

2016 Revival Meeting

September 21, 2016

Series – “Characteristics of a Revived Church”

A Revived Church Strives Together

Congregational Reading – Acts 1:14; 2:1; 2:41 – 47; 4:24; 4:31 – 37; Philippians 1:27, 2:2; 3:14 – 16.

Text Verses:

"And all that believed were together, and had all things common; And sold their possessions and goods, and parted them to all men, as every man had need." (Acts 2:44-45)

Introduction

A church that is experiencing revival does not just quit after the Big Day or the Revival Meeting; they continue on together.

The result of this Jerusalem Church in Acts 2 continuing on and doing the things that please the Lord is found in v. 43:

"And fear came upon every soul: and many wonders and signs were done by the apostles." - (Acts 2:43)

There was a continued manifestation of God's power. In the time of the first century church at Jerusalem that meant that God was using many signs and wonders such as the miraculous gifts of healing and tongues. Today that means that many people will be saved. God gives us His power primarily so that we can convince people of their need for Christ:

"But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth." (Acts 1:8)

Tonight, as we think about this subject of genuine revival, let's examine more closely one of the main identifying characteristics of a church that is in revival – they strive together.

The Body of Christ is one – the local church must be one.

There needs to be unity – people need to be in one accord.

"Only let your conversation be as it becometh the gospel of Christ: that whether I come and see you, or else be absent, I may hear of your affairs, that ye stand fast in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel;" - (Philippians 1:27)

Notice that this church:

Studied the Bible together – “they continued steadfastly in the apostles’ doctrine”
(v. 42)

They fellowshiped together – “and fellowship” (v. 42)

Remembered the Lord’s Supper together – “and in breaking of bread” (v. 42)

They prayed together – “and in prayers” (v. 42)

They met each other’s needs – (vs. 44 – 45)

They were likeminded – “one accord and “singleness of heart” – (v. 46)

They praised the Lord together – “praising God” (v. 47)

They assembled together often – “daily” (v. 47)

They went soul winning together – “added ... such as should be saved.” (v. 47)

If Jersey Shore Baptist Church is going to experience revival, we are going to have to learn to operate as one. We are going to have work as a team. We are going to have to learn to strive together. When a local church is “in one accord” the principle of synergy takes effect. Synergy happens when the cooperation of people working together produces a combined greater than the sum of their separate effects. The reason for this is that when we work together as a team, God really blesses, and the Spirit of God really begins to move.

Illustration taken from a message by Jeff Strite – “Playing As A Team”

Red Auerbach coach the Boston Celtics from 1950 – 1966, and during that time the Celtics won an amazing 9 NBA championships. What was the secret to their success as a team. Did they have great players? Yes, but so did all of the other teams in the NBA. Were they motivated and driven? Yes, but so were others. The main reason that the Boston Celtics were so successful underneath the leadership of Mr. Auerbach is that he taught them to play as a team.

Red Auerbach once said “everything we’ve done has been the result of PEOPLE WORKING TOGETHER to meet our common goals.”

His objective was to have 5 men out on the floor that worked together. Because he knew if he had 5 good men working together... they could win championships. And Auerbach paid his players more for what they could do to help team win than he did for their own personal accomplishments.

And that’s why they won repeated championships. They worked together as a team.

If a basketball team could accomplish synergy and achieve great results, how much more can a local church do with the breath and power of the Holy Spirit multiplying their efforts. Teamwork truly does make the dream work.

Biblical Examples of teamwork:

1 The Lord sent out the disciples two by two:

"And he called unto him the twelve, and began to send them forth by two and two; and gave them power over unclean spirits;" (Mark 6:7)

"Again I say unto you, That if two of you shall agree on earth as touching any thing that they shall ask, it shall be done for them of my Father which is in heaven. For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them." (Matthew 18:19-20)

2 When God created man, He said that it was not good for him to be alone, so he created an *"help meet"* for him. The two became one flesh because they could do more together than they could apart.

3 Go to Acts 17:14 – 18:11 – Paul accomplished more in Corinth with his team than he did in Athens by himself.

God's plan is for his children to strive together within a local New Testament Church.

1 We must understand our common purpose

We each have been given individual gifts, talents, and abilities. These gifts are not an end in themselves, they are to be used to fit into the "Big Picture" of the purpose of the overall corporate body.

Our "Big Picture" as a local church is to:

A Glorify God – Nothing that we do should draw attention to ourselves. Everything that we do should bring praise, honor, and glory to God.

"I am the LORD: that is my name: and my glory will I not give to another, neither my praise to graven images." (Isaiah 42:8)

People should never come away from our church service saying, "he is a great singer" or "she has a wonderful voice". People should come away saying, "Our God is an awesome God".

Not "great preacher" or "great message" but rather "a great God".

Not "a gifted teacher" but rather "a wonderful Savior"

We exist as a local church to glorify God. God cannot be glorified in a church if there are

individuals within that church who are seeking to magnify themselves.

