

ACTS OF HEAVEN

ACTS OF HEAVEN: PATRONS VS. PARTNERS

Introduction/Recap

Aloha everyone! I'm Mark and I want to welcome you to our service. This is the final week of our series, Acts of Heaven where we've been learning about the reality of heaven in the Church.

In Week 1, we learned the word that Jesus chose for His Church – Ekklesia, and how the Ekklesia was not a safe spiritual gathering but a 24/7 world-heavenizing force! This was the scope of reach the early Church had, which is why they set out to heaven-ize their world (From Judea, Samaria, and to the remotest parts of the earth).

In Week 2, we discovered that, not only has God called us to heaven-ize the world, He has empowered us to do so! Yet so many Churches today rely on slick programs rather than the Spirit's power to reach the lost! The only way we will truly heaven-ize our world is through the power of the Holy Spirit and contending for His Presence everywhere we go. I want to challenge you to continue practicing His Presence wherever you are!

Last week, we saw that the work of heaven-izing the world is not left to the "paid professionals" but to every member of the body of Christ! This is why our focus is on big people and not big Church! No matter where we are in our faith journey we need to CONTINUE and "Stay tight with Him erytime!" So continue to pray through your next steps in Christ and stay time with Him erytime!

OG DISCUSSION QUESTION: What has the Holy Spirit been speaking to you about during this series?

Patrons to Partners

Throughout this series we've been making some significant paradigm shifts about what it means to be the Church. In Week 1 we made the shift between seeing the Church as primarily as safe spiritual gathering to what Jesus always intended – a world-heavenizing force. In Week 2 we shifted from placing our hope in good programs to God's Presence in order to bring heaven to earth. Last week we shifted our energies from building big Church to focusing on building big people – people who will carry out the work of heaven-izing the world. You might be thinking, "Isn't that what Pastors are for? I mean, aren't you the 'paid professionals'?"

As we wrap up our series, we want to shift our focus from seeing ourselves as Patrons to Partners. What's the difference? In the corporate world,

A Patron is a person who is a customer, client, or paying guest. (They pay in exchange for a service).

A Partner is an alliance between two or more people to oversee business operations and share its profits and liabilities.