



THE POWER — OF — CHURCH

Pastor Dave Patterson
THE POWER OF CHURCH
Part 6: The Power of Being Sent Out

The target audience of the church is not here yet. As we care for people who don't care about us, the church thrives!

[Luke 24.49, NLT]

"And now I will send the Holy Spirit, just as my Father promised. But stay here in the city until the Holy Spirit comes and fills you with power from heaven."

[Acts 1.8, NLT]

*"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you. And you will be my witnesses, **telling people about me everywhere**--in Jerusalem, throughout Judea, in Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."*

[Matthew 5.14-15, MSG]

"Here's another way to put it: You're here to be light, bringing out the God-colors in the world. God is not a secret to be kept. We're going public with this, as public as a city on a hill. If I make you light-bearers, you don't think I'm going to hide you under a bucket, do you? I'm putting you on a light stand. Now that I've put you there on a hilltop, on a light stand--shine and be generous with your lives!"

[Acts 5.14 & 16]

Yet more and more people believed and were brought to The Lord--crowds of both men and women. Crowds came from the villages around Jerusalem, bringing their sick and those possessed by evil spirits, and they were all healed.

[Acts 6.7]

So God's message continued to spread. The number of believers greatly increased in Jerusalem, and many of the Jewish priests were converted, too.

If your gospel isn't touching others, it hasn't touched you. ***- Curry R. Blake***

The Church is not to be contained within the walls.

[Acts 8.4-5, AMP]

Now the believers who were scattered abroad went about [through the land from place to place] preaching the good news, the Word [concerning salvation through Christ] Philip [the deacon, not the apostle] went down the city of Samaria and proclaimed the Christ (the Messiah) to the people.

[Acts 8.26]

Now an angel of The Lord said to Philip, "Go south to the road---the desert road--that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza."

The power of the church is in the sending; it requires GOING, GIVING, and SENDING.

We can't expect to advertise our way into The Great Commission; it must get personal.

Action Steps to See the Power of the Church Released in Your Life:

1. Simply obey the leading of the Holy Spirit.

[Acts 8.27-39]

So he started out, and he met the treasurer of Ethiopia, a eunuch of great authority under the rule of Candace, the queen of Ethiopia. The eunuch had gone to Jerusalem to worship and he was now returning. Seated in his chariot, he was reading aloud from the book of the prophet Isaiah. The Spirit told Philip, "Go to that chariot and stay near it." Then Philip ran up to the chariot and heard the man reading Isaiah the prophet. "Do you understand what you are reading?" Philip asked, "How can I," he said, "unless someone explains it to me?" So he invited Philip to come up and sit with him.

2. Embrace the awkward when you know it is God speaking.

[Acts 8.27-39, continued]

This is the passage of Scripture the eunuch was reading: "He was led like a sheep to the slaughter, and as a lamb before its shearer is silent, so he did not open his mouth. In his humiliation he was deprived of justice. Who can speak of his descendants? For his life was taken from the earth." The eunuch asked Philip, "Tell me, please, who is the prophet talking about, himself or someone else?" Then Philip began with that very passage of Scripture and told him the good news about Jesus.

3. Recognize and seize divine opportunities.

[Acts 8.27-29, continued]

As they traveled along the road, they came to some water and the eunuch said, "Look, here is water. What can stand in the way of my being baptized?" And he gave orders to stop the chariot. Then both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water and Philip baptized him. When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of The Lord suddenly took Philip away, and the eunuch did not see him again, but went on his way rejoicing.

As the Church prays, God is already preparing the hearts of people; the Holy Spirit goes before us and begins to soften the soil. You are stepping into a situation that the Holy Spirit has already tee'd up for you.

4. Trust God to provide the supernatural element.

[Acts 13.1-3]

Now in the church at Antioch there were prophets and teachers: Barnabas, Simeon called Niger, Lucius of Cyrene, Manaen (who had been brought up with Herod the tetrarch) and Saul. While they were worshipping The Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, "Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them." So after they had fasted and prayed, they placed their hand on them and sent them off.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- 1. How is the power of the church in the sending? How do we get equipped and empowered for that purpose in The Gathering?**
- 2. What is the "endgame" for The Gathering? What does it look like for us to be witnesses, or in another translation "martyrs?" What is something you have to "die" to?**
- 3. What does it mean to be an "ambassador for reconciliation?" How should that affect our day-to-day?**
- 4. What are some awkward moments that God has called you to step into? How did he use you in that situation?**
- 5. Why is the supernatural element something that we need to trust God for? How does it work, according to Acts 13.1-3? (gathering, prayer/worship, prophetic direction, etc.)**
- 6. Where are you getting direction (insight and revelation) for your life that will propel you into your future?**