"I wrote unto the church: but Diotrephes, who loveth to have the preeminence among them, receiveth us not." (3 John 1:9)

"And he is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all things he might have the preeminence." (Colossians 1:18)

B Make Disciples

*"And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature."
(Mark 16:15)*

"Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world. Amen." (Matthew 28:19-20)

We make disciples here in Galloway through evangelism, teaching, preaching, and training. We also help make disciples around the world through giving to our missions' program.

A Disciple is one that has:

Heard the gospel

Received Christ as Saviour

Has followed the Lord in believer's baptism

Has united in membership with the church.

Has been discipled (grounded in our doctrine and trained to serve)

Has grown to the point where he or she is making disciples themselves.

Our purpose is to glorify God and make disciples. Everything that we do is to contribute toward those two goals.

One church that we are associated with has broadened those two purposes and has made a purpose statement:

- 1 To inspire people to develop a heart for God.
- 2 To include people in our church family.
- 3 To instruct people from the Word of God.
- 4 To involve people in the ministry.
- 5 Impact our world for Christ.

2 We must surrender our pride and preferences

Turn to Philippians 2:1 – 21

Our will must be submitted to the will of God. Our individual purposes must be subordinate to the purposes of God. It is not at all important whether I get my way, but it is vitally important that God gets His way.

In order to work together; in order to accomplish God's purposes, we sometimes have to position ourselves in a place where we will not be in the spotlight, and we will often have to yield our preferences to the preference of somebody else. That takes humility.

3 We must be willing to submit to authority

We all have someone over us in authority. Teamwork does not mean that everyone is equal in authority. We are all equal in value and importance, but there will always be levels of authority within the local church. Ultimately, the Bible is our final authority. But, in every project that we set out to accomplish there will be somebody in charge. He (or she) will be a fallible, human being who will make mistakes at times.

Sound Booth – Phil is in charge

Choir – Justin is in authority

The Building Committee is headed up by Brother Price

Brother Bob is over the ushers

Katelyn oversees the nursery

James is in charge of the parking lot

Bob Fenton runs the service at Senior Care

Gerald runs the singles ministry.

Wade is the Bus captain, but Rich is the Bus driver.

These are all people who have been placed in their positions because of their faithfulness to the Lord and their giftedness in their areas of ministry. But, they are human, and will sometimes make mistakes, and make bad decisions. Yet, God knew that when He selected them. If the individual teams are going to work effectively, and if the overall team of Jersey Shore Baptist Church is going to work effectively, then we all will have to learn to submit to and support the authorities that God has placed over us.

The interesting thing about the local church is that the same person who is in authority in one area will have to be in submission in another.

Conclusion

The church at Jerusalem saw God do some amazing things because they continued in doctrine,

they continued in fellowship, they continued in prayer, and they continued in giving; but perhaps more important than all of these was the fact that they continued together: one mind, one spirit, one accord, striving together for the faith of the gospel.

They were together – they were one – **in prayer, in purpose, in principle** (doctrine), **in passion** – they loved the Lord and they loved people and wanted more than anything to see people saved and growing in the Lord.

As a result, they were given:

power (Acts 1:8), and they **produced** (3000 saved in Acts 2; 5000 more saved in Acts 3; in Acts 5 there were more multitudes added; in Acts 6, the disciples were no longer adding but are now multiplying; in the end the Bible says that Jerusalem was filled with their doctrine). They also had some **problems**, but they also had the **personal blessings** of God to help them overcome their problems and to help them look past their problems. In the end they also had **praise**. They praised the Lord together for what the Lord did through them and for them, and someday they will be praised by the Lord, each individually, as He says, well done, thou good and faithful servant.

Illustration by Chuck Swindoll

It's those stately geese I find especially impressive. Winging their way to a warmer climate, they often cover thousands of miles before reaching their destination. Have you ever studied why they fly as they do? It is fascinating to read what has been discovered about their flight pattern as well as their in-flight habits. Four come to mind.

1. Those in front rotate their leadership. When one lead goose gets tired, it changes places with one in the wing of the V-formation and another flies point.
2. By flying as they do, the members of the flock create an upward air current for one another. Each flap of the wings literally creates an uplift for the bird immediately following. One author states that by flying in a V-formation, the whole flock gets 71 percent greater flying range than if each goose flew on its own.
3. When one goose gets sick or wounded, two fall out of formation with it and follow it down to help and protect it. They stay with the struggler until it's able to fly again.
4. The geese in the rear of the formation are the ones who do the honking. I suppose it's their way of announcing that they're following and that all is well. For sure, the repeated honks encourage those in front to stay at it. As I think about all this, one lesson stands out above all others: it is the natural instinct of geese to work together. Whether it's rotating, flapping, helping, or simply honking, the flock is in it together...which enables them to accomplish what they set out to do.