

What Does a Spirit-filled Church Look Like?

Acts 2; Coast Community Church; Pastor Earl Miles; 10-3-21

Faithfulness

Every church needs to ask the question: *Are we being faithful to the model?*

What is the 'model' that is given for us in the book of Acts and the rest of the New Testament?

In Acts 2, we have a picture of a Spirit-filled, faithful church (without the warts!).

The Coming of the Spirit (1-4)

- We can do nothing apart from God.

John 15:1-5; Isaiah 10:15

The Confusion of the Crowd (5-13)

- God's work can result in confusion.

Luke 1:29; 21:25; 24:4; Acts 10:17; Galatians 4:20; 2 Corinthians 4:8; Isaiah 51:12-16

The Correction of Peter (14-36)

- We can only make sense of things through what God has revealed in His Word.

Acts 24:18-27

The Call to Repentance (37-40)

- The faith that saves is a faith that repents.

1 Thessalonians 1:8-10

The Community of Believers (41-47)

- The early church was filled with the Spirit and their lives were shaped in a certain kind of faithful lifestyle.

What is the New Testament model for the Church?

- **Spread the good news in ‘lip and life’ *communication*.**

Acts 2:40; 8:4; 2 Timothy 4:1-2; Colossians 4:2-6

What is the purpose of the Church of Jesus Christ? Acts 2:36; see also Acts 1:8

To testify, in word and deed, to the reality of the reign of King Jesus (Lord) and to the free offer of the gospel (Savior).

- **Seek God in public and private *communion*.**

Acts 2:42, 46; Hebrews 10:19-25; Matthew 6:6; Jeremiah 29:13

- **Share life and gifts in the *community* of believers.**

Acts 2:44-46; 1 Peter 4:9-11

- **Show *compassion* to the lost and needy.**

Acts 2:47; Acts 3:1-26

- **Serve well in *common roles* in the family, workplace and world.**

Acts 2:47; Colossians 3:18-25; Colossians 4:1

Conclusion

It can be a bit overwhelming to evaluate our church and our individual lives in light of this New Testament ‘model’ for the Christian life!

We need to remember:

- Jesus lived this life perfectly for us and died for our sin and failure!
- To live this way will bring opposition from the world, the flesh and the devil.
- But God has given us His Spirit as our Helper.
- God promises to reward us greatly for living this way for the sake of Christ and the gospel.
- None of us will ever live this way perfectly, but we should embrace it as God’s will for our lives and we should seek to grow.
- Don’t let ‘dreaming big’ keep you from doing anything; instead ‘dream small’ and God will use you to bless others.