



FREE SOLO FAITH

THE CHURCH | WEEK 1
AMANDA BEGGS

Acts 2:38-47

And Peter said to them, “Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is for you and for your children and for all who are far off, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to himself.” And with many other words he bore witness and continued to exhort them, saying, “Save yourselves from this crooked generation.” So those who received his word were baptized, and there were added that day about three thousand souls.

When we take seriously what God says about His church, it doesn’t just shape how we belong but who we become.

Who is Jesus and who is He forming us into, together?

Alex Honnold: free solo climber who scaled the Taipei 101 Tower without any supports, ropes, etc.

Individualism: a commitment to self-definition and self-sufficiency. Identity is achieved rather than received.

So if that’s what we admire—strength alone, identity alone, success alone—then we need to ask a serious question: Is that how God forms His people?

What does your “why” reveal about how you’re relating to your faith?

Free Solo Faith

Convenient: church fits *MY* life.

Curated Content: church improves *ME*.

Comfortable: church costs *ME* nothing.

Free solo faith: the church exists to support my climb, rather than to form us together.

The gospel doesn’t call us to free solo faith but to **formed together faith.**

The Church is the people of God, united to Christ and bound to one another by the Spirit, living a shared life for the glory of God and the good of our neighbors.

Acts 1:8

But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.

Acts 2:41

So those who received his word were baptized, and there were added that day about three thousand souls.

The book of Acts is not a prescription, but an invitation, through Jesus, to more.

“Our greatest need is to recapture the New Testament teaching concerning the Church. If only we could see ourselves in terms of it, we would realize that we are the most privileged people on earth, that there is nothing to be compared with being a Christian and a member of the mystical body of Christ.”

- Dr. Martin Lloyd Jones

Who does God say we are, as His Church?

- Because Jesus is the **Cornerstone**, we are **Living Stones**.
- Because Jesus is the **Head**, we are the **Body of Christ**.
- Because Jesus is the **Bridegroom**, we are the **Bride**.
- Because Jesus is the **Great High Priest**, we are a **royal priesthood**.
- Because Jesus is the **Good Shepherd**, we are the **sheep**.
- Because Jesus is the **lamb**, we are the **diverse multitude around** the throne.
- Because Jesus is the **glorified Son**, we **bear the glory of God**.

JESUS IS INVITING US TO EXCHANGE CONVENIENCE WITH DEVOTION.

Acts 2:42

And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.

Devotion: to continue steadfastly in, to persist in, to adhere to, or to be constantly diligent.

Building our own identity will only leave us enslaved to the things we used to form it.

Hebrews 10:23-25

Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful. And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.

Convenience: “How does this fit into my life?”

Devotion: “What kind of life is Jesus forming in me?”

They didn't gather together because it was easy, they gathered together because they expected something to happen when they did.

Devotion is rooted in expectation. God will move as we gather.

JESUS IS INVITING US TO EXCHANGE COMFORT FOR VULNERABILITY.

Acts 2:44-45

And all who believed were together and had all things in common. And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need.

Love one another with brotherly affection. **ROMANS 12:10**

Forgive one another. **COLOSSIANS 3:13**

Comfort one another. **2 CORINTHIANS 13:11**

Bear one another's burdens. **GALATIANS 6:2**

Build one another up. **1 THESSALONIANS 5:11**

Care for one another. **1 CORINTHIANS 12:25**

James 5:16

Therefore, confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person has great power as it is working.

God, I repent for pursuing a free solo faith.

God, I repent for when I have not fostered deep relationships with the church, or maybe even with you.

God, I repent for where I have been lukewarm or complacent about my faith or about the church.

God, I repent for being critical about the very thing you love. For being critical about things regarding services, leaders, groups, or the vision of our church.

God, I repent for choosing many other things, even good things, that keep me too busy to be involved.

God, I repent for when I don't intentionally use the gifts you have given me to serve the body.

God, I repent for hardening my heart on being generous with my money.

Prayer of blessing:

Lord, we bless our church family in your name. Thank you for filling us with your Spirit, your power, and your love.

Lord, we bless our church with courage to live our faith out loud and to be wholehearted for you.

Lord, we bless our church with the boldness to walk out our mission to help people know, experience, and follow Jesus.

We declare this day that we will be your bride, your priests, and your family committed together to bring your kingdom here on earth as it is in heaven.

SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS

1. **What comes to your mind when you hear “the church?”**
2. **Why do you go to church?**
3. **Who or what are you devoted to?**
4. **Which “one another” is hardest for you to embrace? Why?**
5. **What do you expect when you gather with other believers? Is Jesus inviting you to expect something more?**

