

Acts 2.42-47

A Great Church

Today's Evangelical Church > Jesus PERSONAL Savior, Individual FAITH

Individualism, Isolation NOT Biblical > INCORPORATION into CHURCH  
MONKS and HERMITS Very SPIRITUAL > NOT very BIBLICAL

Acts 2 > PENTECOST - Historical Event of Baptism of Holy Spirit  
ONCE FOR ALL HISTORICAL, REDEMPTIVE EVENT  
3000 Repented and Believed > Made an INDIVIDUAL DECISION

RESULT > Gathered into CHURCH > Probably MANY SMALL Churches  
GOD'S COVENANT PEOPLE became SPIRIT-FILLED BODY of CHRIST

Luke > SNAPSHOT of that CHURCH > PRINCIPLES to GUIDE All Churches

Learning Church / Loving Church / Worshipping Church / Witnessing Church

## 1. Learning Church

a. Spirit and Word > POURING Out of SPIRIT > Preaching of WORD

v. 42 "they devoted themselves to the apostles teaching"

Church FORMED AROUND Apostolic SERMON - BIBLICAL MESSAGE

STRANGE, UNUSUAL Phenomenon in City of JERUSALEM  
SOUND Mighty Wind / SIGHT of Flaming Tongues / SPEECH of Many Lands

v. 4 all of them were filled with the Holy Spirit

WHAT DOES it MEAN? > Peter gives ANSWER in SCRIPTURE....

vs. 16-17 *This is what was spoken by the prophet Joel:* "In the last days, God says, I will pour out my Spirit on all people...

APOSTOLIC Preaching > THIS is THAT > Now is the TIME, Fulfillment  
v. 25 David said about him...

26 Vs. SUMMARY of Peter's Sermon > 13 Vss of Quotes from 3 OT Texts

### SPIRIT OF GOD IS THE SPIRIT OF TRUTH

When he, the *Spirit of truth*, comes, he will *guide you into all truth*. John 16.13

The Holy Spirit opened a school in Jerusalem that day; its teachers were the apostles whom Jesus had appointed; and there were 3000 pupils in the kindergarten. John Stott

PATTERN OF WORSHIP BASED ON JEWISH SYNAGOGUE  
**"Synagogue"** meant **"a place of assembly"** LOCAL CENTER OF WORSHIP  
 EMPHASIZED: Confession of Faith, Prayer, Word of God

All the believers used to meet together in Solomon's Colonnade. Acts 5.12

One Sign of HOLY SPIRIT in CHURCH - Eager STUDYING of SCRIPTURE  
 The Bereans received the message with great eagerness and examined the Scriptures every day to see if what Paul said was true Acts 17.11

Jesus: "The words I have spoken to you are spirit and life" John 6.63

Want to be FILLED with SPIRIT of GOD? > Must READ the WORD of GOD  
 Want UNDERSTAND WORD of GOD? Must be FILLED with SPIRIT of God

### b. Apostolic Word - OFFICIAL SPOKESMEN OF CHRIST

v. 14 Peter stood up with the eleven > 12 FOUNDATION STONES in Place

v. 32 God has raised this Jesus to life, and *we are all witnesses of the fact*.

With great power the *apostles continued to testify to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus*, and much grace was upon them all. Acts 4.33

v. 42 they devoted themselves to the apostles teaching

v. 43 many wonders and miraculous signs were done by the apostles

...they came to Paphos...The proconsul, an intelligent man, sent for Barnabas and Saul because he wanted to hear the word of God. But Elymas the sorcerer

...opposed them and tried to turn the proconsul from the faith. Then Saul, who was also called Paul, filled with the Holy Spirit, looked straight at Elymas and said, "You are a child of the devil and an enemy of everything that is right! You are full of all kinds of deceit and trickery. Will you never stop perverting the right ways of the Lord? Now the hand of the Lord is against you. You are going to be blind, and for a time you will be unable to see the light of the sun." Immediately mist and darkness came over him, and he groped about, seeking someone to lead him by the hand. *When the proconsul saw what had happened, he believed, for he was amazed at the teaching about the Lord.* Acts 13.6-12

### AMAZING TEACHING > "SIGNS" Validated their Authority

The gospel facts must always have the supreme place in our ministries. The message communicated by miracles is by no means the total gospel. It proclaims some aspects of God: for example, that God is powerful and worthy of attention, and that he can get involved in people's lives. Miracles are not an essential norm for biblical evangelism. But they are a means commonly used by God. Unfortunately, today we have the situation of a sign-mania on the part of some Christians and a sign-phobia on the part of others. Ajith Fernando

