

Three Fronts of a Healthy Church

Front -- areas of activity → easy to focus on one at the expense of the other - all three are essential
Relationship with Jesus, Participation in the Fellowship, Mission in the World

Church birthed in mission → commanded by Jesus, empowered by the Spirit, focused on the world

- **ACTS 2 DOES NOT HAPPEN WITHOUT THIS**

Act 1:4-8 ESV And while staying with them **he ordered them** not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the promise of the Father, which, he said, "you heard from me; 5 for John baptized with water, but **you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit** not many days from now." SLIDE 6 So when they had come together, they asked him, "Lord, will you at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?" 7 He said to them, "It is not for you to know times or seasons that the Father has fixed by his own authority. SLIDE 8 But **you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you**, and **you will be my witnesses** in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and **to the end of the earth.**"

Mission resulted in - connection to Jesus & church (Lordship, repentance, baptism, Holy Spirit)

Act 2:36-47 ESV Let all the house of Israel therefore know for certain that God has made him both **Lord and Christ, this Jesus** whom you crucified." 37 Now when they heard this they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, "Brothers, what shall we do?" SLIDE 38 And Peter said to them, "**Repent and be baptized** every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ **for the forgiveness of your sins**, and **you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.** 39 For the promise is for you and for your children and for all who are far off, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to himself." SLIDE 40 And with many other words he bore witness and continued to exhort them, saying, "**Save yourselves from this crooked generation.**" 41 So those who received his word were baptized, and **there were added that day about three thousand souls.**

Participation in the church - strengthens connection to Jesus and to one another

- 42 And they devoted themselves to the **apostles' teaching** and the **fellowship**, to the **breaking of bread** and the **prayers.**

Connection to Christ and church moves us back into mission (serving the saved, reaching the lost)

43 And awe came upon every soul, and **many wonders and signs were being done** through the apostles. 44 And all who believed were together and had **all things in common.** 45 **And they were selling their possessions** and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need. SLIDE 46 And day by day, **attending the temple together** and **breaking bread in their homes**, they received their food with glad and generous hearts, 47 **praising God** and having **favor with all the people.** And **the Lord added** to their number day by day those who were being saved.

What Front Do You Need to Beef Up in 2024?

- 1) **Relationship to Jesus?**
 - a) INITIATION (Lordship, repentance, baptism, Holy Spirit)
 - b) CONTINUATION (time in the word? Commitment to prayer? Worship?)
- 2) **Participation in the Fellowship?** (spiritual gifts, generosity, break bread in home, temple together)
- 3) **Mission to the World?** (signs & wonders, favor with the people, evangelism - calling others to Christ)

The Mystery of His Will

Eph 1:7-10 ESV In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace, 8 which he lavished upon us, in all wisdom and insight 9 making known to us the mystery of his will, according to his purpose, which he set forth in Christ 10 as a plan for the fullness of time, **to unite all things in him**, things in heaven and things on earth.