

Vision, Mission, Ripple

Proverbs 29:18

Date: 03/02/2024

WELCOME:

Today I'd like to speak to you about vision. As I do, I have to put on my reading glasses so that I can see my notes. Do you know the medical term for needing reading glasses? It is Presbyopia (prez-bee-OH-pee-uh). It comes from two Latin words: New Latin, from Greek "*presbys*" old man + New Latin "*opia*" eye. So the fancy medical word for needing reading glasses means "old man eyes".

This is NOT the kind of vision I'd like to talk to you about today.

INTRO:

Vision: seeing the future clearly, by sight, with insight, and with passion; **Mission:** being sent to provide service or perform a function.

Example 1. Notre Dame, *Our Lady of Paris*, is a vast, historic, Roman Catholic, cathedral in the center of Paris France. It took nearly 200 years to build (1163-1345), standing 48M tall, 130M long and 40M wide. Beautifully decorated, it has many stained-glass windows some as large as 13M across. The ceiling is supported by wooden beams from 1300 oak trees. Still an active church, it is the pride of France. On April 15th, 2019 a fire broke out above the ceiling that burnt the wooden beams causing the 750 tons of lead and stone ceiling to fall 46M to the floor. It's been under renovation since 2022 and is scheduled to reopen later this year. To reconstruct the roof, the French government had to search more than 200 forests from across the entire country to locate more than 1000 trees, each at least 18M tall, to be cut down. Many of these trees are more than 200 years old.

Across the English Channel, another chapel was constructed in the 1200's, the Jesus College Chapel at Cambridge University in England. The vaulted roof, like the one at Notre Dame, was supported by huge beams fashioned from old-growth oak. Seven hundred years later, the beams had so deteriorated, rotted, that the roof was in danger of collapsing. The building required extensive renovation, including replacing the beams. But where, in our time, could the workers responsible for the repair of the building find giant oak trees of such an age and quality as had been available to the original builders 700 years earlier? The answer lay right outside the chapel door. The original builders of the chapel had known that at some point far in the future, the structure would need new oak beams, so they had planted many acorns beyond the churchyard. Over the centuries, a forest of oak trees had grown to full maturity.

Both missions to construct these great cathedrals required great vision to complete these complex projects but the team in England had a vision that looked not only to the completion of the project but across the centuries.

Example 2: Another example of the type of vision we will be discussing is the story of the three men who were working on a stone pile at a construction site. A visitor walking by asked the first worker, “What are you doing?” The worker said “chiseling stone”. Looking for more details about what the men were doing the visitor asked the second man, “What are you doing?”, the second worker said “Earning a wage”. Still it was unclear what the men were doing. The visitor went to the third man and said “Sir, please tell me what is it you are doing?”. The third worker dropped his sledgehammer and, with a smile on his face, and a gleam in his eyes said with much enthusiasm “I am building a great cathedral from which my entire village can worship Almighty God.”

Vision: seeing the future clearly, by sight, with insight, and with passion; **Mission:** being sent to provide service or perform a function.

PRAYER

Father God, we give praise to your vision formed before the beginning of time that has made a way for each of us to have a personal relationship with you through the precious blood of Jesus Christ. We thank you Lord for the opportunity to share a small part of your Holy Word. Please lead and guide us as we share today.

CONTEXT:

ESV Pro 29:18 Where there is no *prophetic vision* the people *cast off restraint*, but *blessed* is he who keeps the *law*.

NIV Pro 29:18 Where there is no *revelation*, people *cast off restraint*; but *blessed* is the one who heeds *wisdom's instruction*.

NKJV Pro 29:18 Where there is no *vision*, the people *perish*; but he who keeps the *law*, he is *blessed*.

NASB Pro 29:18 Where there is no *vision*, the people are *unrestrained*, but *happy* is he who keeps the *law*.

**Where there is no prophetic vision,
the people cast off restraint**

Websters Dictionary of the English Language 1828

- **Vision:** seeing the future clearly, by sight, with insight, and with passion.
- **Mission:** sending or being sent, appointed to provide service or perform a function
- **Revelation:** the act of disclosing or discovering to others what before what unknown to them, the sacred truth that God has communicated to man for his instruction and direction.
- **Perish:** to die, to wither or decay, to waste away, to be destroyed, to come to nothing, to fail entirely, to be ruined, to be lost eternally to be sentenced to endless misery.

