**WHAT IT TAKES TO HAVE A GREAT CHURCH**

**Acts 2:41-47**

[**41**](https://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/Acts-2-41/) **Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added *unto them* about three thousand souls.** [**42**](https://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/Acts-2-42/) **And they continued stedfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers.** [**43**](https://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/Acts-2-43/) **And fear came upon every soul: and many wonders and signs were done by the apostles.** [**44**](https://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/Acts-2-44/) **And all that believed were together, and had all things common;** [**45**](https://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/Acts-2-45/) **And sold their possessions and goods, and parted them to all *men*, as every man had need.** [**46**](https://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/Acts-2-46/) **And they, continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, did eat their meat with gladness and singleness of heart, [47](https://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/Acts-2-47/%22%20%5Co%20%22Acts%202%3A47%20KJV%20verse%20detail) Praising God, and having favour with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved.**

**INTRO:**

**\*\*We all want a great church, and the way to have a great church is to follow the Biblical example that’s given in the Scripture!**

**1. Notice the People**

 **A. Members should be Saved**

**\*\*In Acts 2:41 the members of this great church received the word, got saved and were baptized!**

 **B. Members should be Separated**

**\*\*When you get baptized (especially a Jew) you are saying I’m separating myself from the world and the old life!**

 **C. Members should be Steadfast**

**Acts 2:42** [**42**](https://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/Acts-2-42/) **And they continued stedfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers.**

 **1. Be Faithful to the Truth**

**\*\*Be steadfastly to the doctrine!**

 **2. Be Faithful to the Ties**

**\*\*Be steadfastly to the fellowship!**

 **3. Be Faithful to the Table**

**\*\*Be steadfastly to the Communion Table (participate in the meaning of it) and to the Church Table (participate in the meal of it)!**

 **4. Be Faithful to the Throne**

**\*\*Be steadfastly to go pray for one another and the church!**

 **D. Members should be Sanctified**

**Acts 2:43** [**43**](https://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/Acts-2-43/) **And fear came upon every soul: and many wonders and signs were done by the apostles.**

**\*\*To be sanctified means you live holy, and if you are going to live holy, then you have to have a godly fear and a conscious fear that you are living your life in front of a living God and for a living God.**

**\*\*When we live a sanctified life, we will begin to see some signs and wonders in the church!**

 **E. Members should be Spectacular**

**\*\*We can’t be spectacular within our own selves, but we are spectacular when the power of God is on our lives! That power of God in our life are the signs we will see that will show up in the church and outside of the church!**

 **F. Members should be Single**

**\*\*I’m not talking about your marital status; I’m talking about all members having the singleness of mind!**

**Acts 2:44** [**44**](https://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/Acts-2-44/) **And all that believed were together, and had all things common;**

**Acts 2:46b and breaking bread from house to house, did eat their meat with gladness and singleness of heart,**

[**Philippians 2:2**](https://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/Philippians-2-2/)**- Fulfil ye my joy, that ye be likeminded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind.**

 **G. Members should be Sacrificial**

**Acts 2:45 [45](https://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/Acts-2-45/%22%20%5Co%20%22Acts%202%3A45%20KJV%20verse%20detail) And sold their possessions and goods, and parted them to all *men*, as every man had need.**

**\*\*In other words, they helped one another when they saw a need. They made sacrifices to help others that needed help. They were givers and not takers!**

 **H. Members should be Spiritual**

**Acts 2:46** [**46**](https://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/Acts-2-46/) **And they, continuing daily with one accord in the temple,**

**\*\*Spiritual people don’t have to be begged to go to church – nope, they want to go to church every time the church doors are open!!**

 **I. Members should be Serving**

**\*\*Great churches have members that serve God by praising God!**

**Acts 2:47** [**47**](https://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/Acts-2-47/) **Praising God, and having favour with all the people.**

**\*\*Great churches have members that serve others and have favor with other people. When you serve others, you will have their favor!**

 **J. Members should be Successful**

**\*\*If we are successful members of the church, we will have a church full of members that praise God and has favor with God and with other people. That’s when God rewards the church!**