### PAUL'S HUMBLE Testimony to PROUD CORINTHIAN CHURCH...

The things that mark an apostle - signs, wonders and miracles - were done among you with great perseverance. 2 Corinthians 12.12

NOW the OFFICE of APOSTLE is CLOSED > Greatest Sign THEIR BOOK  
LIFE-GIVING Words of SPIRIT-INSPIRED NEW TESTAMENT

Jesus: "The Spirit will take from what is mine and make it known to you"  
John 16.15

WHO is THE YOU?? APOSTLES - WHERE DO WE FIND IT ?? **The N.T.**

In reading this, then, you will be able to understand my insight into the *mystery of Christ*, which was not made known to men in other generations as it has now been *revealed by the Spirit to God's holy apostles and prophets.*

Ephesians 3.4,5

SPIRIT of God leads the PEOPLE of God to the WORD of God  
A SPIRIT-FILLED CHURCH IS A NEW TESTAMENT CHURCH

## 2. A Loving Church

v. 42 they devoted themselves to.... the fellowship : Greek word KOINONIA

KOINONIA > Favorite word of PAUL > ONLY used ONCE by Luke, HERE

FELLOWSHIP is the HEART of Luke's Cameo of CHURCH  
CHURCH Life is MORE Than LISTENING to SERMONS

*Speaking the truth in love*, we will in all things grow up into him who is the Head, that is, Christ. From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and *builds itself up in love*, as each part does its work. Ephesians 4.15-16

BIBLICAL CONNECTION between TRUTH and LOVE "speak truth in love"  
TRUTH w/OUT LOVE is too HARD / LOVE w/OUT TRUTH is too SOFT

a. Spiritual Sharing FELLOWSHIP is a TRINITARIAN EXPERIENCE

May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and *the fellowship of the Holy Spirit* be with you all. 2 Corinthians 13.14

KOINONIA has HEAVENLY, SPIRITUAL Dimension > Share in the LORD

We proclaim to you what we have seen and heard, so that you also may have fellowship with us. And *our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son, Jesus Christ.* 1 John 1.3

Both the one who makes men holy and those who are made holy are of the same family. So *Jesus is not ashamed to call them brothers.* He says, "I will declare your name to my brothers; *in the presence of the congregation I will sing your praises.*" Hebrews 2.11-12

PROFOUND, MYSTERIOUS Truth > Jesus is HERE > JOINING in PRAISE!

b. Sharing our Substance > Koinonia of their Cash!

vs. 44,45 All the believers were together and had everything in common. Selling their possessions and goods, they gave to anyone as he had need.

CHURCH BUILT ON SACRIFICE > CROSS < CALLED TO FOLLOW HIM

IF we BELIEVE John 3.16 > We should BEHAVE like FIRST John 3.16  
This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers. If anyone has material possessions and sees his brother in need but has no pity on him, how can the love of God be in him? Dear children, let us not love with words or tongue but with actions and in truth. 1 John 3.16-18

NOT COMMUNISM - WILLING EXPRESSION OF THE LOVE OF GOD  
The early Christians shared their possessions, not because they were communists or socialists – not because they were forced to share things – but for a far better reason. They shared their goods because they were generous, and they were generous because they had learned generosity from God. James Boice

MILLIONS of Hungry, Suffering, Dying Christians Today > INDICTMENT!  
These BELONG to Jesus > Might BE Jesus > they're Naked, Hungry, Waiting

c. Sharing Ourselves > BELIEVERS Just ENJOYED Being TOGETHER

vs. 46-47 They broke bread in their homes and ate *together with glad and sincere hearts*, praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people.

MORE than SENDING a CHECK or SITTING thru WORSHIP SERVICE

Went BOWLING – Watched FOOTBALL – Snow BOARDING > Hung Out!!  
JESUS Moved INTO their LIVES, Brought JOY to EVERY PART of WORLD

The higher we value our personal privacy and freedom from commitments, the shallower our grasp of fellowship will be. Dennis Johnson

NOT MATTER if House BIG Enough, TIDY Enough, Food GOOD Enough  
True Hospitality comes before pride. Karen Burton Mains

### 3. A Worshipping Church

a. Ceremony > FORMAL Gatherings of Worship

1) Structure WORSHIP IS TO BE DIGNIFIED - BUT NEVER DULL

v. 46 Every day they continued to meet together *in the temple courts*.

