

Establishing Churches 4 – The Power and Presence of God

Matthew 16:18 - And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.

1. A Community of Self-Sacrificing Love

- John 13:34-35 - Jesus told His disciples “just as I have loved you, you also love one another”

2. A Community of Radical Unity

- John 17:22-23 - Jesus prayed, saying, “that they may be one even as we are one”

3. A Community Devoted to the Word of God

- "they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching" (Acts 2:42)
- "every day, in the temple and from house to house, they did not cease teaching and preaching" (Acts 5:42)
- 1 Timothy 4:13 - Until I come, devote yourself to the public reading of Scripture, to exhortation, to teaching...
 - “devote” = prosechó = to be fully attentive to something... used to talk about setting a ship on a specific course... in the negative, translated “beware”...
- 10 Metaphors For the Word of God...
 - The Word of God is a sword that discerns our thoughts and intentions and defeats the Enemy (Hebrews 4:12, Ephesians 6:17)
 - The Word of God is a mirror that reveals our own character (James 1:23)
 - The Word of God is a seed that grows new life in us (1 Peter 1:23)
 - The Word of God is milk that feeds us (1 Peter 2:2)
 - The Word of God is a lamp that shines on the path (Psalm 119:105).
 - The Word of God is a fire that consumes anything opposing God (Jeremiah 23:29)
 - The Word of God is a hammer that shatters sin and selfishness in us (Jeremiah 23:29)
 - The Word of God is bread that sustains us (Deuteronomy 8:3)
 - The Word of God is water that cleanses us (Ephesians 5:26)
 - The Word of God is sweet honey (Psalm 119:103)

4. A Community with the Very Real Power and Presence of God

- Acts 2:1-4 - When the day of Pentecost arrived, they were all together in one place. 2 And suddenly there came from heaven a sound like a mighty rushing wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. 3 And divided tongues as of fire appeared to them and rested on each one of them. 4 And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance.
- Acts 4:31 – And when they had prayed, the place in which they were gathered together was shaken, and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and continued to speak the word of God with boldness.
- Acts 16:25-26 - 25 About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them, 26 and suddenly there was a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison were shaken. And immediately all the doors were opened, and everyone's bonds were unfastened.
- The General Climate of the Church
 - Acts 2:43 - And awe came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles.
 - “awe” = phobos = where we get “phobia” from... From a root word meaning “to put an enemy to flight”... A fear which causes you to want to run away...
 - Acts 5:11 – And great fear came upon the whole church and upon all who heard of these things.

- Acts 9:31 - So the church throughout all Judea and Galilee and Samaria had peace and was being built up. And walking in the fear of the Lord and in the comfort of the Holy Spirit, it multiplied.
- Acts 19:17 - And this became known to all the residents of Ephesus, both Jews and Greeks. And fear fell upon them all, and the name of the Lord Jesus was extolled.
- How Did People View the Church?
 - Acts 2:7 - And they were amazed and astonished, saying, “Are not all these who are speaking Galileans?”
 - Acts 2:12 - And all were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, “What does this mean?”
 - Acts 3:10 - And they were filled with wonder and amazement at what had happened to him.
 - Acts 4:13 - Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were uneducated, common men, they were astonished.
 - Acts 8:13 - Even Simon himself believed, and after being baptized he continued with Philip. And seeing signs and great miracles performed, he was amazed.
 - Acts 9:21 - And all who heard him were amazed and said, “Is not this the man who made havoc in Jerusalem of those who called upon this name?”...
 - Acts 13:12 - Then the proconsul believed, when he saw what had occurred, for he was astonished at the teaching of the Lord.
 - The Greek Words
 - “amazed” = existemi = lit. to stand beside yourself... to be utterly dumbfounded, at a total loss to explain or account for something
 - “astonished” = thaumazó = HELPS Studies says, “to be astonished out of one’s senses”
 - “perplexed” = diaporeó = lit. “thoroughly no way out”... refers to someone who has looked at every possible way out of something and come up empty...
 - “wonder” = thambos = comes from a Sanskrit root meaning “to make immovable”... You’re so amazed that you gotta just stop and stare in wonder
- Acts 5:12-16 - 12 Now many signs and wonders were regularly done among the people by the hands of the apostles. And they were all together in Solomon's Portico. 13 None of the rest dared join them, but the people held them in high esteem. 14 And more than ever believers were added to the Lord, multitudes of both men and women, 15 so that they even carried out the sick into the streets and laid them on cots and mats, that as Peter came by at least his shadow might fall on some of them. 16 The people also gathered from the towns around Jerusalem, bringing the sick and those afflicted with unclean spirits, and they were all healed.