**Acts 2:47b And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved.**

**\*\*You can have all the carnal people you want to fill the pews of the church, but the church does not grow or have people added to it until God adds people to the church through salvation and through people who are saved!**

**\*\*Now we know what kind of people it takes to have a great church. Now let’s look at what kind of place it takes to have a great church!**

**2. Notice the Place**

 **A. A Great Church is a House of Prayer**

**Matthew 21:13 And said unto them, It is written, My house shall be called the house of prayer; but ye have made it a den of thieves.**

**\*\*You cannot have a great church without making God’s house a place where we Communicate with God and Connect with God through prayer!!**

 **B. A Great Church is a House of Praise**

**Psalms 150:1 Praise ye the LORD. Praise God in his sanctuary: praise him in the firmament of his power.**

**\*\*We can easily praise Him for the Person He is and the Power He has!!**

**Psalms 150:2 Praise him for his mighty acts: praise him according to his excellent greatness.**

 **C. A Great Church is a House of Preaching**

**\*\*No matter who the pastor or the evangelist is behind the pulpit, if he is not preaching the Bible, then fire him!!**

[**Acts 10:42**](https://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/Acts-10-42/) **And he commanded us to preach unto the people . . .**

**\*\*The church needs Scriptural and Spirit-filled preaching!**

 **D. A Great Church is a House of Power**

**I Corinthians 2:4-5** [**4**](https://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/1-Corinthians-2-4/) **And my speech and my preaching *was* not with enticing words of man's wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power:**[**5**](https://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/1-Corinthians-2-5/) **That your faith should not stand in the wisdom of men, but in the power of God.**

**\*\*This church building is nothing without the power of God in the Singing, in the Sermons, in the Sunday School, and in the Service!!**

 **E. A Great Church is a House of Purity**

**\*\*Great churches cannot be spiritually and properly Constructed, Conducted or Continued if the foundation is compromised and embedded with sin!**

[**Matthew 5:8**](https://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/Matthew-5-8/)**- Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God.**

**\*\*If you can’t see God working in your life nor in your church, then you’ve got to look in your heart and be honest and ask God to cleanse and purify your heart!**

 **F. A Great Church is a House of Peace**

**\*\*If a church doesn’t have peace in it, then it stands to reason that the Prince of Peace must not be there either!!**

[**I Corinthians 14:33**](https://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/1-Corinthians-14-33/)**- For God is not the author of confusion, but of peace, as in all churches of the saints.**

**\*\*God’s peace is Sweet, and God’s peace is Sure!**

 **G. A Great Church is a House of Pardon**

[**Mark 11:25**](https://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/Mark-11-25/)**- And when ye stand praying, forgive, if ye have ought against any: that your Father also which is in heaven may forgive you your trespasses.**

**\*\*If we are unwilling to pardon and forgive those whom God has pardoned and forgiven, then we are the ones with a problem and with sin in our hearts! We cannot have a great church if there’s unforgiving brethren among us!!**

**\*\*We must Freely Pardon, Fervently Pardon, and Forgetfully Pardon others around us!**

 **H. A Great Church is a House of Pursuit**

**\*\*Great churches are not great if they are not pursuing and Seeking for the Sinners, Supplicating for the Spirit, and Searching for the Savior!**

**\*\*A church that is not in pursuit of these things is a church that is dying or already dead!**

**CLOSE**

**\*\*I wonder how many of us really want a great church? Not in size, but in the Spirit?**

**\*\*I wonder how many of us members want to be the members we need to be in order to have a great church?**

**\*\*Oh how we need members to be Steadfast, Separated, Sanctified, Sacrificial, Spiritual, and Serving!**

**\*\*Oh how we need this place to be dedicated daily to be a house of Prayer, Praise, Preaching, Power, Purity, Peace, Pardon, and Pursuit!**

**\*\*Look in your heart and ask yourself this: Is there any of these areas in my life as a member of this church that isn’t what it should be? Is there an area that’s been mentioned that I fail at as a Christian and as a Church member?**

**\*\*If there is, now is the time to pray! Come and ask God to show you and help you so that you and your church can be all that God wants it to be!**