TEMPLE > No Longer Offered Sacrifices > FINISHED Work of JESUS

PRACTICAL Need > 3000+ Believers needed LARGE MEETING AREA

One day Peter and John were going up *to the temple at the time of prayer...*

Acts 3.1

DID NOT ABANDON TEMPLE > Calling it 'DEAD' > PATIENT Reformers  
NOT ABANDON INSTITUTIONAL, FORMAL, TRADITIONAL CHURCH

Acts: GRADUAL TRANSITION > From TEMPLE to CHURCH

To the Jews I became like a Jew, to win the Jews. To those under the law I became like one under the law (though I myself am not under the law), so as to win those under the law.  
1 Corinthians 9.20

2) Singing > SOMETHING Powerful Happens to Believers > THEY SING!

vs. 46,47 ...with glad and sincere hearts, praising God...

GREAT PROOF of REALITY of GOD'S LIFE-CHANGING WORK  
REDEEMED CULTURES > Native Styles, Sounds, Structure of Song > Praise  
In Tune / Out of Tune / Grunts / Snorts > JOYFUL NOISES unto the LORD

ONLY Christians REALLY SING > From HEARTS Made NEW by GRACE  
Visited Many CULTURES, Diverse CHURCHES > Sing with ONE VOICE!  
FELLOWSHIP IN SONG - UNITING OUR VOICES IN PRAISE

SHOULD BE SOLID BIBLICAL, THEOLOGICAL CONTENT IN SONGS

Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom, and as you sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs, with gratitude in your hearts to God  
Colossians 3.16

PSALMS Indicate > STYLE was LOUD and BOISTEROUS

Praise God in his sanctuary... with the sounding of the trumpet... with the harp and lyre...with tambourine and dancing...with the strings and flute... with the clash of cymbals, praise him with resounding cymbals. Let everything that has breath praise the LORD.  
Psalm 150.1-6

NO DRONES and DIRGES but PEOPLE ALIVE, JOYFUL, PRAISING HIM

Singing is as much the language of holy joy as praying is of holy desire.  
John Wesley

3) Sacrament v. 42 "the breaking of bread" > LORD'S SUPPER

FOLLOWED the Example and COMMAND of Jesus  
He took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to them, saying, "This is my body given for you; do this in remembrance of me."  
Luke 22.19

...Jesus was recognized by them when he broke the bread Luke 24.35

b. Community > Belonged to GOD and ONE ANOTHER

v. 46 They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts...

CEREMONY of BREAKING BREAD (Lord's Supper) w/ DAILY BREAD

IN THEIR HOMES > Places of Fellowship, Service, Sharing

Love Feasts COMMON MEAL > Ended by LORD'S SUPPER // Ex. Passover

IN THE TEMPLE AND IN THEIR HOMES

HOME MEETINGS > SPONTANEOUS, FREE, Less UNSTRUCTURED

CHURCH NEEDS BOTH – Structured / Unstructured – Traditional / New

Is there a power that can unify the divided nations of the earth without subjugating them? Is there a way of making people one, without at the same time making them all the same? It is precisely that sort of unity which the Holy Spirit brings...Unlike the imperialisms of men, the Spirit had no ambition to homogenize the peoples of the world into a uniform Christian culture.

Roy Clements

c. Commitment > LOYAL to GOD and ONE ANOTHER

v. 42 They devoted themselves to... prayer

Devoted to PRAYER – HARD WORK > Engaged, Attention, Concentration  
ICF use BLUE CARDS > Important, Urgent, Needs > NOT EXHAUSTIVE!!

FULFILLMENT of MESSIANIC EXPECTATION

I will bring (them) to my holy mountain and give them joy in my house of prayer. Their burnt offerings and sacrifices will be accepted on my altar; for my house will be called a house of prayer for all nations. Isaiah 56.7

WHEN NEEDED Leadership and GUIDANCE....

They prayed, "Lord, you know everyone's heart. Show us which of these two you have chosen to take over this apostolic ministry..." Acts 1.24,25

When NEEDED Strength and PROTECTION...

They raised their voices together in prayer to God. "Sovereign Lord," they said, "you made the heaven and the earth and the sea, and everything in them...Now, Lord, consider their threats and enable your servants to speak your word with great boldness. Stretch out your hand to heal and perform miraculous signs and wonders through the name of your holy servant Jesus." Acts 4.24-30

The wind and the fire were abnormal, and probably the languages too; the new life and joy, fellowship and worship, freedom, boldness, and power were not.