- **Restraint:** the act or operation of holding back or hindering motion, hinderance of will, abridgement of liberty,
- **Unrestrained:** scattered as sheep having no shepherd, not controlled, confined, or hindered, to break loose, to run wild.

Examples of unrestraint:

- **Exo 32:15,19,25:** Then Moses turned and went down from the mountain with the two tablets of the testimony in his hand, tablets that were written on both sides; on the front and on the back they were written... **And as soon as he came near the camp and saw the calf and the dancing, Moses' anger burned hot**, and he threw the tablets out of his hands and broke them at the foot of the mountain... **And when Moses saw that the people had broken loose** (for Aaron had let them break loose, to the derision of their enemies),
- **1Sam 3:1** Now the boy Samuel was ministering to the LORD in the presence of Eli. **And the word of the LORD was rare in those days; there was no frequent vision.**
- **Jdg 21:25** In those days there was no king in Israel. **Everyone did what was right in his own eyes.**
- **Hosea 4:6** My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge; **because you have rejected knowledge, I reject you** from being a priest to me. And since you have forgotten the law of your God, I also will forget your children.

but blessed is he who keeps the law.

Lest anyone be confused, this is not a call to [legalism, a list of rules, or the old Jewish laws \(Matt 5:17-18\)](#) but a call to live under the Law or commandments of Christ ([Gal 2:16](#))

- **Matt 5:17** “Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them. For truly, I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not an iota, not a dot, will Law until all is accomplished.
- **Gal 2:16:** yet we know that a person is not justified by works of the law but through faith in Jesus Christ, so we also have believed in Christ Jesus, in order to be justified by faith in Christ and not by works of the law, because by works of the law no one will be justified.

When Jesus spoke the greatest commandment, He referred to the command to love God and to love our neighbor (Matt 22:36-40).

Jesus came into the world as the [living Word](#) of God ([John 1:1, 14](#)). God has promised His inerrant, eternal written Word will endure forever (Is 40:8). Our faithful obedience to God and our keeping of His Word flow from a loving relationship in which we are filled with the Spirit, a new creation in Christ (2Cor 5:15), that allows us with confidence to approach the throne of God the Father (Heb 4:16).

When we fail to not only to read but to keep God’s Word and live it out in our lives, we become people “without vision and castoff restraint”.

- **John 1:1,14** In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God... And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.
- **Isa 40:8** The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God will stand forever.
- **Acts 1:8** 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.”

- **2Cor 5:17** Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.
- **Heb 4:16** Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

What follows are the Mission and Vision statements of the Bridge, based on both the greatest commandment and the great commission.

BRIDGE Mission Statement:

Love God, Love People, Serve the World.

(Matt 22:34-40)

- **Matt 22:34-40** But hearing that He had silenced the Sadducees, the Pharisees were gathered together. Then one of them, a lawyer, asked, tempting Him and saying, Master, which *is* the great commandment in the Law? Jesus said to him, You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second *is* like it, You shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets.

BRIDGE Vision Statement:

Find the Lost, Grow the Found.

(Acts 1:8; Matt 28:19-20)

- **Act 1:8** But you shall receive power, the Holy Spirit coming upon you. And you shall be witnesses to Me both in Jerusalem and in all Judea, and in Samaria, and to *the* end of the earth.
- **Matt 28:18-20** And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, All authority is given to Me in Heaven and in earth. Therefore go and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things, whatever I commanded you. And, behold, I am with you all the days until the end of the world. Amen.

TIMELESS TRUTH:

***Only one life, 'twill soon be past;
Only what's done for Christ will last.***

- CT Studd

PREVIEW:

Pillar 1. God's Vision & Christ's Mission: What does God's holy Scripture say about His eternal vision? What was the mission of Jesus the Christ during His earthly ministry?

Pillar 2. Christ's Vision & Church's Mission: What does Bible say about Christ's vision for those that are His and those that do not believe? What mission did Jesus give to the church?

Pillar 3. Ripple Effect: How does the mission of the church impact this sin-filled world?

