

# The Church

September 18, 2022

## I. Introduction

### A. Her names

1. Church-Ekklesia – Matthew 16:18
2. Body of Christ – I Corinthians 12:13
3. Bride of Christ – Revelation 19:7

### B. Her duty

1. Make disciples of all the nations – Matthew 28:19
2. What this entails
  - a. Proclaim the Gospel
    - i. II Corinthians 5:18-20
    - ii. Identify-Intercede-Invest-Invite
      - Our goal: membership
  - b. Build up the faith
    - i. Acts 20:32; Ephesians 2:20-22; II Peter 3:18
      - Our goal: maturity
  - c. Equip for service
    - i. Ephesians 4:11-16
      - Our goal: ministry
  - d. Develop leadership
    - i. Acts 6:1-6; I Timothy 3; Titus 1
      - Our goal: ministers
  - e. Send out Christ like disciples into the world
    - i. John 20:21; Acts 13:1-3
      - Our goal: missionaries

### C. Her primary tools: Acts 2:42; 6:4

1. The Word of God: II Timothy 4:1, 2
2. Prayer: Acts 4:31

## II. The Making of a Great Church as Seen in the Book of Acts

(Main outline from Chapter 11 *Repent or Else*, Vance Havner)

### A. Great power – Acts 1:8; 4:33

1. Power – from this Greek word we get our word dynamite
2. Our power comes from within from the Holy Spirit through the Word of God.
  - a. Acts 4:31; 6:1-7
3. “A scripturally great church is a Spirit filled church, but we rarely use the term. We boast of organization and efficiency but our efficiency without His sufficiency is only a deficiency.” – V.H.
4. “If the church is not a Spirit filled church it is but Sardis having a name to be alive but dead.” V.H Revelation 3:1

### B. Great Grace: Acts 4:33

1. Grace – God’s Riches At Christ’s Expense

2. Grace (all that God does) – Glory (all that God is)
3. Saved by it (Ephesians 2:8, 9), live by it (I Corinthians 15:10)
4. What John closes the Revelation with, “*The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with all. Amen*”. – Revelation 22:21

### C. Great fear: Acts 5:5, 11

1. “*The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge.*” – Proverbs 1:7
2. “*You shall follow the LORD your God and fear Him; and you shall keep His commandments, listen to His voice, serve Him and cling to Him.*” – Deuteronomy 13:4
3. “*Do not fear those who kill the body but are unable to kill the soul; but rather fear Him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.*” – Matthew 10:28
4. “Fear is the first step toward obedience. The fear of God is the one fear that removes all other.” – David Jeremiah
5. It was said of our founding fathers that they feared nothing but God. Today politicians fear everything but God!
6. “We have become so busy being happy that we have forgotten to be holy.” – V.H.

### D. Great persecution: Acts 8:1

1. Note that Acts 1:8 is fulfilled in Acts 8:1 because of persecution
2. “*Indeed, all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus be persecuted.*” – II Timothy 3:12
3. “Maybe we need persecution to turn believers into witnesses.” – V.H.
4. This great persecution led to great (KJV) lamentation. Our faith will cost us something. Revelation will bear this out.
  - a. See Revelation 6:9-11

### E. Great numbers: Acts 11:21

1. Many churches today are busy counting “nickels and noses”.
2. Acts 1:15; 2:41, 47; 6:7; Revelation 7:9
3. “The growth, the increase, the additions were a result of Christian loving and witnessing in great power and grace and fear and joy. When we fulfil the conditions, God will give the increase. When the organism is functioning properly it will reproduce itself.” – V.H.