John Stott

1935 BLASIO KIGOSI Christian, School Teacher > RWANDA, Central Africa  
Deeply DISCOURAGED: Lack of POWER, JOY, Purpose his Life & Church

Went Away for WEEK of PRAYER & Fasting > EMERGED Changed Man  
 CONFESSED SINS to ALL he'd Wronged > WIFE, KIDS, COLLEAGUES

TESTIFIED & PREACHED Gospel in SCHOOL > Students, Teachers SAVED  
 Entire VILLAGE Moved by WORD & SPIRIT > 'abaka' People ON FIRE!

KIGOSI Invited by Northern Neighbors > ANGLICAN Leaders in UGANDA  
 Called Leaders to REPENTANCE > Holy Spirit Poured Out > REVIVAL  
 KIGOSI caught FEVER > Within FEW WEEKS of Spirit-filling WAS DEAD!

WORK of God CONTINUED > Up to TODAY > EAST AFRICAN REVIVAL  
 Longest SUSTAINED REVIVAL in History of Church > touched 100,000's!  
 START? Christian TIRED of STATUS QUO in OWN LIFE & HIS CHURCH

v. 42 They *devoted themselves*.... apostles' teaching...fellowship...the breaking  
 of bread and to prayer.

All the believers were one in heart and mind.

Acts 4.32

A GREAT CHURCH > Each MEMBER has SENSE of OWNERSHIP  
 IF Bright & SUNNY > Blowing SNOW > Battling SNIFFLES: They're There!

Care what goes on? > Enough SS Teachers? Worship? Ushers? Sermon?  
 INSEPARABLE Link btwn GOD and OTHERS > Fellowship w/ God & Man

You CAN STAY HOME > Great Time w/ God > IT IS NOT CHURCH!  
 CHURCH > Sacraments, Scripture, Service, Sharing, Suffering TOGETHER

Wherever the pure voice of the Gospel rings out, where people continue to  
 profess the Christian faith, where they listen and benefit from what they hear,  
 there undoubtedly is the church. John Calvin

CHURCH with 4 MEMBERS: Everybody, Somebody, Anybody, Nobody

The church had financial responsibilities and Everybody was asked to help.  
 Everybody was sure that Somebody would do it. Anybody could have done it.  
 But you know who did it? Nobody. It ended up that Everybody blamed  
 Somebody when Nobody did what Anybody could have done.

Then the Sunday school needed volunteers, and Somebody was asked to help. But Somebody got angry about that, because Anybody could have done it just as well and, after all, it was really Everybody's job. In the end the work was given to Nobody, and Nobody did a fine job.

On and on this went. Whenever work was to be done, Nobody could always be counted on. Nobody visited the sick. Nobody gave generously. Nobody shared his faith. In short, Nobody was a faithful member.

Finally the day came when Somebody left the church and took Anybody and Everybody with him. Guess who was left. Nobody.

LEARNING CHURCH - LOVING CHURCH - WORSHIPPING CHURCH  
MANY STOP THERE > COZY, SAFE, INSULATED, ISOLATED

#### 4. A Witnessing Church

a. Message Believers ANNOUNCED Good News & INVITED All to Come

HOLY SPIRIT is MISSIONARY SPIRIT – Birthed MISSIONARY CHURCH

v. 21 Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.

TRUE in FIRST Century and TRUE in TWENTY-FIRST Century  
HAVE YOU CALLED ON HIS NAME AND BEEN SAVED??

And they were all *filled with the Holy Spirit* and *spoke the word of God boldly*.  
Acts 4.31

Risen Jesus sent Church into Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, Ends of Earth  
LUKE Marks GOSPEL-PROGRESS thru EACH STEP of ADVANCE

So the *word of God spread*. The number of disciples *in Jerusalem* increased rapidly, and a large number of priests became obedient to the faith.

Acts 6.7

...they testified and *proclaimed the word of the Lord*...preaching the gospel in many *Samaritan villages* Acts 8.25

...the *Gentiles* also had *received the word of God*... Acts 11.1

All the Jews and Greeks who lived in the *province of Asia* heard the word of the Lord... the word of the Lord spread widely and grew in power. Acts 19.10,20

FINAL VERSES > Paul in ROME – CAPITAL of the WORLD

For two whole years Paul stayed there in his own rented house and welcomed all who came to see him. *Boldly and without hindrance he preached the kingdom of God and taught about the Lord Jesus Christ.* Acts 28.30-31

WE Naturally ASK > What HAPPENED to Paul? NOT LUKE'S PURPOSE NOT Biography of Paul, or Anyone > TESTIMONY of ADVANCE of WORD

WORD that CANNOT Be CHAINED / KINGDOM Cannot be Extinguished

b. Model > BODY had MORE than BIG MOUTH > Hands, Hearts, Feet

v. 47 praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people.

