

**THE GLORIOUS CHURCH**  
**SEPTEMBER 5, 2021**

**EPHESIANS 5:25-27 (NKJV)**

Love was the motivating force behind Jesus giving His life for the church. Before the church, there were only two people groups – Jews and Gentiles. On Pentecost, a third group emerged – the church. **1 CORINTHIANS 10:32** This group consists of Jews and Gentiles that were purchased by the Blood of Christ. **ACTS 20:28** Why? So He could sanctify and cleanse it. How? With the washing (Gr. loutron, meaning laver) of water by the Word. Paul uses the Tabernacle to illustrate how the church becomes glorious. First, is the brazen altar of sacrifice, then, the laver, then, the door into the sanctuary.

**HEBREWS 10:19-22** First, washed in the Blood; second, bathed in the Word.

1. The glorious church is blood bought and word washed. When blood bought people are bathed in the Word, they become glorious: filled with the Spirit, love, faith, humility, hope, and generosity. They are changed from glory to glory. **2 CORINTHIANS 3:18**
2. The glorious church is triumphant. **MATTHEW 16:18 (NKJV)** “my church” may face challenges, difficulties, attacks, persecutions, changing trends and cultures, but “my church” will prevail over it all. “The gates of hell” references the strategies of the powers of darkness, the councils of hell and wiles of the devil. The word bathed church knows **2 CORINTHIANS 10:3-5 (NCV)**, **EPHESIANS 6:10-11** and **1 JOHN 4:4**. Remember the seven churches of Revelation? Jesus set the precedent and wants us to view the church as He does – victorious and triumphant.
3. The glorious church understands its source of power. **1 CORINTHIANS 2:4-5** It’s not military, political, or intellectual power that overcomes the forces of evil in this world, it’s power from on high. **2 CORINTHIANS 2:14** He causes us to triumph. **NUMBERS 14:39-44 (NCV)** If God’s not the source, failure is certain. Man’s strategy is to storm the gate, but God brings down the walls, **JOSHUA 6:20-24 (NCV)**
4. The glorious church is a praying and praising church. **MATTHEW 21:12-16** Tremendous power is generated when the church prays and praises God.
5. The glorious church is unified. **ECCLESIASTES 4:12 (NLT)**, and **1 CORINTHIANS 1:10 (NKJV)** A divided house can’t stand. Unity creates an impenetrable wall of protection the enemy can’t break through, makes a highway for God to move, and makes it easier to achieve our goals and fulfill our dreams.
6. The glorious church is spot and wrinkle free. Positionally, in Christ. **COLOSSIANS 1:21-22 (NCV)** Practically, by walking in truth. **GALATIANS 5:24-25**
7. The glorious church is a glory filled church. **2 CHRONICLES 5:13-14** and **7:1-3** Notice the pattern: sacrifice, fire and glory.  
**A. PSALMS 63:1-4**
8. The glorious church is committed to discipleship and evangelism. In the great commission the Apostles were instructed to evangelize the world and make disciples. **MARK 16:19-20** We are to get the lost saved, established, trained and sent out.

**CONCLUSION:** Let’s unite to make Jesus known to the world and let’s become the glorious church Jesus is returning for.