



# The Well

an ordinary place  
where extraordinary  
things happen

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# MORE

THAN A BUILDING

## PART 1: LIMITLESS ACCEPTANCE

### **What is church? Is it a building? Or is it more?**

“And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church (ekklesia), and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it.” -Matthew 16:18

*ekklesia:*  
*“a gathering of citizens called out from their homes into some public place, an assembly”*

“He made us unto Himself a congregation (an assembled people)”  
-Excerpt from Liturgy of St. Basil

### **STSA CORE VALUE #1: LIMITLESS ACCEPTANCE**

*We believe that every person who enters our church is the most important person in the world. That person is sent by God and should be loved and accepted as such.*

**God accepts me AS I AM.**

“As a mother comforts her child, so will I comfort you.” -Isaiah 66:13

“Then the scribes and Pharisees brought to Him a woman caught in adultery. And when they had set her in the midst, they said to Him, “Teacher, this woman was caught in adultery, in the very act. Now Moses, in the law, commanded us that such should be stoned. But what do You say?” -John 8:3-5

**God’s limitless acceptance of ME, must translate to my limitless acceptance of OTHERS.**

“Accept one another, then, just as Christ accepted you” -Romans 15:7

**Instinct tells us to move away from people’s mess, Jesus tells us to move TOWARDS IT.**

“As Jesus passed on from there, He saw a man named Matthew sitting at the tax office. And He said to him, “Follow Me.” So he arose and followed Him. Now it happened, as Jesus sat at the table in the house, that behold, many tax collectors and sinners came and sat down with Him and His disciples. And when the Pharisees saw it, they said to His disciples, “Why does your Teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?” When Jesus heard that, He said to them, “Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. But go and learn what this means: ‘I desire mercy and not sacrifice.’ For I did not come to call the righteous, but sinners, to repentance.” -Matthew 9:9-13

**“Take heed that you do not despise one of these little ones, for I say to you that in heaven their angels always see the face of My Father who is in heaven.” -Matthew 18:10**

## PART 2: AUTHENTIC COMMUNITY

### **STSA CORE VALUE #2: AUTHENTIC COMMUNITY**

*We believe God created the church to fulfill our relational needs in addition to our spiritual needs. We reject superficiality in relationships with one another just as we reject superficiality in our relationship with God.*

And the Lord God said, “It is not good that man should be alone.”  
-Genesis 2:18

**As beautiful as a personal relationship with God is, a shared relationship is even richer.**

“Now all who believed were together, and had all things in common, and sold their possessions and goods, and divided them among all, as anyone had need. So continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they ate their food with gladness and simplicity of heart, praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved.” Acts 2:44-47

*“There are two main things that are on everybody’s mind throughout life: money and relationships. One of those will make you rich.”*  
~ Dr. Richard Foth

### **Community: SHARING LIFE**

- a. Investing in the lives of others
- b. Opening up so others can invest in me

# PRACTICING “AUTHENTIC” COMMUNITY:

## 1. We will open our doors

“So continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from HOUSE TO HOUSE...” Acts 2:46

## 2. We will take our socks off

*We impress with our strengths; but we connect through our weaknesses.*

“If we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another.” 1 John 1:7

And I, brethren, when I came to you, did not come with excellence of speech or of wisdom declaring to you the testimony of God... I was with you in weakness, in fear, and in much trembling.” 1 Corinthians 2:1-3

## 3. We will roll up our sleeves

“Now the multitude of those who believed were of one heart and one soul; neither did anyone say that any of the things he possessed was his own, but they had all things in common. And with GREAT POWER the apostles gave witness to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus. And GREAT GRACE was upon them all.” Acts 4:32-33

**“For where two or three are gathered together in My name, I am there in the midst of them.”**

**Matthew 18:20**

# MORE THAN A BUILDING

## PART 3: TRANSFORMATIONAL COMMUNAL WORSHIP

“Solomon built Him a house. However, the Most High does not dwell in temples made with hands, as the prophet says: ‘Heaven is My throne, and earth is My footstool. What house will you build for Me? says the Lord, or what is the place of My rest?’” Acts 7:47-49

