

## **Praying with Purpose (Part 2)**

### **Church and Spiritual family**

#### **Church: Ecclesiastical Structure, Family**

##### **Deut 7:6-9**

*For you are a holy people to the Lord your God; the Lord your God has chosen you to be a people for Himself, a special treasure above all the peoples on the face of the earth. The Lord did not set His love on you nor choose you because you were more in number than any other people, for you were the least of all peoples; but because the Lord loves you, and because He would keep the oath which He swore to your fathers, the Lord has brought you out with a mighty hand, and redeemed you from the house of bondage, from the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt. Therefore, know that the Lord your God, He is God, the faithful God who keeps covenant and mercy for a thousand generations with those who love Him and keep His commandments...*

##### **Heb 4:14-16**

*Seeing then that we have a great High Priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin. Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.*

##### **Rom 8:15-17**

<sup>15</sup>*For you did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear, but you received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out, "Abba, Father."* <sup>16</sup>*The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that **we are children of God**,* <sup>17</sup>*and if children, then heirs— heirs of God **and joint heirs with Christ**, if indeed we suffer with Him, that we may also be glorified together.*

We belong to a family. We are sons and daughters of the living God, children of God. We are co-heirs with Christ.

## **Name, nature and attributes of God**

Jesus is our Great High Priest. God who is holy made provision for us to walk in eternal relationship with Him in spite of our sin, through Jesus our Lord. He extends mercy and forgiveness to all who receive and acknowledge this personally. God is also our Father who has adopted us as his sons in Christ.

### **Dan 9:9**

*To the Lord our God belong mercy and forgiveness, though we have rebelled against Him.*

### **John 1:12**

*But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name: who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God*

Jesus is also the Living Word, full of grace and truth.

### **John 1:1-4**

*In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made. In Him was life, and the life was the light of men.*

### **John 1:14**

*And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth*

## **The purpose of the church domain**

To make disciples of every tribe, tongue and nation. To provide for the discipleship (including salvation, deliverance, healing and growth in maturity) of all believers in the whole nature and character of God and His Word including as it applies to the work and walk of faith. To facilitate the expression of that faith in worship and in the sacraments of the Church. To provide for the equipping of the saints for the work of the ministry to which they have been called. To facilitate the extension of the Kingdom in all areas of life.

### **Matt 28:18-20**

*And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. 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, 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.*

### **John 8:31-32**

*Then Jesus said to those Jews who believed Him, "If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed. And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free."*

Remember when Jesus cleansed the temple and declared:

### **Matt 21:13**

*"It is written, My **house** shall be called the **house** of prayer; but you have made it a den of thieves."*

Strong's Definition:

House οἶκος, oikos (oy'-kos)

Of uncertain affinity; **a dwelling** (more or less extensive, literally or figuratively); **by implication a family** (more or less related, literally or figuratively): - **home, house**

This brings context to the term "our" when Jesus is teaching his disciples to pray and says addresses God as OUR Father.

### **"Father"**

πατήρ, patēr (pat-ayr')

Thayer Definition:

1) **generator** or male ancestor

1a) either the nearest ancestor: father of the corporeal nature, natural fathers, both parents

1b) a more remote ancestor, the **founder of a family or tribe, progenitor of a people**, forefather: so Abraham is called, Jacob and David

1b1) fathers, i.e. ancestors, forefathers, founders of a nation

1c) one advanced in years, a senior

2) metaphorically

**2a) the originator and transmitter of anything**

**2a1) the authors of a family or society of persons animated by the same spirit as himself....**

3) God is called the Father

3a) of the stars, the heavenly luminaries, because he is their creator, upholder, ruler

3b) of all rational and intelligent beings, whether angels or men, because he is their creator, preserver, guardian and protector...

3c) of Christians, as those who through Christ have been exalted to a specially close and intimate relationship with God, and who no longer dread him as a stern judge of sinners, but revere him as their reconciled and loving Father

3d) the Father of Jesus Christ, as one whom God has united to himself in the closest bond of love and intimacy, made acquainted with his purposes, appointed to explain and carry out among men the plan of salvation, and made to share also in his own divine nature...

