

## Steps of an ACTIVE Church

### *The exceptional model of growth in the first church*

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Acts 5:14 – Believers were added to the Lord in increasing numbers—multitudes of both men and women. (CSB)

A. **Unbridled release** of the Spirit's power.

Acts 1:4-5, 8 – <sup>4</sup>On one occasion, while he was eating with them, he gave them this command: “Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised, which you have heard me speak about. <sup>5</sup>For John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.” <sup>8</sup>But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” (NIV)

B. **Whole-hearted commitment** to unity.

Acts 2:42-44 – <sup>42</sup>They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. <sup>43</sup>Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles. <sup>44</sup>All the believers were together and had everything in common. (NIV)

Ephesians 4:3 - making every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace. (CSB)

C. **Unwavering connection** in meeting together.

Acts 2:46-47 – <sup>46</sup>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, <sup>47</sup>praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved. (NIV)

D. **Purposefully expand** our vision of God.

Acts 4:19-20, 24-26– <sup>19</sup>But Peter and John replied, “Which is right in God’s eyes: to listen to you, or to him? You be the judges! <sup>20</sup>As for us, we cannot help speaking about what we have seen and heard.” <sup>24</sup>When they heard this, they raised their voices together in prayer to God. “Sovereign Lord,” they said, “you made the heavens and the earth and the sea, and everything in them. <sup>25</sup>You spoke by the Holy Spirit through the mouth of your servant, our father David: “Why do the nations rage and the peoples plot in vain? <sup>26</sup>The kings of the earth rise up and the rulers band together against the Lord and against his anointed one.’ (NIV)

E. **Urgently maximize** the results of prayer.

Acts 4:31 – After they prayed, the place where they were meeting was shaken. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the word of God boldly. (NIV)

Isaiah 62:6-7 - <sup>6</sup>Jerusalem, I have appointed watchmen on your walls; they will never be silent, day or night. There is no rest for you, who remind the Lord. <sup>7</sup>Do not give him rest until he establishes and makes Jerusalem the praise of the earth. (CSB)

F. **Humbly model** Christ-like generosity.

Acts 4:32-35

Philippians 2:1-3 - <sup>1</sup>If then there is any encouragement in Christ, if any consolation of love, if any fellowship with the Spirit, if any affection and mercy, <sup>2</sup>make my joy complete by thinking the same way, having the same love, united in spirit, intent on one purpose. <sup>3</sup>Do nothing out of selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility consider others as more important than yourselves. (CSB)

G. **Equip and empower** every member for ministry.

Acts 6:1-7

2 Timothy 3:16-17 - <sup>16</sup>All Scripture is inspired by God and is profitable for teaching, for rebuking, for correcting, for training in righteousness, <sup>17</sup>so that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work. (CSB)

H. **Boldly move out** with God's vision.

Acts 1:8 – But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come on you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth. (CSB)

Acts 8:1, 4 – Saul agreed with putting him to death. On that day a severe persecution broke out against the church in Jerusalem, and all except the apostles were scattered throughout the land of Judea and Samaria. <sup>4</sup>So those who were scattered went on their way preaching the word. (CBS)

Thought For The Week:

Growth results from physical and spiritual **ACTS**.