is the Holy Spirit needed for? How long has it been since you have seen or even heard about God being active in a Church? Jesus said that *"...where two or three are gathered together in My name, I'll be there...."* So where is Jesus Christ?

### I. IS JESUS CHRIST IN THE CHURCH'S MIDST TO DELIVER?

1. Think, do you have deliverance from sin, self, the world and the devil?
2. There can be no constant victory without the presence of God.
3. Face it there is a declining Church spirit.
  - Churches don't pay the price to see God move.
  - Churches have compromised far too long.
  - Churches have quenched the Holy Spirit.
4. If Jesus Christ is not in the midst of His Church, the there is no "Church."
  - A Church without Christ present is like a body without a head.
  - If there is no head, there is no life.
  - If there is no life, there is no liberty, freedom.
  - No wonder there is such a vast difference between Church members, some are faithful and the rest are not. 20% of a Church membership usually does all the work and gives 80% of the finances.

### II. IS JESUS CHRIST IN THE CHURCH'S MIDST TO DIRECT?

1. God directed Israel for years with a cloud, and that cloud was a firey cloud by night.
2. If Jesus directed the Church then most of what is being done would cease and certainly take on a different meaning.
3. The Holy Spirit has been replaced by a "dictator" type pastor and by committees.
4. Elijah didn't call a business meeting to stop the rain.
  - Ahab and his false prophets could have voted every first Wednesday night for months for three and a half years but it would have done no good.

5. If Jesus Christ is not in the Church's midst, things will only get worse.
  - The weak and powerless cannot deliver.
  - The blind cannot lead.
6. The Church must not attempt anything on it's own power.
7. What would happen if every Church:
  - Repented?
  - Fasted and prayed?
  - Sought deliverance and guidance from the Lord Jesus?
  - Never ceased these things until assurance came of the Lord's presence?

### **III. IS JESUS CHRIST IN THE CHURCH'S MIDST TO PROTECT?**

1. *"...Greater is He that is in us than he that is in the world..."*
2. Only God's presence can overcome evil. All the Church programs in the world cannot do a thing to stop evil.
3. If Jesus Christ be for His Church, within His Church, then who or what could possible stop it?

### **IV. IS JESUS CHRIST IN THE CHURCH'S MIDST TO PROVIDE?**

1. Jesus is able to supply all the Church's needs.
2. Jesus would cease to be God if ever He couldn't take care of all the Church's problems.
3. However, Jesus must be present in order to provide.

### **CONCLUSION:**

1. Churches have things so well planned that Jesus isn't needed and if He showed up, He wouldn't fit in.
2. How long has it been since Churches' "prayers" have been answered?
3. How long has it been since you left a worship service knowing that you had been in the presence of the Lord Jesus Christ?
4. Churches of today need to become what Jesus said they were to be, His voice, His feet, His hands, not what they are, not what they want to be, but what Jesus said.