### **Mark 14:36**

*And He said, "Abba, Father, all things are possible for You. Take this cup away from Me; nevertheless, not what I will, but what You will."*

### **Thayer Definition:**

**Ἀββᾶ, Abba**

Abba = "father"

Father, customary title used of God in prayer. Whenever it occurs in the New Testament it has the Greek interpretation joined to it, that is apparently to be explained by the fact that the Chaldee "ABBA" through frequent use in prayer,

gradually acquired the nature of a most sacred proper name, to which the Greek speaking Jews added the name from their own tongue. A Related Word by Thayer's/Strong's Number: of Aramaic origin H2.

H2 related to H1, אב, 'âb (*awb*)

A primitive word; *father* in a literal and immediate, or figurative and remote application: - chief, (fore-) father ([-less]), X patrimony, principal.

It appears that the term Jesus used to address His Father (Abba) (take this cup from me – Mk. 14:36; when Paul stated that we have received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out “Abba Father”), well it seems this term “Abba” Father is less about “daddy” and more respectful, i.e. Abba, Father, sir. It communicates respect. Honour.

I don't believe God wants us to distance ourselves from him as we would from some authority, figure we fear, yet He is worthy of respect.

#### **Mal 1:6-14**

<sup>6</sup> "Isn't it true that a son honors his father and a worker his master? So if I'm your Father, where's the honor? If I'm your Master, where's the respect?" GOD-of-the-Angel-Armies is calling you on the carpet: "You priests despise me! "You say, 'Not so! How do we despise you?' "By your shoddy, sloppy, defiling worship. "You ask, 'What do you mean, "defiling"? What's defiling about it?' <sup>7</sup> "When you say, 'The altar of GOD is not important anymore; worship of GOD is no longer a priority,' that's defiling. <sup>8</sup> And when you offer worthless animals for sacrifices in worship, animals that you're trying to get rid of—blind and sick and crippled animals— isn't that defiling? Try a trick like that with your banker or your senator—how far do you think it will get you?" GOD-of-the-Angel-Armies asks you. <sup>9</sup> "Get on your knees and pray that I will be gracious to you. You priests have gotten everyone in trouble. With this kind of conduct, do you think I'll pay attention to you?" GOD-of-the-Angel-Armies asks you. <sup>10</sup> "Why doesn't one of you just shut the Temple doors and lock them? Then none of you can get in and play at religion with this silly, empty-headed worship. I am not pleased. The GOD-of-the-Angel-Armies is not pleased. And I don't want any more of this so-called worship! <sup>11</sup> "I am honored all over the world. And there are people who know how to worship me all over the world, who honor me by

bringing their best to me. They're saying it everywhere: 'God is greater, this GOD-of-the-Angel-Armies.' <sup>12</sup> "All except you. Instead of honoring me, you profane me. You profane me when you say, 'Worship is not important, and what we bring to worship is of no account,' <sup>13</sup> and when you say, 'I'm bored—this doesn't do anything for me.' You act so superior, sticking your noses in the air—act superior to me, GOD-of-the-Angel-Armies! And when you do offer something to me, it's a hand-me-down, or broken, or useless. Do you think I'm going to accept it? This is GOD speaking to you! <sup>14</sup> "A curse on the person who makes a big show of doing something great for me—an expensive sacrifice, say—and then at the last minute brings in something puny and worthless! I'm a great king, GOD-of-the-Angel-Armies, honored far and wide, and I'll not put up with it!

Abba Father, Sir. We come to Him on His terms, not ours. Too often in the church we come to Him on our terms, with our conditions attached. That is not what Jesus modelled in the garden of Gethsemane. He is our “chief”, boss, the One in charge... the One whose Kingdom we are about.

Yet at the same time he is Abba, our loving Father, longing for us to be intimate with Him. Longing for us to boldly enter His throne room and approach His throne of grace. He is the One who came up with the idea and then paid for it very dearly with the life of His Son...

#### **Heb 4:16**

*“Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.”*

LASB “Prayer is our approach to God, and we are to come “boldly.” Some Christians approach God meekly with heads hung low, afraid to ask him to meet their needs. Others pray flippantly, giving little thought to what they say. Come with reverence because he is your King. But also come with bold assurance because he is your Friend and Counselor.”

The Furious Longing of God – Brennan Manning. – story that depicts God’s Father heart toward us.

