

Building Community (part 6)
“Empowered through Christ”
“And much grace was upon them all” Acts 4:33

The church is to be a community of believers committed to the centrality of Christ. This enthusiasm for Christ trumps everything else and God’s grace (power) is evident in its spiritual strength and boldness to share the life-giving message.

What was the result of the early church’s devotion to the word of God (that’s discipleship), devotion to the church, devotion to each other & devotion to prayer?

Answer: **The church reached more and more people.**

1. Jesus Commission: Acts 1:8 **They Obeyed**
2. Peter’s 1st sermon: Acts 2:41 Acts 2:47 Acts 4:4
3. Their prayers reflected their heart for people. Acts 4:29-31
Result: more people believed Acts 4:33
4. The church is purified. **Result: continued growth**
Acts 5:14
5. The church faces internal strife as a result of growth.
Result: more growth Acts 6:1-7
6. The church faces real persecution
Reaction: it continues to grow
 - A. Acts 7 - The stoning of Stephen
Acts 8:1 – A great persecution broke out against the church
Acts 8:4 – Those scattered preached the word ...
 - B. Conversion of Paul – Acts 9
7. The church reaches beyond Jerusalem and Samaria.
Result: now the world is hearing
 - A. Peter at Joppa – Acts 9:35, 42
 - B. The beginning of the church at Antioch Acts 11:19-24
8. Herod Agrippa I dies a horrible death.
But: The church continues to grow. Acts 12:24

The church is about people because God is about people.

2 Peter 3:9 Philippians 2:14-16 Revelation 22:17