*‘theanthropic’:  
Deity in human form*

“And He put all things under His feet, and gave Him to be head over all things to the church, which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all.” Ephesians 1:22-23

### **STSA CORE VALUE #3:**

### **TRANSFORMATIONAL COMMUNAL WORSHIP**

*We gather to be transformed by the real Presence of God in our midst every time we meet. Liturgical prayer is not just a routine; it is life giving and real. It is the center of our life as a family.*

**God gives power to the Church.  
The Church gives power to us.**

“Then I looked, and I heard the voice of many angels around the throne, the living creatures, and the elders; and the number of them was ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousands of thousands, saying with a loud voice: “Worthy is the Lamb who was slain to receive power and riches and wisdom, and strength and honor and glory and blessing!” Revelation 5:11-12

**If my experience isn't transformational,  
maybe the problem isn't the Liturgy... maybe it's me.**

## **BEFORE: READ, REST, REPENT**

## **DURING: ACTIVELY PARTICIPATE**

“Peter was therefore kept in prison, but constant prayer was offered to God for him by the church.” Acts 12:5

“Again I say to you that if two of you agree on earth concerning anything that they ask, it will be done for them by My Father in heaven.” Matthew 18:19

## **AT ALL TIMES: STRIVE FOR UNITY**

“I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received. Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit...” Ephesians 4:1-4

“And when they had prayed, the place where they were assembled together was shaken; and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and they spoke the word of God with boldness. Now the multitude of those who believed were of one heart and one soul” Acts 4:31-32

**“We receive within us the same body of our Lord Christ that was born in the manger of Bethlehem, the same body that walked on the sea of Galilee, the same body that was crucified on Calvary, the same body that was resurrected from the tomb, the same body that ascended into heaven and now sits on the right hand of the Father. There is no power in life greater than this.”**

**St. John Chrysostom**

## PART 4: FAITH-FILLED VISION

### STSA CORE VALUE #4: FAITH-FILLED VISION

*We believe in a big God and we rely on Him to do extraordinary things in our lives. We are not surprised when God does a miracle; we are more surprised when He doesn't.*

### **GOD IS NOT LIKE US.**

**He is incomprehensible, inconceivable and unimaginable.**

“To whom then will you liken Me, or to whom shall I be equal?” says the Holy One. Lift up your eyes on high, and see who has created these things...” Isaiah 40:25

“For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways, and My thoughts than your thoughts.” Isaiah 55:9

### **1. CHALLENGE ASSUMPTIONS**

“But it came to pass on the seventh day that they rose early, about the dawning of the day, and marched around the city seven times in the same manner. On that day only they marched around the city seven times. And the seventh time it happened, when the priests blew the trumpets, that Joshua said to the people: “Shout, for the Lord has given you the city! ...

And it happened when the people heard the sound of the trumpet, and the people shouted with a great shout, that the wall fell down flat. Then the people went up into the city, every man straight before him, and they took the city.” Joshua 6:15-16, 20

“The things which are impossible with men are possible with God.”  
Luke 18:27

## **2. DREAM BIG, PRAY BOLD**

*“God honors bold prayers because bold prayers honor God.”*

“For assuredly, I say to you, whoever says to THIS MOUNTAIN, ‘Be removed and be cast into the sea,’ and does not doubt in his heart, but believes that those things he says will be done, he will have whatever he says.” Mark 11:23

*“The greatest moments of life are when human impotence and divine omnipotence intersect.”*

*“Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us, to Him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.”*

***Ephesians 3:20-21***

## PART 5: GENUINE LOVE FOR COMMUNITY

### **STSA Core Value: GENUINE LOVE FOR COMMUNITY**

*We bleed with love for the community around us – especially those who are without Christ. We don't just care about spiritual needs, but physical, emotional, and social needs as well. We seek to be a true blessing to the community in whatever way we can.*