Pagan philosophers like Aristotle arrived at the existence of God via human reasoning. They referred to Him in vague, impersonal terms: “the uncaused cause, the immovable mover”.

Jesus refers to Him as “Father”. This depicts so much more than a distant authority, although this may be your experience of ‘father’.

### **The early church interaction beyond the congregation**

Throughout the book of Acts we see accounts of how the early church and its leaders related to the cities in which they found themselves.

#### **1. The Church was sensitive to what outsiders thought and openly addressed issues.**

Jesus would demonstrate this sensitivity by using parables for some and speaking plainly to His disciples.

##### **Acts 2:13-15**

*Some, however, made fun of them and said, ‘They have had too much wine.’ Then Peter stood up with the Eleven, raised his voice and addressed the crowd: ‘Fellow Jews and all of you who live in Jerusalem, let me explain this to you; listen carefully to what I say. These people are not drunk, as you suppose. It’s only nine in the morning!’*

What is the world saying about the church? How do they see the church? What do we need to tell them?

Peter addressed his crowd. Each of us has a crowd that needs to be addressed. I don’t have access to your crowd. If you are in God’s will then it means that He has graced you to address your crowd.

#### **2. The Church was respected and experienced favour and growth in the city.**

##### **Acts 2:42-47**

*They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles. All the believers were together and had everything in*

*common. They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need. Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favour of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.*

### **Acts 19:17-20**

*When this became known to the Jews and Greeks living in Ephesus, they were all seized with fear, and the name of the Lord Jesus was held in high honour. Many of those who believed now came and openly confessed what they had done. A number who had practised sorcery brought their scrolls together and burned them publicly. When they calculated the value of the scrolls, the total came to fifty thousand drachmas. In this way the word of the Lord spread widely and grew in power.*

### **Acts 3:11-12**

*While the man held on to Peter and John, all the people were astonished and came running to them in the place called Solomon's Colonnade. When Peter saw this, he said to them: 'Fellow Israelites, why does this surprise you? Why do you stare at us as if by our own power or godliness we had made this man walk?*

## **3. The Church accepted and restored the rejected.**

### **Acts 3:6-8**

*Then Peter said, 'Silver or gold I do not have, but what I do have I give you. In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, walk.' Taking him by the right hand, he helped him up, and instantly the man's feet and ankles became strong. He jumped to his feet and began to walk. Then he went with them into the temple courts, walking and jumping, and praising God.*

## **4. The Church was Christ-like.**

### **Acts 4:13**

<sup>13</sup> *When they saw the courage of Peter and John and realised that they were unschooled, ordinary men, they were astonished and they took note that these men had been with Jesus.* <sup>14</sup> *But since they could see the man who had been healed standing there with them, there was nothing they could say.*

***The result of this was that people were astonished.***

What were some of Jesus' characteristics? He described Himself as gentle and humble. The people were amazed for He spoke with authority. He received little children. He said that His yoke is light and His burden easy. Are these your characteristics too?

## **5. The Church demonstrated the supernatural.**

### **Acts 4:16**

*'What are we going to do with these men?' They asked. 'Everyone living in Jerusalem knows they have performed a notable sign, and we cannot deny it.'*

### **Acts 19:11-12**

*God did extraordinary miracles through Paul, so that even handkerchiefs and aprons that had touched him were taken to those who were ill, and their illnesses were cured and the evil spirits left them.*

***God is still doing miracles today.***

### **Acts 28:7-10**

*<sup>7</sup> There was an estate near by that belonged to Publius, the chief official of the island. He welcomed us to his home and showed us generous hospitality for three days. <sup>8</sup> His father was ill in bed, suffering from fever and dysentery. Paul went in to see him and, after prayer, placed his hands on him and healed him. <sup>9</sup> When this had happened, the rest of those on the island who were ill came and were cured. <sup>10</sup> They honoured us in many ways; and when we were ready to sail, they furnished us with the supplies we needed.*

## **6. The Church impacted the region around the city.**

### **Acts 5:16**

*Crowds gathered also from the towns around Jerusalem, bringing those who were ill and those tormented by impure spirits, and all of them were healed.*

***What is happening here must impact the small towns and rural areas around us.***

## **7. The Church was loved by some and hated by others.**

### **Acts 5:17**

*Then the high priest and all his associates, who were members of the party of the Sadducees, were filled with jealousy. They arrested the apostles and put them in the public jail.*

