

5-25-20 The Church is God's Instrument

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Right off the block it should be recounted that the Church was birthed by the Holy Spirit on the Day of Pentecost. The Church came from the womb of God's Holy Spirit. Therefore, it is at its very core a spiritual entity that has found an earthly, physical form in which to exist, in something of the same way that the Son of God found such earthly existence in the human form of Jesus

In whatever way we wish to use human language, in its utter inadequacy, to describe the nature of the Church, it is

unarguable that the Church has spiritual roots and therefore possesses an inherent spiritual essence that is its source of power and strength in the world. Wherever we witness the Church making a crucial, positive difference in the world and in the lives of people, both Christian and non-Christian, we can be certain that God the Spirit is at work. The fingerprint of the Holy One is left on every act of love and mercy in which the Church engages.

It behooves the Church, therefore, both to recognize its spiritual roots and to be true to its spiritual nature in all that it does. The minute it loses sight of these two anchor points it ceases to be that which it was created to become. It is then just another dogmatic organization and no longer the spiritually charged instrument the Holy Spirit gave birth to on Pentecost.

The Church has developed a way of describing itself to the world in general, and to various religious counterparts in particular. It has produced a carefully constructed system of beliefs. This system of beliefs called theology/doctrine has been developed both to differentiate itself from other religious communities as well as to provide a package of material for teaching purposes.

Teaching is vital but its goal should not be to focus on the teachings as an end in themselves, but to use the teachings to focus on the greater truth of the activity of God's Spirit in our lives, in the Church and in the world.

That is the ultimate truth taught by Jesus in the model prayer: "Your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven." That which matters is God's will and activity-not what we happen to believe about either. Our beliefs can never fully encompass the realities of the Holy One.

We must focus on the will and activity of God whose spiritual reach is extended by the breathing in and out of the Church as it lives and moves in the world.

The focus should never be on its own growth and expansion. That will always adjust accordingly. The focus must be on living up to its true spiritual nature and breathing the breath of spiritual life into the nostrils of the gasping world.

