

What Makes a Church Great?

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What is a great church?

Act 9:31 Then the church throughout Judea, Galilee and Samaria enjoyed a time of peace. It was strengthened; and encouraged by the Holy Spirit, it grew in numbers, living in the fear of the Lord.

I believe this is a great church!

This great church at Jerusalem is our God-given example of "How to do it."

I. THEY HAD A GREAT PURPOSE

Jesus had asked them to tarry in the Upper Room. He said in Luke 24:49 I am going to send you what my Father has promised; but stay in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high." (Luke 24:49).

Obedience is always a vital link to power and blessing from God. Then, their purpose was to obtain _____

Act 1:8 But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

Their purpose was to be **witnesses** for God.

They were to be witnesses . . ."both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth" (Acts 1:8).

II. THEY HAD GREAT PREACHING

Peter was an ordinary man and not really a great preacher, but the content of his sermon was great preaching. Preaching in the early church had a 3 fold characteristics:

- A. It **EXALTED** the Savior
- B. It **EDIFIED** the saints.
- C. It **EXPOSED** sin.

These great characteristics are present in all great sermons.

III. THEY HAD GREAT POWER

The power at Pentecost is available to every Christian who will seek God and pay the price.

Notice this power depends on certain things.

A. It is dependent upon A CLEAN life.

God will not fill a dirty vessel with His Holy Spirit power. We must be clean.

B. It depends on CONSISTENT walk. Jesus is the same yesterday, today and forever. Great power depends on

C. It depended upon CONTINUAL asking. Great power comes thru great prayer.

IV. THEY HAD GREAT PEOPLE

The people in this early Christian group were those willing to give up their very life's work. Peter left his nets and followed Jesus. James and John were willing to forsake their fishing business and become fishers of men.

V. THEY HAD GREAT PRAISE

We read that "They continued daily with one accord . . . Praising God, and having favour with all the people . . ." (Acts 2:46,47).

VI. THEY HAD GREAT PROMISES

1Jn 2:24 See that what you have heard from the beginning remains in you. If it does, you also will remain in the Son and in the Father.

1Jn 2:25 And this is what he promised us—even eternal life.

Act 2:39 The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off—for all whom the Lord our God will call."

Gal 3:14 He redeemed us in order that the blessing given to Abraham might come to the Gentiles through Christ Jesus, so that by faith we might receive the promise of the Spirit.

These people had a promise of Heaven, and so do we. These people had a promise of the Holy Spirit, and so do we. They had a promise of genuine happiness, and so do we. .