“Wherever the early Christians entered a town the power structure got disturbed and immediately sought to convict them for being ‘disturbers of the peace’ and ‘outside agitators.’ But they went on with the conviction that they were a ‘colony of heaven’ and had to obey God rather than man. They were small in number but big in commitment. They were too God- intoxicated to be ‘astronomically intimidated.’ They brought an end to such ancient evils as infanticide and gladiatorial contest. Things are different now. The contemporary Church is so often a weak, ineffectual voice with an uncertain sound. It is so often the arch supporter of the status quo. Far from being disturbed by the presence of the Church, the power structure of the average community is consoled by the Church’s silent and often vocal sanction of things as they are.” — **Martin Luther King Jr., Letter from the Birmingham Jail**

### **Acts 14:4**

*The people of the city were divided; some sided with the Jews, others with the apostles.*

## **8. The Church relentlessly filled the city with their teaching.**

### **Acts 5:28-29**

*‘We gave you strict orders not to teach in this name,’ he said. ‘Yet you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching and are determined to make us guilty of this man’s blood.’ Peter and the other apostles replied: ‘We must obey God rather than human beings!’*

### **Acts 19:8-10**

*Paul entered the synagogue and spoke boldly there for three months, arguing persuasively about the kingdom of God. But some of them became obstinate; they refused to believe and publicly maligned the Way. So Paul left them. He took the disciples with him and had discussions daily in the lecture hall of Tyrannus. This*

*went on for two years, so that all the Jews and Greeks who lived in the province of Asia heard the word of the Lord.*

Send out links on social media of your church sermons. Buy life-changing books in bulk for distribution to people you know.

## **9. The Church was full of joy and brought joy to others.**

### **Acts 5:40-41**

*His speech persuaded them. They called the apostles in and had them flogged. Then they ordered them not to speak in the name of Jesus, and let them go. The apostles left the Sanhedrin, rejoicing because they had been counted worthy of suffering disgrace for the Name.*

### **Acts 8:5-8**

*Philip went down to a city in Samaria and proclaimed the Messiah there. When the crowds heard Philip and saw the signs he performed, they all paid close attention to what he said. For with shrieks, impure spirits came out of many, and many who were paralysed or lame were healed. So there was great joy in that city.*

## **Happy people do certain things differently**

## **10. The Church had entrepreneurs that were involved in helping the poor in the city.**

### **Acts 9:36-39**

*In Joppa there was a disciple named Tabitha (in Greek her name is Dorcas); she was always doing good and helping the poor. About that time she became ill and died, and her body was washed and placed in an upstairs room. Lydda was near Joppa; so when the disciples heard that Peter was in Lydda, they sent two men to him and urged him, 'Please come at once!' Peter went with them, and when he arrived he was taken upstairs to the room. All the widows stood round him, crying and showing him the robes and other clothing that Dorcas had made while she was still with them.*

What are you known for? Dorcas was known first for her good deeds and generosity. Are you known for how you make your money or for how you give it away?

## **11. The Church was for all nations.**

### **Acts 10:34-35**

*<sup>34</sup> Then Peter began to speak: 'I now realise how true it is that God does not show favouritism <sup>35</sup> but accepts from every nation the one who fears him and does what is right.*

In a nation where there has been division the church must model reconciliation.

## **12. The Church was distressed by the idolatry in the city.**

### **Acts 17:16-21**

*While Paul was waiting for them in Athens, he was greatly distressed to see that the city was full of idols. So he reasoned in the synagogue with both Jews and God-fearing Greeks, as well as in the market-place day by day with those who happened to be there. A group of Epicurean and Stoic philosophers began to debate with him. Some of them asked, 'What is this babbler trying to say?' Others remarked, 'He seems to be advocating foreign gods.' They said this because Paul was preaching the good news about Jesus and the resurrection. Then they took him and brought him to a meeting of the Areopagus, where they said to him, 'May we know what this new teaching is that you are presenting? You are bringing some strange ideas to our ears, and we would like to know what they mean.' (All the Athenians and the foreigners who lived there spent their time doing nothing but talking about and listening to the latest ideas.)*

What are the idols in your city? Greed, fear of lack, mammon, divorce, selfishness, fear, violence, infanticide? It's important to have a message of restoration to address these.

