

Confirmation of the status as it is suppose to be

It is good to discern this key passage: Act. 3 : 19 – 21

- Acts 3 : 21 the word in Greek for the restoration of all things (apokatastasis) means the confirmation of the status it is suppose to have.

Firstly a few facts

In the first Church in Jerusalem, thousands of people came to Jesus.

Growth was such that I think at a certain moment in time if you were walking in Jerusalem, you effectively walked in the Church. History tells us that in the first century under Nero, ruler of the Roman Empire there was severe persecution. This persecution ended in the 4th. Century. (313 AD Freedom of religion was introduced by the edict of Milan).

So the first four centuries Christianity was basically Home church - Lifestyle Christianity.

In those first four centuries, Christians took care of the poor, the sick, buried the people, they received recognition and also persecution.

In 313AD 10% of the population were followers of Jesus.

By 353AD 40% of the population were followers of Jesus.

In 380AD Christianity became a state religion.

In the year 392 AD Paganism was forbidden.

A Multinational was now born - big churches and cathedrals were built.

Church leaders at that time were influenced by the Greek way of thinking, Greek philosophy came in the Church and the Hebrew way of thinking was kicked out. of the Church.

That is the problem we are still facing today !

Rules, regulations and dogmas came in.

This came in our culture, our way of life, our thinking. Such thinking is very deep in our DNA.

We have had 300 years of Life-giving Christianity and 1700 years of Christianity.

The last 1700 years of Christianity is our problem. It is imprinted on our DNA. 1700 years of Platform / Pulpit ministry took away the responsibility to follow Jesus from the people.

To day we are in 2011.

It is good to see what happened in history, because Jesus is at the right hand of the Father till the times of restoration of all things.

Restoration		(years are approx depending the place you live)
1500	Protestant Movement	(Salvation by Grace through Faith)
1600	Evangelical Movement	(Water baptism, separation of Church and State, Anabaptists)
1700	Holiness Movement	(Sanctification, the Church set apart from the World)
1800	Faith Healing Movement	(Divine Healing for the physical body, healing in the atonement)
1900	Pentecostal Movement	(Holy Spirit baptism with speaking in tongues, gifts of the Spirit)
1950	Latter Rain Movement	(Prophetic presbytery, singing praises and melodious worship)
1960	Charismatic Movement	(Renewal of all restored truth to all past movements)
1970	Faith Movement	(Faith confessions, prosperity and victorious attitude in life)
1980	Prophetic Movement	(Prophetic, activating gifts, praise, prophets to the nations)
1990	Apostolic Movement	(Miraculous signs and wonders, great harvest of souls)

All over the world we see an increase of the revelation of the foundation Jesus Christ given by apostles and prophets. These are servants who help us to respond to the things which are in the heart of God in order for the followers of Jesus to grow towards freedom and maturity in their personal life's.

We can see things in the world are moving.

Statistics shows us that

3% are leaders. 2% understand what leadership really means. 95% of the people are followers
 There is a problem; 95% follow their leaders and they are not mature. That 1700 years of DNA has caused this; proper thinking is very difficult for 95% of the Church in the so called western world.
 Therefore becoming mature, proving things, checking things if it comes from God is so important.
 In all this development we will come to the restoration of all things.

In this process we do also see that a lot of mistakes are made. Therefore it is a blessing to see that Jesus Christ is building His Church. It is so important for us to grow towards maturity and freedom.
 Jesus is our example:

Luke 11 : 31 (b) These words speak about wisdom. . . . and indeed, Behold.

If the Bible speaks aboutand indeedYou have to be sharp. . . .A greater than Solomon is here !

The word wisdom in the original language also means:

Understanding, knowledge, meaning, skillful, intelligent , sense,

In its fullness the wisdom of God is Christ. 1 Cor. 1 : 24 Wisdom is a spiritual thing

Proverb 4 : 7	Wisdom is a principal thing, therefore get wisdom and in all your getting; get understanding.
Proverb 1 : 7	The Fear of the Lord is the beginning of Wisdom.
Luke 2 : 40	And the Child became strong in spirit, filled with wisdom and the grace of God was upon Him.
Luke 2 : 48-52	They were amazed, increased in wisdom, and stature and in favor with God and men.

One who is far more than Solomon is available for us: Jesus Christ in us the Hope of Glory.

Holy Spirit in us supplies in all wisdom. He is available for you and me.

Not only for leaders, not only for priests, not only for prophets, not only for. . . .

No for all of us.

What we see for us are the following keys:

Wisdom - Development - Increase in Stature - being in favor with man and God

If we all grow in this development, maturity will follow. As followers of Jesus, understanding comes in have to think more ourselves.

Our DNA of 1700 years of Christianity is that we make idols of our leaders, in order to be able to hide behind them. We do not need a priest or any other mediator to follow Jesus.