LORD JESUS told them > LOVE GOD and LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR

NEXT THING THEY DO IS HELP A CRIPPLED BEGGAR

Now a man crippled from birth was being carried to the temple gate called Beautiful, where he was put every day to beg from those going into the temple courts...Peter said, "Silver or gold I do not have, but what I have I give you. In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, walk." ...He jumped to his feet and began to walk. Then he went with them into the temple courts, walking and jumping, and praising God. When *all the people* saw him walking and praising God...they were *filled with wonder and amazement* at what had happened to him. Acts 3.2-10

AFTER Death of Ananias and Saphira > PARTNERS in Deceit, Death Great fear seized the whole church and all who heard about these events.

Acts 5.11

Public SHAMING of SNEAKY Sons of SCEVA...

When this became known to the Jews and Greeks living in Ephesus, they were all seized with fear, and *the name of the Lord Jesus was held in high honor.*

Acts 19.17

Young African > Selling Mangos > Busy Taxi Park in City  
 Stood with Crowds in Hot Sun shouting, "Mangos, Mangos, Mangos!"  
 No One paid him any attention > Decided to Soothe his Sore, Hoarse Throat  
 ATE Ripe, Juicy Mango > Whole Face covered with Sweet Juice > to Elbows!  
 DELIGHT was CONTAGIOUS > Many Lined up to Buy a Delicious Mango

People need to SEE JESUS in US before they will HEAR About Jesus from US

c. Master > HOW are WE going to DO THIS?? WE'RE NOT! GOD WILL!

v. 47 And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.

From the STEAMY ENTRAILS of Great FISH – JONAH forced to CONFESS  
 Salvation comes from the Lord

Jonah 2.9

*He saved us*, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. *He saved us* through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, whom he poured out on us generously *through Jesus Christ our Savior.*

Titus 3.5,6

OF COURSE HE USED PEOPLE - Preach, Praise, Practice their Faith

v. 46 "worship daily" // v. 47 "witness daily"

AMAZINGLY > WE Co-Labor with God in BRINGING People to CHRIST

The ORIGINAL CALVINIST > Acknowledged WE MUST do OUR PART  
 The decline of the church is more due to laziness than wickedness. John Calvin

v. 47 The Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved

1) WE MUST ADD TO THE CHURCH ONLY THOSE WHO ARE SAVED

2) IF YOU ARE SAVED YOU MUST BE ADDED TO THE CHURCH

## SALVATION AND CHURCH MEMBERSHIP BELONG TOGETHER

DWIGHT L. MOODY - Famous Evangelist - Met DRUNK on Chicago Street  
"Hello, Mr. Moody"

"Excuse me sir, do I know you?"

"Don't you remember me, I am one of your converts"

YOU MAY BE ONE of MY CONVERTS, BUT you are NOT ONE OF GOD'S

## PENTECOSTAL CHURCH - SPIRIT-FILLED IN ALL RELATIONSHIPS

- To the Apostles / Submission to their Word
- To One Another / Love, Sharing, Caring, Fellowship
- To God / Worship, formal and informal, joyful and reverent
- To the World / Outreach in word and deed, continuous evangelism

## Luke Paints Portrait of GREAT CHURCH AT JERUSALEM

GREAT NOT in Money, Buildings, Political Influence, Social Status

GREAT: PRESENCE of RISEN Christ, POWER of Holy Spirit, OBEDIENCE

REACHED THOUSANDS FOR CHRIST IN JERUSALEM  
SAW MANY OTHER CHURCHES PLANTED thru out ROMAN WORLD

Brothers, think of what you were when you were called. Not many of you were wise by human standards; not many were influential; not many were of noble birth. But God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise; God chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong. He chose the lowly things of this world and the despised things - and the things that are not - to nullify the things that are, so that no one may boast before him. It is because of him that you are in Christ Jesus, who has become for us wisdom from God - that is, our righteousness, holiness and redemption. Therefore, as it is written: "Let him who boasts boast in the Lord." 1 Corinthians 1.26-31

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Acts 2:42-47

42 They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. 43 Everyone was filled with awe, and many wonders and miraculous signs were done by the apostles. 44 All the believers were together and had everything in common. 45 Selling their possessions and goods, they gave to anyone as he had need. 46 Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, 47 praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.