

Deep Dive in 8-3-25

Bible Study Questions

1. **What comes to mind when you hear the word "saint"?** How does the biblical definition of saints as "holy ones" or all Christians differ from common cultural understandings?
2. **Read Acts 2:42-47.** What specific elements of communion (koinonia) do you see in this early church community? Which of these elements do you find most challenging to live out today?
3. **Paul frequently addresses his letters "to the saints" in various cities (Corinthians, Ephesians, etc.).** What does this tell us about how Paul viewed ordinary believers? How should this affect how we see ourselves and other Christians?
4. **Jesus said in Matthew 22:32, "He is not God of the dead, but of the living."** What implications does this have for how we understand death and our relationship with believers who have died?
5. **Read Hebrews 12:1 about the "great cloud of witnesses."** Who are some biblical figures or Christians from history who inspire your faith? How does knowing they are still "alive in Christ" encourage you?
6. **The sermon mentions that "death is just a veil that God's people pass through."** How does this perspective on death comfort or challenge your current understanding? What fears about death does this address?
7. **Ken names specific individuals from their church who have died (Ron, Nell, Zelma, etc.).** Who are some believers in your life who have passed away that you look forward to being reunited with? How do their lives continue to influence you?
8. **The communion of saints includes believers "from every nation and language."** How does this global and diverse nature of the church challenge any prejudices or preferences you might have about other Christians?
9. **Read Hebrews 12:22-24, which describes coming near to the heavenly Jerusalem and "spirits of the righteous made perfect."** How can awareness of this spiritual reality change how you approach worship and prayer?
10. **The sermon connects the Lord's Supper to communing with all saints across time.** How might remembering this broader communion change your experience of taking communion? What should you be thinking about during this sacrament?

11. **Acts 2:44-46 shows the early Christians "had everything in common" and provided for each other's needs.** What are practical ways your small group or church can better live out this kind of fellowship and mutual care?
12. **The sermon speaks of the "church militant" (still fighting) and "church triumphant" (victorious in heaven).** As part of the church militant, what battles are you currently facing in your spiritual life? How can knowing you're connected to the church triumphant give you strength and hope?

Discussion Questions

1. **Share about a time when you felt deeply connected to other believers.** What made that experience of Christian fellowship so meaningful to you?
2. **Growing up, how did your family or church talk about people who had died?** How has your understanding of death and the afterlife changed over the years?
3. **Ken describes the church as transcending both place and time.** What are some ways you've experienced this reality? Have you ever felt connected to Christians from other cultures or historical periods?
4. **The early church in Acts 2 "had everything in common" and shared their possessions.** What would it look like for our church or small group to live with this kind of radical generosity and care for one another?
5. **Ken mentions feeling thankful for both living saints and those who have died.** Who are some believers (living or deceased) that you're especially grateful for? How have they shaped your faith journey?
6. **The sermon suggests that believers who have died are "more alive in Christ than we are."** How does this idea sit with you? Does it bring comfort, confusion, or something else?
7. **Think about the phrase "communion of the saints."** Beyond church services, where else do you experience meaningful fellowship with other believers? What makes those connections special?
8. **Ken talks about saints being "called out of the world" but still living in it.** How do you balance being part of God's holy community while engaging with the broader world around you?
9. **The sermon connects taking communion to communing with all saints across time.** Does knowing this change how you want to approach the Lord's Supper? What might you think about differently next time?
10. **If you truly believed you were surrounded by a "great cloud of witnesses" from heaven, how might that affect your daily choices and struggles?** Would you live differently knowing departed saints are somehow present with you?
11. **The early church met daily, shared meals, and prayed together regularly.** What practical steps could our group take to deepen our communion and fellowship with each other?

12. **Ken describes both the "church militant" (still fighting) and "church triumphant" (victorious in heaven).** What hope does the reality of the church triumphant give you as you face current challenges in your spiritual life or circumstances?