Yes we need each other to have more understanding, but it is never about more or less.

For example, I am not more than you, because I am writing this article.

Go to the heart of God more ourselves.

We have to grow.

I will focus now on the controlling spirits. These are spirits who put yokes on people. We have to discern them! In God's wisdom we have to deal with them. Basically we as followers of Jesus have to think more ourselves. We need to go to the heart of God more ourselves.

My choice is the most simple Church there is, as explained in Matthew 18: : 20

"For where two or three are gathered in My name, I am there in the midst of them"

This is the simplest level but also the deepest. Because.

It is all about His Presence. His presence makes ALL the difference.

God's way of thinking makes ALL the difference. Living in Him, with Him makes ALL the difference.

Hierarchical systems in Churches / Pyramid systems in Churches are stoppers

They are blocking the anointing, they are anointing stoppers. I will explain more of what I mean.

In Exodus 18: 13 -27 we read about Moses and Jethro.

This Jethro introduced the pyramid structure and delegating responsibilities, or a top-down

management model to lighten the weight on Moses' shoulders.

In many churches you can hear this subject and with Jethro's advice, it seems that the existing leadership structure in churches is theologically proven.

Yet if you read further in Numbers 11, we see that this structure did not lighten the weight on Moses shoulders. If You read this passage, you can conclude that Moses with this G 10 system did NOT consult God and God gave NO commandments / no orders for this. !

Hallo. . . .!

Did this pyramid system work for Israel? No, the burden on Moses was still too heavy.

You can read it two books further in Numbers 11, !

Num 11:11 And Moses said unto the LORD, Wherefore hast thou afflicted thy servant?
And wherefore have I not found favor in thy sight, that thou layest the burden
of all this people upon me?

Num 11:14 I am not able to bear all this people alone, because it is too heavy for me.

Num 11:15 And if thou deal thus with me, kill me, I pray thee, out of hand, if I have found
favor in thy sight; and let me not see my wretchedness.

You do not usually expect to find such a sayings of somebody who just introduced a management structure. It is also remarkable to see that the name Jethro means " whip ". He also belonged to the Midianites. Again Moses with this G 10 system did NOT consult God and God gave NO commandments / no orders for this. ! Did this pyramid system work for Israel ? No, the burden on Moses was still to heavy.

This same person Moses's father in law in Exodus 2 :18 carried the name of Reuel means (Fiend of God). Later the father in law of Moses had the name Jethro ("whip").

Just think what happens.

So Moses comes to God and complains about the burden on his shoulders.

Now this time God himself gives Moses advice ! advise ? Hallo. . . .

Look carefully. . . .

Num 11:16 And the LORD said unto Moses, Gather unto me seventy men of the elders of Israel,
whom thou knowest to be the elders of the people, and officers over them;
and bring them unto the tabernacle of the congregation, that they may stand
there with thee.

Num 11:17 And I will come down and talk with thee there: and I will take of the spirit which
is upon thee, and will put it upon them; and they shall bear the burden of the people
with thee, that thou bear it not thyself alone.

Recognize / Identify / recognition & acknowledge God's solution / God's answer to leadership is elders and the anointing of the Holy Spirit.

1. Moses must recognize / identify / acknowledge the elders and overseers.

Notice:

Here the word "shar" (leader/ruler) from the advice of Jethro is not used.

Instead the word "zaqeen" (elder, those who are recognized by the people as men with spiritual authority) is used. The New Testament speaks in the same way layout elders whom we recognize as men with spiritual authority.

Notice the difference:

Leaders are NOT appointed in a kind of Top-Down management structure in Church, BUT will be confirmed because they function already as such. Do you see this ?

To function in spiritual leadership it is essential that God Himself put His Spirit on people.

We also see this in the New Testament. Jesus is leading His Church by the gift of Holy Spirit

You have to know the Devil cannot be everywhere at the same time, therefore he needs a controlling system in a Top-Down structure. But GOD by Holy Spirit is everywhere in His people, HE Lives in US.

We are His temple, we are His dwelling place. He is leading His Church by Holy Spirit.

Now back to Moses

If Moses does what God said, leaders starting to prophecy spontaneously.

You can say that Leaders receive revelation to go from there to lead the church.

We also read that the Spirit of prophecy falls on two other men who remained in the camp.

Notice this:

People start informing Moses, he/ they are prophesying, forbid them. . . .

Notice what Moses said:

Num 11:29 And Moses said unto him, Enviest thou for my sake?

Would God that all the LORD'S people

were prophets, and that the LORD would put his Spirit upon them! Hallelujah !

This was a sign, what had to come, a fore saying, for what is written in Acts 2 and also that the priesthood

is for all believers in the New Testament.