Pillar 1:

God's Vision & Christ's Mission:

God's Vision:

God did not make the world out of need or because He was lonely; The Triune God has been a community of perfect love from all eternity past and will be for all eternity to come... *Then God said, Let Us make **man in our image**, after our likeness. And let them have dominion [over the earth]...* (Gen 1:26)

He created everything out of nothing in order to put His glory on display for the delight of His created beings, made in His own image, whereby all peoples from all places and for all time may worship Him alone. God created humanity to reveal, revere, and represent His presence and execute His rule throughout all the earth... *everyone who is called by my name, **whom I created for my glory**, whom I formed and made.* (Is 43:7).

But sin entered this world and ruined or stopped His vision from happening, or did it?... Did God have to change his plans because of man's sin?... *Therefore, just as sin came into the world through one man, and death through sin, and so **death spread to all men because all sinned.*** (Rom 5:12).

We see this account unfold in the pages of our Holy Bible. In a world full of competing stories, the Bible is not a book of religion, it's a small library of divinely inspired (the very word of God) history, prophecy, wisdom, and poetry that documents the account of creation, the universal history of the human race, and God's chosen people; their mission to lead other nations to God, and their many failures.

Christ's Mission:

The Bible also provides us an account of how God intervenes in human history with grace and redeems all of us that repent from sin, and evil, and death. It's God's account of His vision and Christ's mission to provide a way of redemption and restoration of humanity to eternal life with Him by His grace and for His glory.

Luke 4:16-21 And he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up. And as was his custom, he went to the synagogue on the Sabbath day, and he stood up to read. And the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written, **"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor."** And he rolled up the scroll and gave it back to the attendant and sat down. And the eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. And he began to say to them, **"Today this Scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing."** (Jesus quoted Is 61:1-2a).

While Jesus performed many miracles in healing physical ailments, He was also speaking of spiritual healing and restoration.

2 Cor 5:21 For our sake He made Him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God.

There is an unbreakable connection between the Glory of God, the Grace of God, the Son of God, and the death of the Son of God. The peak, the high point, of God's display of His own glory is the display of His grace. God planned this, the praise of the glory of His grace, before creation... There was no one to show grace to before sin... To answer our question from earlier, Did God have to change His plans? No, Grace was not an afterthought after Adam and Eve sinned. The fall of mankind did not surprise God; Grace was the point of the creation. God's plan was that the praise of the glory of His grace would come about through the Son of God, Jesus Christ. Grace was given to us before the beginning of the universe and it was given to us in Jesus Christ. From eternity God's plan was that the glory of God's grace would reach its focal point in the saving work of Jesus on the cross. The purpose of this fallen world is the praise of the glory of the grace of God through the work of the glorious cross.

The glory of God reached its peak (the top of the mountain) in the glory of His grace, the glory of His grace shines most brightly in the glory of His Son, and the glory of the Son reaches its focal point, its most intense, brightest point, in the glory of the Cross. (John Piper) The cross was Satan's own weapon for delivering a painful humiliating death. Christ used this very weapon to defeat the sin and death that Satan had sown for all eternity.

God's vision and Christ's mission:

The universe was created to display the grace of God through Christ crucified and risen for the worship of God's grateful people for His glory.

Pillar 2:

Christ's Vision & the Church's Mission:

Christ's Vision, Church's Mission:

Christ vision for the church could not be clearer.

Luke 24:44-47 Then he said to them, "These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you, that everything written about me in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled." Then he opened their minds to understand the Scriptures, and said to them, "**Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, and that repentance for the forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem.**

And he calls, even prays, to the Father on our behalf to do this in unity:

John 17:19 And for their sake I consecrate myself, that they also may be sanctified in truth. "I do not ask for these only, but also for those who will believe in me through their word, **that they may all be one, just as you, Father, are in me, and I in you, that they also may be in us**, so that the world may believe that you have sent me. The glory that you have given me I have given to them, **that they may be one even as we are one, I in them and you in me, that they may become perfectly one**, so that the world may know that you sent me and loved them even as you loved me.

