

# The Acts 2 Church

Do you ever wonder what it will take to bring the church to the next level? We attend church growth conferences and adopt the practices of the mega church. We have hired experts we could afford given the latest technology. When the excitement wears off we are back where we started.

In the 2<sup>nd</sup> chapter of Acts we have a process by which the people move from static to growing to dynamic. The process is based upon the guidelines given in Acts 2 and applied to the local unique circumstances.

From the beginning, God's plan for humanity was to worship Him, have fellowship with him, learn and follow his principles and ways, develop their gifting; He has given them and share His love with all people.

## THE MISSION OF THE CHURCH

slide 2

### **Matthew 28:19-20 (NKJV)**

<sup>19</sup> *Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,*

<sup>20</sup> *teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." Amen.*

### **Matthew 22:37-39 (NKJV)**

<sup>37</sup> *Jesus said to him, "You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.'*

<sup>38</sup> *This is the first and great commandment.*

<sup>39</sup> *And the second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.'*

The Great Commission and Great Commandment should be the mission of every church (mission statement). These two commandments from the Lord plus the empowerment and implementation scriptures give us our reason for being. It gives us our structure, it simply stated makes it accessible for every church, every believer to follow

### **Acts 2:1-4 (NKJV)**

<sup>1</sup> *When the Day of Pentecost had fully come, they were all with one accord in one place.*

<sup>2</sup> *And suddenly there came a sound from heaven, as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting.*

<sup>3</sup> *Then there appeared to them divided tongues, as of fire, and one sat upon each of them.*

<sup>4</sup> *And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.*

**. Acts 2:42-47 (NKJV)**

<sup>42</sup> *And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers.*

<sup>43</sup> *Then fear came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were done through the apostles.*

<sup>44</sup> *Now all who believed were together, and had all things in common,*

<sup>45</sup> *and sold their possessions and goods, and divided them among all, as anyone had need.*

<sup>46</sup> *So continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they ate their food with gladness and simplicity of heart,*

<sup>47</sup> *praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved.*

Ministry is never easy. It is messy and difficult because people are messy and difficult. The process needs to be uncomplicated. It has to be clear and straightforward. Simplifying the process may take time but it will be worth it for the church and you as well.

### WHAT WE BELIEVE

The Great Commission focuses on the belief system taught by Christ. Every spiritually healthy congregation understands the system that connects us to building his church. Within the Great Commission we find the 5 biblical functions of the first century church.

### HOW WE BEHAVE

How do believers behave? Depends how they follow scriptures in their life. Our behavior should mirror Christ! Average church person believes the principles of New Testament but does not behave as a follower of N T Church. This is the biggest issue for churches that are in a plateau or in decline.

### BIBLICAL FUNCTIONS OF THE CHURCH

slide 3

These are the systems of the church-Functions or how the church should operate. After the day of Pentecost the Lord told us exactly how the church should perform and what its functions and purpose should be. They are communicated by the following: **Biblical functions** (Acts 2:42-47), **Core Values** (the church's DNA), **Strategy of local church** (Acts 2 process).

From these verses we discover five functions every church should perform:

1. Connect-fellowship vs46
2. Grow-discipleship vs. 42
3. Serve-gift oriented ministry-43-45 vs.
4. Go-evangelism, missional vs. 47
5. Worship-vs. 47

This is what a healthy church looks like:

1. Pentecostal EMPOWERMENT-upper room experience (Acts 2:1-4) #4
2. Definition of Biblical Experience (Acts 2:5-41) explains EMPOWERMENT, Prophet Joel

3. **Acts 2:16-21 (NKJV)**

<sup>16</sup> *But this is what was spoken by the prophet Joel:*

<sup>17</sup> *'And it shall come to pass in the last days, says God, That I will pour out of My Spirit on all flesh; Your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, Your young men shall see visions, Your old men shall dream dreams.*

<sup>18</sup> *And on My menservants and on My maidservants I will pour out My Spirit in those days; And they shall prophesy.*

<sup>19</sup> *I will show wonders in heaven above And signs in the earth beneath: Blood and fire and vapor of smoke.*

<sup>20</sup> *The sun shall be turned into darkness, And the moon into blood, Before the coming of the great and awesome day of the LORD.*

<sup>21</sup> *And it shall come to pass That whoever calls on the name of the LORD Shall be saved.'*

**And David said: Acts 2:25-28 (NKJV)**

<sup>25</sup> *For David says concerning Him: 'I foresaw the LORD always before my face, For He is at my right hand, that I may not be shaken.*

<sup>26</sup> *Therefore my heart rejoiced, and my tongue was glad; Moreover my flesh also will rest in hope.*

<sup>27</sup> *For You will not leave my soul in Hades, Nor will You allow Your Holy One to see corruption.*

<sup>28</sup> *You have made known to me the ways of life; You will make me full of joy in Your presence.'*

Implementation of Spiritual Systems Acts 2:42-47 implementation-brings structure

There is a process or SYSTEM

**VISION**

slide 5

Vision takes the Missional Mandate and the Biblical functions and articulates it toward a preferred future.

“Where there is no vision the people perish” (Prov. 29:18) vision brings focus to the mission statement. **Mission statement**- objective\_or goal. **Vision** is direction, forward, plateau, or decline. This is picture of churches **preferred future**.

**CORE VALUES**

slide 6

Define God’s heart for your church, the DNA- what make you who you are. They distinguish one ministry from another. They explain why some are attracted to your church and others are not. They dictate personal involvement. When an individual’s core values ALIGN with the ministry’s

the individual is more likely to invest their life in that ministry. Values communicate what's important, the bottom line. Like the following;

### VALUES

1. PASSIONATELY PROCLAIM
2. INVEST NEXT GENERATION
3. PLANT NEW CHURCHES
4. SKILLFULLY RESOURCE OUR PEOPLE
5. FERVENTLY PRAY FOR GOD'S FAVOR.