Conclusion :

Jethro's pyramid model was NOT God's way.

Jesus says: Matthew 20 : 25 - 28

Mat 20:25 But Jesus called them unto him, and said, Ye know that the princes

of the Gentiles exercise dominion over them, and they that are great exercise authority upon them.

Mat 20:26 But it shall not be so among you: but whosoever will be great among you, let him be your minister;

Mat 20:27 And whosoever will be chief among you, let him be your servant:

Mat 20:28 Even as the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many.

Apart from that it did not work and God Himself came with a solution.

Anointing and authority

If we continue this line to the New Testament, we see that God's principles are the same and still applicable for eldership / authority and anointing. That anointing and authority comes from Jesus who is the head of the Body, the Church. Some people think that the word Christ is a family name of Jesus, but it means "The Anointed One and His anointing" . John speaks in his letter about "antichrist" and "many antichrists" (1 John 2 : 28) who work in the Church. This word "Anti" means "in stead of " or "against" Christ means "Anointing".

Out of a human desire for laws and hierarchies, there are people in the Church who want to stay between the believers and the Head and wanted to rule and reign over the Church.

You can call these people "anointing stoppers" or people who do not recognize Jesus.

1 John 2 : 27 "But the anointing which ye have received of him abideth in you, and ye need not that any man teach you: but as the same anointing teacheth you of all things, and is truth, and is no lie, and even as it hath taught you, ye shall abide in him."

So it says to us to stay with in Christ, to stay in the "anointed one" and His anointing.

So leadership in the Church is NOT about hierarchical position but it is all about anointing and authority, given through Holy Spirit. This is then recognized and acknowledged by the Church.

Each and every follower of Jesus has to learn to function in gifting, abilities, skills, anointing and go for his/her dreams God put in his or her heart. It is all about His Presence. His presence makes the difference. Also Jesus declared that HE Jesus will build His Church. We have seen that the Church is relational, that it is a gathering where Jesus is glorified. That it is about making a difference like the salt in the earth. Bread without salt is tasteless, salt without power has to be thrown away.

There are many good churches and fellowships; groups of people with compassion.

Yet we also have to come to a conclusion that many Churches are salt without power.

But HE - Jesus will build His Church and today is better than yesterday.

Acts 3 : 19, 20 / 21 Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord; And he shall send Jesus Christ, which before was preached unto you: Whom the heaven must receive until the times of restitution of all things, which God hath spoken by the mouth of all his holy prophets since the world began.

19) Refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord

20) Times of restoration of all things.. . . .

Restoration does NOT mean :

Restoration or bringing it back in a condition as it was in the past.

It does mean :

Confirming the condition it is suppose to have. It is very encouraging that Jesus is at the right hand of the Father, received in Heaven UNTIL the times of the restitution of all things. So all things will be confirmed in the condition it suppose to have. Therefore I believe Holy Spirit will reveal in what condition we will have to go step by step.

We need revelation.

We need Holy Spirit revelation. Revelation comes through Intimacy.

John speaks about it on the isle of Patmos. The meaning of Patmos means place of Dead.

John's Intimacy with Jesus was through the dying of fleshly thinking. Fleshly thinking is a way of thinking not coming out of the heart of God. Fleshly thinking is for example the way Jethro was thinking.

It looked good, but it was NOT good. It was Fleshly, earthly,

If you are Church focused, RELIGION comes in. If you are Kingdom focused, the Church will grow.

God is bringing new revelation. This, means that old fleshly ways of thinking have to be rooted out and new insights through intimacy and revelation have to be allowed in our being.

This is, because it is His promise:

Times of restoration of ALL things. Confirming the condition it is suppose to have.

It means we need the Power of God, We need His presence, We need His Glory.

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We need an increase of understanding.

Dan 12:4 But thou, O Daniel, shut up the words, and seal the book, even to the time of the end:
 many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall be increased.

God gives us the ability to receive healing, to receive restoration of ALL things. To receive this understanding. Knowledge shall be increased. Knowing what is in the heart of God will increase.

The Church will become like water. The components of water are oxygen and hydrogen.

Imagine: We are the component of hydrogen. Jesus is the oxygen. Oxygen is life

If Jesus says: "For where two or three are gathered in My name, I am there in the midst of them"

In the midst of Hydrogen is Oxygen

Water fits almost in every form or shape and depending on the function, we adjust the form or shape.

Drinking is easier from a glass than drinking out of a bathtop.

A lot of discussions in churches are about the form and shape, but it is not about the form or shape it is all about the Living Water.

The Living water which is flowing out of You !

Every where you go, Living water is flowing out of You. When, you come to gather in His name, the .

The Living water is flowing. If you are on your job, Living water is flowing.

The Church must be like water: flexible and liquid.