## **13. The Church communicated the gospel in a way that the city could understand.**

### **Acts 17:22-31**

*Paul then stood up in the meeting of the Areopagus and said: 'People of Athens! I see that in every way you are very religious. For as I walked around and looked carefully at your objects of worship, I even found an altar with this inscription: TO AN*

*UNKNOWN GOD. So you are ignorant of the very thing you worship – and this is what I am going to proclaim to you. ‘The God who made the world and everything in it is the Lord of heaven and earth and does not live in temples built by human hands. And he is not served by human hands, as if he needed anything. Rather, he himself gives everyone life and breath and everything else. From one man he made all the nations, that they should inhabit the whole earth; and he marked out their appointed times in history and the boundaries of their lands. God did this so that they would seek him and perhaps reach out for him and find him, though he is not far from any one of us. “For in him we live and move and have our being.” As some of your own poets have said, “We are his offspring.” ‘Therefore since we are God’s offspring, we should not think that the divine being is like gold or silver or stone – an image made by human design and skill. In the past God overlooked such ignorance, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent. For he has set a day when he will judge the world with justice by the man he has appointed. He has given proof of this to everyone by raising him from the dead.’*

It’s interesting that Paul knew some of their writings and what their poets were saying. We need a relevant message for the culture. We need to speak to them in a language that they understand. Find out the lyrics of their favourite singer and use that to start a conversation.

#### **14. Church Leaders could connect with provincial leaders.**

##### **Acts 19:30-31**

*Paul wanted to appear before the crowd, but the disciples would not let him. Even some of the officials of the province, friends of Paul, sent him a message begging him not to venture into the theatre.*

#### **15. The Church used the prophetic for warning, protection and hope for the world.**

##### **Acts 27:10-11; 21-25**

*So Paul warned them, ‘Men, I can see that our voyage is going to be disastrous and bring great loss to ship and cargo, and to our own lives also.’ But the centurion, instead of listening to what Paul said, followed the advice of the pilot and of the owner of the ship... After they had gone a long time without food, Paul stood up*

*before them and said: 'Men, you should have taken my advice not to sail from Crete; then you would have spared yourselves this damage and loss. But now I urge you to keep up your courage, because not one of you will be lost; only the ship will be destroyed. Last night an angel of the God to whom I belong and whom I serve stood beside me and said, "Do not be afraid, Paul. You must stand trial before Caesar; and God has graciously given you the lives of all who sail with you." So keep up your courage, men, for I have faith in God that it will happen just as he told me. Nevertheless, we must run aground on some island.'*

## **16. The Church identified a man or woman of peace who was a key to reaching the city.**

### **Acts 16:14-15, 40**

*One of those listening was a woman from the city of Thyatira named Lydia, a dealer in purple cloth. She was a worshipper of God. The Lord opened her heart to respond to Paul's message. When she and the members of her household were baptised, she invited us to her home. 'If you consider me a believer in the Lord,' she said, 'come and stay at my house.' And she persuaded us. ....<sup>40</sup> After Paul and Silas came out of the prison, they went to Lydia's house, where they met with the brothers and sisters and encouraged them. Then they left.*

This concept is based on Jesus' instruction in Luke 10:5-7 - *Whatever house you enter, first say, 'Peace be to this house.' If a man of peace is there, your peace will rest on him; but if not, it will return to you. Stay in that house, eating and drinking what they give you; for the labourer is worthy of his wages. Do not keep moving from house to house.*

## **17. The Church reached both the marginalized and the affluent**

### **Acts 17:12**

*As a result, many of them believed, as did also a number of prominent Greek women and many Greek men.*

## **18. The Church communicated the gospel in a way that the city could understand.**

### **Acts 17:22-31**

*Paul then stood up in the meeting of the Areopagus and said: ‘People of Athens! I see that in every way you are very religious. For as I walked around and looked carefully at your objects of worship, I even found an altar with this inscription: to an unknown god. So you are ignorant of the very thing you worship – and this is what I am going to proclaim to you. ‘The God who made the world and everything in it is the Lord of heaven and earth and does not live in temples built by human hands. And he is not served by human hands, as if he needed anything. Rather, he himself gives everyone life and breath and everything else. From one man he made all the nations, that they should inhabit the whole earth; and he marked out their appointed times in history and the boundaries of their lands. God did this so that they would seek him and perhaps reach out for him and find him, though he is not far from any one of us. “For in him we live and move and have our being.” ‘Therefore since we are God’s offspring, we should not think that the divine being is like gold or silver or stone – an image made by human design and skill. In the past God overlooked such ignorance, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent. For he has set a day when he will judge the world with justice by the man he has appointed. He has given proof of this to everyone by raising him from the dead.’*