John 15:16-17 You have not chosen Me, but I have chosen you and ordained you that you should go and bring forth fruit, and that your fruit should remain; that whatever you shall ask of the Father in My name, He may give it to you. **These things I command you, that you love one another.**

So the united church is not a means to an end, not an end in itself; the church is an instrument. For who does the church exist? The church does not exist for its own sake or for the believers but to share the Gospel of Christ with a lost and dying world. The purpose of the church is to demonstrate that the ultimate joy that is ours, the ultimate fulfillment, the ultimate satisfaction, ultimate happiness, is found only in a relationship, in union with Christ and with His mission. For we are:

A. Called:

- **1 Peter 2:9** But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for God's possession, so that you might speak of the praises of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light;
- **John 20:21** Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I am sending you."
- **Rom 10:13-17** For "everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved." How then will they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching? And how are

they to preach unless they are sent? As it is written, “How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the good news!” But they have not all obeyed the gospel. For Isaiah says, “Lord, who has believed what he has heard from us?” So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ.

B. Commanded:

- **Mark 16:15** And he said to them, “Go into all the world and proclaim the gospel to the whole creation.
- **Matt 28:18-20** And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

C. Commissioned:

- **Acts 1:8** 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.”
- **2Cor 5:20** Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God.
- **Tit 2:15** Declare these things; exhort and rebuke with all authority. Let no one disregard you.

As we share the Gospel of Jesus Christ we are also called to serve one another:

- **Matt 20:26-28** It shall not be so among you. But whoever would be great among you must be your servant, and whoever would be first among you must be your slave, even as the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”
- **Matt 25:34-40** Then the King will say to those on his right, ‘Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me.’ Then the righteous will answer him, saying, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink? And when did we see you a stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothe you? And when did we see you sick or in prison and visit you?’ And the King will answer them, “Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me.’
- **James 1:27** Religion that is pure and undefiled before God the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their affliction, and to keep oneself unstained from the world.

Christ called (Matt 5:16), commanded (Matt 28:18-20), and commissioned (Acts 1:8) the unified church (John 17:21) to invest our time, talent, and treasure in faithful obedience to share the message of God's special grace (Salvation by grace alone, through faith alone, in Christ alone, based on scripture alone, for the Glory of God alone) from God's word, within God's will, using God's ways with the *passion* of one

beggar showing another beggar where to find bread (Daniel T Niles) the *urgency* of reaching for a ship wreck survivor from the life boat (Jeff Pearson), and the *understanding in humility* that the ground is level at the foot of the Cross (Billy Graham) in order to make disciples, who make disciples, who make disciples, for the glory of God.

Pillar 3:

The Ripple Effect:

Christ completed His earthly mission to make a way for sinful man to have a relationship with a Holy God, fulfilling God's vision established before the beginning of time; all for God's glory. Christ changed eternity for the redeemed.

His short life also had a lasting impact, a ripple effect, across this sin-soaked world. Based on the influence of His teachings, even our faithless societies have changed how we see the dignity and value of life that has led to the abolition of slavery, establishments of hospitals & orphanages, equality for women, and the desire to protect unborn life. Forgiveness and justice are valued over revenge and punishment as generosity is valued over greed. National governments have been founded based on the principles of His words. Leaders are valued for their servant-leadership rather than the ability to dominate through fear and power. Education is universally available instead of only for the privileged; and the sciences now at odds with God were initially pursued to understand the rationality of God and His creation order.

While we are sojourners (1Pet2:12), not of this world (John 15:19), and we are not promised tomorrow (Luke 12:20), the church is instructed to train up a child in the way they should go (Pro 22:6), called to care for the sick, poor, widows, orphans...the least of these (Matt 25:40), and commanded to love our neighbor as ourselves (Matt22:39). We, the church in supernatural unity, should seek to make the world around us a better place, sharing the love of Christ through service to others. Not through the building of empires or fortunes for today but, if it be God's will, (James 4:15) through preparing the next generation to lead and grow God's church for His glory while teaching them to care for others according to God's Word, within His will, according to His ways.

Large organizations can do big things but with little love; Individually we can do little things with great love. The church, the children of the living God together in koinonia (supernatural unity) that crosses distance, language, culture, status, even time, is called to do great things with great love; the love of our Almighty, gracious God. (adapted from Mother Teresa).