This keeps the church from being moved by someone's personal doctrine. As you know, when the pastor and church body differ, there will be conflict.

### STRATEGIC PLAN

slide 7

STRATEGIC PLAN- how church accomplishes vision. Look at the slide,

UNBELIEVERS

slide 8

BELIEVERS

DISCIPLES

SERVANT LEADERS

REPRODUCERS

slide 9

1. Unbelievers are folks who are lacking the belief and behavior of the N T Church.
2. **Slide 10** =Agrees to the belief system but does not necessarily behave as the Great Commandment teaches in their life.
3. **Slide 11**= A disciple is someone who believes and behaves as the N T teaches.
4. **Slide 12**= Servant leader is someone who agrees and follows the beliefs and behaviors of the N T teachings ; and serves trains, teaches and is a leader in the Mission and Ministries of the church.
5. **Slide 13**= a Reproducer is someone who does all the above and is a discipler of disciples.

1. BUILD RELATIONSHIPS

slide 14

2. Three levels of relationships

Casual

Ministry

Missional

3. Create Environments by assessment and alignment

# 15

4. Cast Vision, Three levels of vision casting, after written down. #16  
The Individual  
The Leadership Team  
The Congregation

**BENEFITS OF THE MISSIONAL MANDATE (Acts 2 CHURCH) #17**

1. PENTECOSTAL
2. BALLANCED
3. COMMON LANGUAGE
4. RESOURCES
5. CROSS CULTURAL

CONNECT, GROW, SERVE, GO, WORSHIP. ALL built around worship. #18

Matthew 4:10 NIV *“Worship the Lord your God, and serve him only”*

Foundational to the entire process is Worship. God must be the center of attention in our churches. He must be the highest priority. A churches view of God will determine how they approach every activity of church life.

From Abraham’s encounter with God in Genesis to the heavenly scene in Revelation where teeming masses of humanity and angelic beings worship God, none who experience His incomprehensible presence of the Lord God almighty leave His presence unchanged, untouched, or unchallenged.

The Fruit of worship:

Brings the presence of God **Psalm 22:4 (NKJV)**

<sup>4</sup> *Our fathers trusted in You; They trusted, and You delivered them.*

Brings conviction and direction **Acts 13:2-3 (NKJV)**

<sup>2</sup> *As they ministered to the Lord and fasted, the Holy Spirit said, "Now separate to Me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them."*

<sup>3</sup> *Then, having fasted and prayed, and laid hands on them, they sent them away.*

Brings deliverance **2 Chronicles 20:18-22 (NKJV)**

<sup>18</sup> *And Jehoshaphat bowed his head with his face to the ground, and all Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem bowed before the LORD, worshiping the LORD.*

<sup>19</sup> *Then the Levites of the children of the Kohathites and of the children of the Korahites stood up to praise the LORD God of Israel with voices loud and high.*

<sup>20</sup> *So they rose early in the morning and went out into the Wilderness of Tekoa; and as they went out, Jehoshaphat*

*stood and said, "Hear me, O Judah and you inhabitants of Jerusalem: Believe in the LORD your God, and you shall be established; believe His prophets, and you shall prosper."*

<sup>21</sup> *And when he had consulted with the people, he appointed those who should sing to the LORD, and who should praise the beauty of holiness, as they went out before the army and were saying: "Praise the LORD, For His mercy endures forever."*

<sup>22</sup> *Now when they began to sing and to praise, the LORD set ambushes against the people of Ammon, Moab, and Mount Seir, who had come against Judah; and they were defeated.*

### **Brings the power of God Acts 16:25-26 (NKJV)**

<sup>25</sup> *But at midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them.*

<sup>26</sup> *Suddenly there was a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison were shaken; and immediately all the doors were opened and everyone's chains were loosed.*

### **Brings sensitivity to His voice 1 Samuel 3:10 (NKJV)**

<sup>10</sup> *Now the LORD came and stood and called as at other times, "Samuel! Samuel!" And Samuel answered, "Speak, for Your servant hears."*

### **Gives eternal perspective on life Psalm 73:16-17 (NKJV)**

<sup>16</sup> *When I thought how to understand this, It was too painful for me--*

<sup>17</sup> *Until I went into the sanctuary of God; Then I understood their end.*

All other parts of the process are essentially horizontal. Worship is part of the vertical process that connects us to God. Without this element everything else we do is just human effort. If that is all we do then we are no different from any community organization.

Worship encompasses our entire life, all actions deeds and purpose. A church that does not practice the disciplines will not grow fruit. *"Unless the Lord builds the house, its builders labor in vain"* (Psm 127:1, NIV)

### **Singing (Eph 5:19) Ephesians 5:19 (NKJV)**

<sup>19</sup> *speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord.*

### **Commitment (Rms 12:1,2)**

### **Praying (Psm 95:6) Psalm 95:6 (NKJV)**

<sup>6</sup> *Oh come, let us worship and bow down; Let us kneel before the LORD our Maker.*

### **Hearing the Word (Jn 17:17) John 17:17 (NKJV)**

<sup>17</sup> *Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth.*

### **Giving (ICor 16:1,2)**

### **Baptism (Rms 6:3,4)**

### **Meditating (Hbk 2:20)**

### **Communion (I Cor 11:23-26)**

Not a program but process! With a process you never get to the end. Always develop.