

How The Early Church Succeeded!

John 14:12-27 (ESV)

12 "Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever believes in me will also do the works that I do; and greater works than these will he do, because I am going to the Father.

13 Whatever you ask in my name, this I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son.

14 If you ask me anything in my name, I will do it.

15 "If you love me, you will keep my commandments.

16 And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever,

17 even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, for he dwells with you and will be in you.

18 "I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you.

19 Yet a little while and the world will see me no more, but you will see me. Because I live, you also will live.

20 In that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you.

21 Whoever has my commandments and keeps them, he it is who loves me. And he who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I will love him and manifest myself to him."

22 Judas (not Iscariot) said to him, "Lord, how is it that you will manifest yourself to us, and not to the world?"

23 Jesus answered him, "If anyone loves me, he will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him.

24 Whoever does not love me does not keep my words. And the word that you hear is not mine but the Father's who sent me.

25 "These things I have spoken to you while I am still with you.

26 But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you.

27 Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid.

We are here today because the early Church succeeded in their commission!

But what about the Church today?

Acts 1:8 (ESV) - But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."

Where is that power in the church today?

Where is that power flowing in each of us as believers today?

Where is our testimony, our impact, our influence, and our fruit?

In what way is the world around us being shaken by the power of the Spirit flowing through His people?

"Paraclete" is the Greek word Jesus used in...

Jn. 14:16 (ESV) - And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another HELPER, to be with you forever,

Helper- One who does for you what you can't do for yourself (Jet bomber)

Intercessor- One who prays on your behalf

Consoler- One who tends wounds and hurts

Advocate- One who speaks on your behalf (lawyer)

Counselor- One who provides wisdom

Comforter- One who covers (scarf or blanket- keeps warm and protects)

Acts 2:1-12 (ESV)

1 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.

5 Now there were dwelling in Jerusalem Jews, devout men from every nation under heaven.

6 And at this sound the multitude came together, and they were bewildered, because each one was hearing them speak in his own language.

7 And they were amazed and astonished, saying, "Are not all these who are speaking Galileans?"

8 And how is it that we hear, each of us in his own native language?

9 Parthians and Medes and Elamites and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia,

10 Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome,

11 both Jews and proselytes, Cretans and Arabians—we hear them telling in our own tongues the mighty works of God."

12 And all were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, "What does this mean?"

What did the early church have that most of today's American church seems to lack?

I. The early Church had an intense desire to be led by His DIVINE PURPOSE!

Acts 2:12-14 (ESV)

13 But others mocking said, "They are filled with new wine."

14 But Peter, standing with the eleven, lifted up his voice and addressed them: "Men of Judea and all who dwell in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and give ear to my words.

John 20:19 (ESV) - On the evening of that day, the first day of the week, the doors being locked where the disciples were for FEAR OF THE JEWS, Jesus came and stood among them and said to them, "Peace be with you."

Acts 4:18-20 (ESV)

18 So they called them and charged them not to speak or teach at all in the name of Jesus.

19 But Peter and John answered them, "Whether it is right in the sight of God to listen to you rather than to God, you must judge,

20 for we cannot but speak of what we have seen and heard."

II. The early Church had an intense desire to experience His DIVINE POWER!

Acts 2:2-4 (ESV)

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.

Luke 24:49 (ESV) - And behold, I am sending the promise of my Father upon you. But stay in the city until you are CLOTHED with power from on high."

Many like being close enough to the fire to be WARM...

But not close enough to be CONSUMED!

Acts 2:14-18 (ESV)

14 But Peter, standing with the eleven, lifted up his voice and addressed them: "Men of Judea and all who dwell in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and give ear to my words.

15 For these people are not drunk, as you suppose, since it is only the third hour of the day.

16 But this is what was uttered through the prophet Joel:

17 “And in the last days it shall be, God declares, that I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh, and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams; 18 even on my male servants and female servants in those days I will pour out my Spirit, and they shall prophesy.

I believe that the American Church as a whole sees so few miracles in the world around us for two reasons:

1. *They rationalize away the miracles they do see!*
2. *They don't really expect to see miracles!*

God wants to do powerful things AMONG us!

God wants to do powerful things THROUGH us!

God's desire and my desire is that we would live with a desire to be led by His DIVINE PURPOSE!

And that we would live with a desire to experience His DIVINE POWER!

NEVER content with the common!

“Your kingdom come, your will be done on (in) earth as it is in Heaven”