

Joyful Generosity Revisited Part 1

May 21, 2023

Various

1 Tim. 3:15, the church is the pillar and foundation of the truth- in the church our lives grow together. 1 Cor. 1:26-27, the weak and foolish things God has chosen to confound the wise. We gather together and our lives are changed by obedience to the Lord.

How our church has demonstrated obedience to the Lord:

- a) Spiritual Hunger: desiring the preached word, sermons Sunday morning and night and at men's and women's events, and the Millennium Series.
- b) Self-Examination: being peacemakers and being willing to be sanctified.
- c) Love: member care ministry and loving one another directly as needed.
- d) Concern Beyond our Walls: support of missionaries, Steadfast in the Faith website.
- e) Servant's Heart: teaching, cleaning, small groups, Spanish ministry, special events, & youth ministries, discipleship of men and women.
- f) Love of Gospel: love for the Doctrines of Grace and the Sovereignty of God alone to save.
- g) Generosity: completion of the upstairs at Young Street, hiring of Worship and Youth Ministries and Spanish ministry pastors.

>>The Joyful Generosity Campaign was created and motivated by the desire to advance the Kingdom of Christ.

The church in Jerusalem in Acts demonstrated 6 Qualities of Giving to our Savior:

- 1) Well Ordered Church: Acts 2:41, Members/Leaders knew what to do. V42, Members knew the top priorities: preaching, partnership, & prayers. Acts 6, Leaders knew their priorities as well. A group of lead servants, 6:2, and lead shepherds, 6:4.
- 2) Reliant Church: On Scripture: Jesus' death & resurrection, Acts 2:17-21, 25-28; foretold by prophets, Acts 3:18; fulfillment of Abrahamic covenant, 3:25; witnesses of Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit, 1:7-8.
- 3) Praying Church: the early church prayed constantly, Acts 1:14; for the leaders, 4:29; for the lost, 7:59-60; for those suffering (Peter), 12:5.
- 4) Sacrificial Church: beaten, imprisoned and killed (Stephen: 7:60, James: 12:2), 4:3, 19, 5:18. They did not cease proclaiming Jesus as the Christ, 5:41-42. Saul was persecuting the whole church, Acts 8:1, 3. When they were scattered they spread the Gospel, 11:19-21.
- 5) Loving Church: they cared for those who had lost their families because of Christ, Acts 2:44-45. They gave to care for those who had needs, 4:32-37. They worshipped together and had one mind, Acts 2:46.
- 6) Evangelistic Church: The sermons of Acts: Peter preached Christ (2:22-23), the Deity of Christ (2:32-35), the resurrection of Christ (2:24), Sovereignty of God (2:23) in salvation (2:39), fulfillment of OT prophecy (2:25-28), and baptism of believers (2:41). Their method: the Gospel was proclaimed by leaders and members to all. Christ promised to build His church.
 - a. The number of believers multiplied everywhere: 2:41, 47, 4:4, 5:14, 6:7, 9:31, 11:21, 24, 12:24.
 - b. Once persecution of Christians stopped by decree of Constantine in 313 AD, churches constructed buildings to gather and worship in.

What does it mean for our church? Another opportunity to take a step forward in the ministry here on White Lane. Three priorities: 1) The front of the building, 2) courtyard with shade and playground equipment, 3) Upgrades to the Activity Center to integrate it into the courtyard.

Further Discussion and Application

The church's motivation is to see the Kingdom of Christ advance. Col. 1:28 is the motto of our local body. How can we guarantee obedience to the Lord's command to make disciples regardless of the growth in numbers? How do the members of the church ensure they are causing growth in the body (Eph. 4:11-16)?

In what ways can our church emulate the church in Jerusalem? How can we show fervent love for one another?

Through this opportunity to give and expand we have an opportunity to be co-laborers with Christ in building His church. Regardless of the size of the gifts, how does giving joyfully demonstrate a thankful and willing heart? In what other ways besides financial giving can believers serve and help grow the body of Christ?

What prayers should we regularly offer to the Lord for our church, its leaders, and ourselves? What are some needs that our local church has that we could meet? Could we serve in children's ministry, ushering and greeting, member care, support missions, before service prayers for Pastor Steve and Darren who lead us in the worship of preaching and singing?

In what ways has the preaching of the word of God sanctified and strengthened you in your walk with Christ? How have others invested their time and efforts in discipling and teaching you the ways of Christ?

How can we bring glory to God in our daily lives with what we have been given? How can we serve for the glory of God? How can we build up the body of Christ for the glory of God?