As God wills us to do great things through service to others for His glory, we must daily challenge ourselves with three questions:

Why?... Why does a man sell his home to cover the cost of a well for the local community and then allow access to anyone without asking for anything in return... The answer: Because Jesus.

Why not? Why does a tiny, very small, church from Maryland & Vermont with family in Uganda & India engage with and invest in an orphanage in Bungoma Kenya? Why are people from Uganda,

Kenya, the Congo, India, and the USA gathered together to worship our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ? Well why not... The answer is the same: Jesus.

These first two questions focus on changing the present for the Glory of God. The final question we need to ask about Christ's mission for the church looks to the future.

What if?... What if, every child in Mahali Safi not only finished school but went on to become doctors, engineers, farmers, and teachers. Each one saved by God's grace, faithfully-obedient to His Word, seeking to do God's will, and living within God's ways. How would that change Bungoma? I began today by speaking of building majestic cathedrals. As we focus on building upon what God has done here at our great cathedral to God, Mahali Safi, let us always remember to spend as much time planting acorns.

To share a vision, to create a ripple, to plant an acorn, as a follower of Christ (Love God), that impacts the next generation you must first point them to Jesus (find the lost); disciple them in His Word, Will, and Ways; equip and encourage them to disciple others (grow the found); resource, empower, and position them for success; celebrate their successes (love people and serve the world); always reminding them that there is much work left to do as the fields are still white for harvest (John 4:35).

A vision starts as a single ripple, ripples build into waves, and waves roll into a storm with the power to change the world through the Gospel of Jesus Christ and through service to others for the glory of our great God.

So that when we enter glory we can say as Paul did: I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. (2 Tim 4:7).

REVIEW:

Pillar 1. God's Vision & Christ's Mission: What does God's holy Scripture say about His eternal vision, about the mission of Jesus the Christ?

God's vision and Christ's mission: The universe was created to display the grace of God through Christ crucified and risen for the worship of God's grateful people for His glory.

Pillar 2. Christ's Vision & Church's Mission: What does Bible say about Christ's vision and the mission of the church?

Christ called, commanded, and commissioned to live in faithful obedience sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ with passion, urgency, and humility while we serve others for the glory of God.

Pillar 3. Ripple Effect: How does the mission of the church impact this sin-filled world?

We are called to make ripples and to plant acorns that will have both eternal effects and lasting impact here on earth.

CLOSE:

Proverbs 29:18

*Where there is no prophetic vision the people cast off restraint,
but blessed is he who keeps the law.*

Vision: seeing the future clearly, by sight, with insight, and with passion; **Mission:** being sent to provide service or perform a function.

*Only one life, 'twill soon be past;
Only what's done for Christ will last.*

- CT Studd

T/S: My prayer today is that of Elijah:

2 Kings 6:15-17

And the servant of the man of God arose early and went -out. And, behold, an army surrounded the city, and horses and chariots. And his servant said to him, Alas, my master! What shall we do? And he answered, Do not fear, for those with us *are* more than those with them. And Elisha prayed and said, **I pray You, Jehovah, open his eyes so that he may see.** And Jehovah opened the eyes of the young man, and he saw. And behold, the mountain *was* full of horses and chariots of fire round about Elisha.

--- Amen! ---

12 Characteristics of the Early Church

Acts 2:41-47

1. THE CHURCH WAS DEVOTED TO SCRIPTURE(2:42)

First was the teaching of the apostles. Just as the apostles had been instructed by Jesus, so they passed along that instruction to the new Christians.

This would have included such subjects as his resurrection, the Old Testament Scriptures, the Christian witness, and surely their experiences during Jesus' ministry.

The content of the church was centered on God's Word. They learned spiritual truths.

The church is a place where God's Word is proclaimed, explained, and applied.

2. THE CHURCH WAS DEVOTED TO FELLOWSHIP(2:42)

The second activity to which they devoted themselves was "the fellowship." The Greek word used here (koinōnia)

Its basic meaning is "association, communion, fellowship, close relationship."

They were with other believers. They had people in their life who knew Jesus and knew where they were at in their spiritual life.

It is hard to Love God and love people when we are not around people.