“For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren.” Romans 8:29

“He who says he abides in Him ought himself also to walk just as He walked.” 1 John 2:6

“And the Word became flesh and DWELT AMONG US, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.” John 1:14

**God became one of us and DWELT among us**

**To show us who God is and who we are CALLED TO BE**

**Not by explaining God, but by REVEALING Him**

“Philip said to Him, “Lord, show us the Father, and it is sufficient for us.” Jesus said to him, “Have I been with you so long, and yet you have not known Me, Philip? He who has seen Me has seen the Father; so how can you say, ‘Show us the Father’? Do you not believe that I am in the Father, and the Father in Me?” John 14:8-10

“The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me, because He has anointed Me to preach the gospel to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed; to proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord.” Luke 4:18-21

### Revolutionary TEACHINGS

GOOD SAMARITAN  
LOST SHEEP/COIN/SON  
LOVE YOUR ENEMIES  
WIDOW WITH TWO MITES

### Revolutionary INTERACTIONS

SAMARITAN WOMAN  
SICK PEOPLE  
TAX COLLECTORS  
CENTURION'S SERVANT

**No-strings-attached love and compassion  
were the hallmarks of the early church.**

**Everybody matters to God whether God  
matters to them or not.**

“Christ has no body on earth but yours, no hands but yours, no feet but yours. Yours are the eyes through which Christ’s compassion for the world is to look out; yours are the feet with which He is to go about doing good; and yours are the hands with which He is to bless us now.” St. Teresa of Avila

**WHILE WE MAY BE QUESTIONED FOR WHAT WE BELIEVE,  
WE SHOULD BE EMBRACED FOR HOW WE LOVE.**

## PART 6: IRRATIONAL GENEROSITY

### **STSA CORE VALUE: IRRATIONAL GENEROSITY**

*We genuinely believe it is more blessed to give than to receive and we seek opportunities to express our love to God by sacrificing our time and our money.*

“And none shall appear before Me empty-handed.”  
Exodus 34:20

### **GIVING IS AN ACT OF WORSHIP.**

“Give to the Lord, O families of the peoples, give to the Lord glory and strength. Give to the Lord the glory due His name; bring an offering, and come into His courts. Oh, worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness!” Psalm 96:7-9

“But since you excel in everything—in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in complete earnestness and in the love we have kindled in you—see that you also excel in this grace of giving.”  
2 Corinthians 8:7

### **1. GIVING COMBATS MATERIALISM**

“Command those who are rich in this present age not to be haughty, nor to trust in uncertain riches but in the living God, who gives us richly all things to enjoy. Let them do good, that they be rich in good works, ready to give, willing to share.”  
1 Timothy 6:17-18

## 2. GIVING IS A WISE INVESTMENT

“Assuredly, I say to you, there is no one who has left house or brothers or sisters or father or mother or wife or children or lands, for My sake and the gospel’s, who shall not receive a hundredfold NOW in this time...and in the age to come, eternal life.” Mark 10:29-30

## 3. GIVING BLESSES ME IN HEAVEN AND ON EARTH

“The generous soul will be made rich, and he who waters will also be watered himself.” Proverbs 11:25

“He who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully.” 2 Corinthians 9:6

“Now Jesus sat opposite the treasury and saw HOW the people put money into the treasury.” Mark 12:41

### **Giving is about ATTITUDE, not AMOUNT.**

“Will a man rob God? Yet you have robbed Me! But you say, ‘In what way have we robbed You?’ In tithes and offerings. You are cursed with a curse, for you have robbed Me, even this whole nation.” Malachi 3:8-9

**“Bring all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be food in My house, and try Me now in this,” says the LORD of hosts, “If I will not open for you the windows of heaven and pour out for you such blessing that there will not be room enough to receive it.” Malachi 3:10**

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