## **19. The Church gave God all the glory**

### **Acts 14:8-15**

*In Lystra there sat a man who was lame. He had been that way from birth and had never walked. He listened to Paul as he was speaking. Paul looked directly at him, saw that he had faith to be healed and called out, ‘Stand up on your feet!’ At that, the man jumped up and began to walk. When the crowd saw what Paul had done, they shouted in the Lycaonian language, ‘The gods have come down to us in human form!’ Barnabas they called Zeus, and Paul they called Hermes because he was the chief speaker. The priest of Zeus, whose temple was just outside the city, brought bulls and wreaths to the city gates because he and the crowd wanted to offer sacrifices to them. But when the apostles Barnabas and Paul heard of this, they tore their clothes and rushed out into the crowd, shouting: ‘Friends, why are you doing*

*this? We too are only human, like you. We are bringing you good news, telling you to turn from these worthless things to the living God, who made the heavens and the earth and the sea and everything in them.*

**Paul was familiar with the poetry of the day, and used this knowledge to make his message relevant.**

In order for Church to go to her next level, wisdom is needed around finances and creating financial streams.

She also needs uncommon volunteers. See Appendix entitled Uncommon volunteers.

**Some prayer points:**

- A church that is unified; unity (*John 17:21; Acts 2:42-47*).
- A prayerful church (*1 Thess 5:16-18*).
- A faith-filled church (*Heb 11:6*).
- A Spirit-filled church (*Eph 5:18; John 7:39; 20:22*).
- A church filled with love (*John 13:35*).
- A church for the city/nation (*Luke 19:41; Acts 2:42-47*).
- A powerful, disciplined, growing church that discipled (*Acts 2:42-47*).
- The name of Jesus held in honour (*Acts 19:17*).
- A mission-minded church (*Mark 1:35-38*).
- A church that teaches the Word and the Word spreads widely (*Acts 19:8-10, 20; Acts 5:28-29*).
- A church that accepts and restores the rejected (*Acts 2:2-6*).
- A church that is Christ-like (*Acts 4:13; Matt 11:28-29; Mark 1:22; Matt 19:14*).
- A church that demonstrates the supernatural (*Acts 4:16; 19:11-12; Acts 8:5-8*).
- A church that brings joy (*Acts 8:5-8*).
- A generous church (*Acts 9:36-39*).
- A holy Church (*Lev 19:2; Acts 17:16-21*).
- A prayerful church (*Is 56:7; Matt 21:13*).
- An apostolic & prophetic church (*1 Cor 12:28; Acts 27:10-25*).
- A church of divine order (*1 Cor 12:28; 14:40*).

- A relevant church (*Mark 16:15*).
- A church with a Biblical Worldview (*2 Cor 10:3-6; 1 Pet 3:15; Rom 12:2; Col 2:8*).
- An influential church (*Acts 19:30-31*).

“There was a time when the church was very powerful. It was during that period that the early Christians rejoiced when they were deemed worthy to suffer for what they believed. In those days the church was not merely a thermometer that recorded the ideas and principles of popular opinion; it was the thermostat that transformed the mores of society.” - Martin Luther King Jr.

“The church in Africa is good at prayer, evangelism, and signs and wonders - the foundation for revival, but weak in discipleship, leadership and biblical worldview - the foundation for reformation. We must have both the fire of revival and the light of reformation.” - Gareth Lowe

“The basic problem of Christians in the last eighty years or so in regard to society and government is that they have seen things in bits and pieces instead of totals. They have become disturbed over pornography, the breakdown of families, the state of public schools and abortion but they have not seen this as a totality; each issue being a part, a symptom of a much larger problem. They have failed to see that all of this has come about due to a shift in the overall way people think and view life as a whole.” - Francis Schaeffer.