

A Personal Account of Faith

Right There in the Meeting

By Bro. Aaron Palmieri

We're kind of a big deal. But if we looked at the numbers, we might feel otherwise. At the end of 2014, the U.S. Census estimated that there were 318.9 million people living in the United States. A rough population estimate for The Church of Jesus Christ in the United States puts us at around 3,000 people. If you do the math, you will quickly realize how extraordinarily blessed we are to be members of the Church.

I attended college at a very authentically devout Christian school. Thirsty Thursdays were often spent discussing "living water" (John 4) and school sanctioned events often featured root beer "keggers". I then decided to further my education by attending a graduate school in the heart of the "Bible Belt", South Carolina. Along the way, I've met countless faithful and God-fearing Christians. Their churches molded them to live lives that reflected the teachings of Jesus Christ, and they were members of communities that were thirsty for the Gospel. Have you ever wondered how it is possible, then, that *our* tiny church is the continuation of the original church that Christ established here on Earth?

This honest questioning led me to a convicting experience in 2013. My father was relating an experience in Church that he had when he was a young man. The main point of his experience was that within this Church, he had something special and was not to take it for granted.

While blessed by the beautiful experience, it left me envious. That's right: I was spiritually jealous. Even though deep down in my heart *I* knew that this was truly God's Church, I wanted a real life personal experience that I could stand on and tell people how I knew that this was truly The Church of Jesus Christ.

Moroni 10:4 tells us, "...ask God, the Eternal Father, in the name of Christ if these things are not true; and if ye shall ask with a sincere heart, with real intent, having faith in Christ, he will manifest the truth unto you, by



Photo by Duane Werley

the power of the Holy Ghost” So following this verse, I did exactly this on a Saturday night. I sincerely asked the Lord to show me that this was His true Church in order to share my testimony confidently with others. Expecting to have some sort of dream I fell asleep excited, and woke up the next morning disappointed. I quickly forgot about my prayer and continued on with my normal Sunday morning routine. Sunday School started out nice but uneventful. But then our teacher asked us the question, “Do you think God attends our meeting?” and all of a sudden we heard a noise come from the window and the blinds started to move as if a gust of air had just blown into the building (the windows were shut). The congregation and teacher paused and looked in that direction, and a sister sitting near the window looked shaken up and emotional. Our teacher asked her what happened and if she was all right, but she was not able to get any words out. He decided to carry on with the lesson, and I just thought, “Hmm, that was weird.” This Brother, who was also our presiding elder, informed us

during his opening announcements that the Sister said that after she heard the noise and the blinds shook, her entire body was overtaken by the Lord’s Holy Spirit. It wasn’t until later that day that it hit me: the Lord had answered my prayer. He answered our Brother’s question with a resounding “yes.” I was then able to reason that if God is so adamant about being in our meetings, then this must be His Church.

I now have my very own personal account that God restored the fullness of His Gospel in the Church of Jesus Christ. My challenge to you, the reader, is to petition the Lord to reveal Himself to you so that you too will have your own conviction about the trueness of our Church. I’ve learned and grown so much from reading the scriptures and listening to the words of others, but nothing has planted my roots deeper in this Church than the experience I witnessed on that Sunday. Our Church was restored by asking God for answers, (you can read the Church history book if you aren’t sure what I mean). James 1:5 tells us, “*If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God...*” God bless!

Do YOU Think That God Attends Our Meetings?

Every Sunday when you go to Church, do you really stop and think that God is there too? **We challenge you** to acknowledge that the next time you come to Church or have a meeting in another saint’s home.

Matthew 18:20 says that, “*For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I in the midst of them.*”

Let’s not forget that attending Church is an opportunity to grow closer to the Lord because *He is literally right there*. So the next time you head to a meeting, pray and ask God for Him to give you the understanding that He is right there with you.

THE CHURCH OF
**Jesus
Christ**

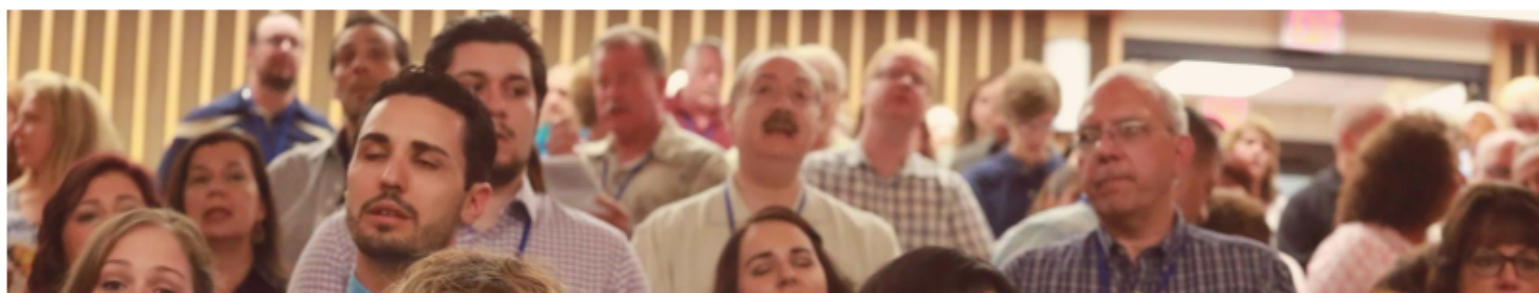


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