



# THE CHURCH

Snapshots from the Book of Acts

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## Part 1 • AN OVERVIEW

The word “church” is actually a translation of the Greek word “ecclesia,” a group of people who are called *out* of the world and *into* God’s Kingdom. The root meaning is not a building, but people. (Ephesians 2:19–22) Notice Paul’s greeting in Romans 16:3-5 *Greet Priscilla and Aquila, my fellow workers in Christ Jesus,... Likewise greet the church that is in their house.*

1 John 4:17 *...because as He is, so are we in this world.*

- 1. The New Testament Church was birthed in the power of the Spirit as foretold by Christ.**
  - Acts 2:2-4 *And suddenly there came a sound from heaven, as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. Then there appeared to them tongues as of fire, distributed and resting on each. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.*
  - Spirit empowered ministry continued throughout the entire book of Acts.
- 2. The Church is the Body of Christ with all its diversity of gifts and nationalities.**
  - 1 Corinthians 12:12 *For as the body is one and has many members,...*
  - Revelation 7:9-17 *...a great multitude which no one could number, of all nations, tribes, peoples, and tongues, standing before the throne and before the Lamb,...*
- 3. The Church is called to be a beacon of God’s glory as the society grows darker.**
  - Isaiah 60:1-2 *Arise, shine; for your light has come! And the glory of the Lord is risen upon you. For behold, the darkness*

*shall cover the earth, and deep darkness the people; but the Lord will arise over you, and His glory will be seen upon you.*

- Philippians 2:14-16 *Do all things without complaining and disputing, that you may become blameless and harmless, children of God without fault in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world, holding fast the word of life, so that I may rejoice in the day of Christ that I have not run in vain or labored in vain.*

- 4. God has called the Church to challenge the Kingdom of darkness.**
  - Matthew 16:13-19 *...And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it..*
- 5. We are His representatives IN this world. We are His ambassadors.**
  - 1 John 4:17 *...because as He is, so are we in this world.*
  - 2 Corinthians 5:20 *Now then, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were pleading through us:...*
- 6. We are called not only “inside the walls” of a building but to be a church who is bold and unashamed outside the walls.**

The Church in the book of Acts grew from Jerusalem and Judea to Samaria and then the ends of the earth, encompassing the gentiles.

  - Acts 1:6-8 *...And He said to them, “It is not for you to know times or seasons which the Father has put in His own authority. But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”*
  - One way is prayer-walking, praying on-site with insight and Holy Spirit revelation. It is prayer beyond the walls of the church. It is talking to God about people rather than talking to people about God. It is preparing the land for a visitation and revival. (Genesis 13:14-17; Joshua 6:2-5)

### Our prayer...

*Lord, let Your Kingdom come and let Your will be done in and through the Church on earth as it is in Heaven!*