A liquid Church is always moving, it is full of Jesus the oxygen and us the hydrogen.

Alive and life bringing!.

Even in the book of Acts you read about life and life bringing

Acts 2 : 47 Praising God, and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added
 to the church daily such as should be saved.

Act 4:4 How be it many of them which heard the word believed; and the number
 of the men was about five thousand.

Act 5:14 And believers were the more added to the Lord, multitudes both of men
 and women.)

Because of life what was brought the amount of believers grew or that they themselves grew daily.

Notice this and this is remarkable:

Act 6:1 And in those days, when the number of the disciples was multiplied,

Act 6:7 And the word of God increased; and the number of the disciples multiplied
 in Jerusalem greatly;

The difference between a believer and a disciple.

There is a difference between a believer and a disciple. A disciple is a follower of Jesus. A disciple is someone who changes his mind. He follows the King and is disciplined.

Believing is different than being a disciple. It needs development, it needs to grow.

Here in Acts you can see growth. Life bringing.

The world, Creation is waiting for Life, for the revealing of the Sons of God.

That is an expression of Church having influence in the world around us.

If you are Church focused, RELIGION comes in. If you are Kingdom focused, the Church will grow.

It is a process to go from being a believer to becoming a disciple. But you have to make a decision to go for truth. Connected to this you can ask yourself the question what do you know, what do you do in full conscious, what do you do unconsciously. If people really want, a movement will start as reflected here in four steps

What do I know?

- | | | | |
|----|------------------------------------|---|----------------------------|
| 1) | Unconscious | - | Incapable |
| 2) | Conscious | - | Incapable (= revelation) |
| 3) | Conscious capacity (train,qualify) | | |
| 4) | Unconscious | - | Capable |

2 Th 2:13 But we are bound to give thanks always to God for you, brethren beloved of the Lord, because God hath from the beginning chosen you to salvation through sanctification of the Spirit and belief of the truth:

1 Pe 2:9 But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvelous light:

Eph 1:19 And what is the exceeding greatness of his power to us-ward who believe, according to the working of his mighty power,

We are chosen people and God want us to mature in our attitude in faith.

What is maturity ?

Knowing your and taking your responsibilities.

Not having fear for the inevitable confrontations, exercise authority

Having balance in your life and personality. Thoughtful, well-balanced, righteous, reliable, trustworthy

What is attitude ?

Fixing your position

- a) In your surrounding b) towards yourself

So CHOOSE !!

A Christian can make a choice between at least two attitudes towards faith:

- a) limited choice (lukewarm) You know what lukewarm means ?
- b) full surrender (Efez. 1 : 17 - 20)

Eph 1:17 That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give unto you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of him

Eph 1:18 The eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that ye may know what is the hope of his calling, and what the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints,

Eph 1:19 And what is the exceeding greatness of his power to us-ward who believe, according to the working of his mighty power,

Eph 1:20 Which he wrought in Christ, when he raised him from the dead, and set him at his own right hand in the heavenly places,

This is all about Jesus ! Knowing who you are in Christ !

Growing towards maturity in

- Wisdom
- Revelation knowledge
- Eyes of understanding
- Knowing the hope of his calling
- His power towards us

A FULL SURRENDER to His presence in your life.

A FULL SURRENDER means compassion, means obedience, means winning the lost.

It means serving the least, it means living the life of Jesus.

FULL SURRENDER means doing the things the Father wants you to do !

It is being open to CHANGE.

Rom 12:2 And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.

Let us go for that. How?

Out of God's presence here and now. How does that work out ?

Yes your bible Yes your prayers Yes by Holy Spirit Also by being equipped by the 5 fold ministries

Especially by Apostles and Prophets. Ephesians 2 : 20

Again it is a limited choice or a full surrender:

a) limited choice

A limited choice is the attitude of.

What is my present position?

What is allowed, what is not allowed?

What are doctrinal limitations?

What does it cost me or in other words, what can I keep for myself ?

With this attitude you are placing yourself under the law, because you have to put your fleshly thinking under the rules. You have to concentrate yourself in oppressing your flesh, because you give space to that.

b) A full surrender

This is the attitude of.

What person I do want to become?

What are the conditions?

What are the possibilities?

What ever it may cost, I will do it In other words who and what can I become?.

You are making a choice for a new supernatural life in faith, placed in the freedom of the Spirit,, in which you will conquer the world (of the flesh 1 John 5 : 3 - 5)

To give some points of summary:

Keeping His commandments = Living according the heart of God.

We need to be being well equipped by the 5 fold ministries.

A good foundation of Revelation of Jesus by Apostles and Prophets.

God qualifies called people - people with dreams.

People with whom God is working together towards confirmation of the status as it is suppose to be.

Cees Bakker

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