3. THE CHURCH WAS DEVOTED TO BREAKING BREAD(2:42)

It was either participating in the Lord's Supper or simply eating meals together.

Either way, they came around the table to remember Jesus and engage in spiritual conversations.

We know that they observed the Lord's Supper. Remember the sacrifice of Jesus and keep their focus on him.

4. THE CHURCH WAS DEVOTED TO PRAYER (2:42)

Praying together in their homes.

Praying individually and corporately.

Prayed for needs, boldness to share the Gospel. Gratitude.

5. THE CHURCH WAS AWE-INSPIRING

Acts 2:43

Everyone was filled with awe, and many wonders and signs were being performed through the apostles.

"Everyone" probably refers to those outside the Christian community who were awed by apostolic miracles

People outside of the faith noticed their faith. Stories of life-change. It was amazing.

Do people notice our faith?

Do people hear about the stories of life-change that are happening?

6. THE CHURCH WAS DEVOTED TO UNITY

Acts 2:44

Now all the believers were together and held all things in common.

The gathered community had a strong emphasis on their unity.

This was a unity in theology and oneness. It doesn't mean that they were uniform.

Uniformity: Remaining the same in all cases and at all times.

Unity: The state of being joined together as a whole.

Unity is different from uniformity.

We can be unified around a goal, mission, idea, or vision while celebrating our diverse gifts, experiences, and backgrounds.

God is glorified when we are unified around the Gospel.

The global church is a powerful picture of unity. Diverse gifts, styles, and cultures unified around the Gospel of Jesus.

Unity can happen without uniformity. Promoting uniformity – that we are all the exact same, isn't biblical and goes against the teaching of the Body of Christ with its diverse parts.

7. THE CHURCH WAS GENEROUS

Acts 2:45

They sold their possessions and property and distributed the proceeds to all, as any had need.

There are times where people sold their property and gave it to the apostles to distribute as needed. Here we see a continual giving.

8. THE CHURCH WAS EVANGELISTIC

Acts 2:46

Every day they devoted themselves to meeting together in the temple, and broke bread from house to house. They ate their food with joyful and sincere hearts,

Peter does this in the next chapter. Peter went into the temple, met a man couldn't walk begging for money and he healed him. As a result, many heard about Jesus.

The early church wasn't separate from the community. They were around people – ministering, praying, and serving in an effort to share about the Gospel of Jesus.

9. THE CHURCH WAS JOYOUS

Acts 2:46

Every day they devoted themselves to meeting together in the temple, and broke bread from house to house. They ate their food with joyful and sincere hearts,

Why it is that church people seem so worried and fearful about everything. Can we relax a little?

We can lose sight of the torment, pain, and persecution the church is experiencing and has experienced.

We get upset when we have to wait for 20 minutes for a meal when millions of people around the world don't know when their next meal will be.

When Jesus is our focus our lives will be joyous. The first church understood that life with Jesus was always better than life without Jesus.

We have nothing to worry about if Jesus is leading our lives.

We have nothing to worry about if Jesus is leading the church.
We have nothing to worry about if Jesus is our one and only King.
We have nothing to worry about if Jesus is our redeemer and Savior.
Let's not make such a big deal about the problems we face and start to make a bigger deal about the Jesus that we follow.

10. THE CHURCH WAS WORSHIPFUL

Acts 2:47

Praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. Every day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

Their joy was connected with their worship.

Worship provided them with praise, centered them on Jesus, and express gratitude.

11. THE CHURCH WAS REPUTABLE

Acts 2:47

Praising God and enjoying the favour of all the people. Every day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

Their lives were attractive to those outside of the faith.

Know what the statistics say is the biggest hindrance when it comes to sharing your faith with others? The way that we live.

Do your actions point other people to Jesus?

Do your words point other people to Jesus?

Do your social Medias point other people to Jesus?

They enjoyed favour with "all the people" which includes people outside of the faith.

12. THE CHURCH WAS GROWING

The Lord added to their gathering daily.

Jesus is the one who will grow the church. This is not a step-by-step manual for church growth.

The people were faithful to God and their numbers increased because others were coming to the faith.

"Come and See Christianity.....Be an Acts.1.8 Family".