

Eisenhower Church of Christ

Why was the Church of the 1st Century So Vibrant?

The book of Acts shows that the early church grew because they were truly converted to Christ. Reading in Acts of those who were so concerned for peoples' souls should inspire every Christian.

This grand book stresses the success of the Lord's church. The fervent action of New Testament Christianity is found in the book of Acts. Studying this book, we find at least five reasons for their zealous/vibrant spirit. Let us note each of them.

First, they were not ashamed of the Gospel. They filled all of Jerusalem with the doctrine of Christ (Acts 5:28) as they went everywhere preaching the Word, publicly and privately (Acts 8:4-5; 5:42). No wonder the Word of God grew and multiplied (Acts 12:24) and great multitudes believed the Gospel (Acts 14:1-3; romans 1:16). Their sound went out into all the earth as every creature heard redemption's message (Romans 10:18; Colossians 1:23). The early Christians were successful and vibrant because they obeyed God rather than men (Acts 5:29).

Second, they preached boldly and without compromise. They were unapologetic for the Truth (John 8:32). They 'turned the world upside down' for their Master (Acts 17:6). They were friends of God, not of the world (Galatians 1:10; James 4:4). They stood firmly against error/evil and for Truth (Amos 5:15; Jude 3). We should take a stronger stand against the world and never be afraid of what men can do to us (Hebrews 13:5-6). When we preach like they preached we shall accomplish what they did!

Third, they were pure in life. Unlike the "shallow ground" hearers in the parable of the Sower (Luke 8), first century members of the church did not allow tribulations to hinder them in the great work of redemption. The trials of Paul made him stronger (2 Corinthians 11:23ff). Suffering with Christ was a prelude to reigning with Him (2 Timothy 2:11-120). Persecution, even unto death, was one of the reasons for the rapid growth of Christianity. Nero's opposition to the church only made the servants of God more determined to press on. Nothing separated them from the love of God for they knew He would be with them all the way to the end of the world (Romans 8:35-39).

Fourth, they loved each other. Paul's prayer was true of them, "And the Lord make you to increase and abound in love one toward another, and toward all men, even as we do toward you" (I Thessalonians 3:12). They provoked one another unto love and good works (Hebrews 10:14). These Christians loved one another purely and fervently. This gave them a strong tie to offset the allurements of the world. Their hearts were knit together in love (Colossians 2:2).

Fifth, they put the kingdom first (Matthew 6:33). The church was valuable to them and the church grew mightily (Philippians 1:21). The kingdom was so valuable to them (Matthew 13:45) and they willingly paid the price for Christ and transformed their lives (Romans 12:2). They did not look back (Luke 9:26). Heaven was their goal (Hebrews 9:24). They were content regardless of the afflictions the Truth brought them (Acts 14:22).

The book of Acts emphasizes the success of New Testament Christianity. Brethren, the same ingredients that made the church in the first century so vibrant and evangelistic will make us the same today! Let us not forget that Christ is glorified in His church forever (Ephesians 3:21).

—Jimmy Young

Sympathy

Our sincere sympathy goes out to the family of **Ashley Sanders**. Ashley passed from this life Saturday, September 12th in Missouri. She was a 30 year old, mother of two children (2 & 4 yr. old). Ashley's death was unexpected and was due to a urinary tract infection and a possible appendix rupture. Ashley was a close friend to Allen & Christy Weakland. Keep the Sanders family in your prayers.

Prayer Requests

Bill Tate, Linda's husband, developed an allergic reaction to his blood pressure medicine last week. He had been taking this medicine for a long time.

Concerns Update

Carolyn Wilkerson was able to go home from the hospital Monday evening, September 14th. Please continue to keep Carolyn in your prayers as she recuperates from her surgeries.

Patsy Montgomery is doing well. She will begin her second round of chemo soon. Please keep her in your prayers that the chemo will take care of the cancer that she is fighting. Patsy is Devida's sister-in-law who lives in Bainbridge, OH.

Tracy Leeth is still on the waiting list for a liver transplant. He is not doing very well at this time. Tracy is the son of Devida's first cousin. Keep him in your prayers.

Prayer List

Lee Roy Bell; Susan Bosse; Mack Bradford; Charles Browning; Neva Carrigan; Steve Chavez; Ruby Davis; Dayton Dennard; Jewell Bettes-Dennard; Brian Drake; James & Joyce Drake; John Ford; Hattie Gilmore; Anna Groves; Opal Hager; Winford Hambricht; Linda Horton; Lon & Lana Howard; Bobby Hunt; Bryan Jernigan; Susan Lee; Tracy Leeth; Connie Lowe; Jill McAfee; Elder & Glenna McCarty; Jack McCarty; Flossie Montgomery; Patsy Montgomery; Juan & Estella Morolez; Avery Ojado; Jonathan Pegan; Judy Phillips; Trina Plyler; Evan Rector; Elvia Ruckman; Blair Saldana; Andrew Schwarz; Christa Bella Sellers; Carmen Settle; Brenda Simmons; Nancy Slife; James Stevens; Marilyn Upshaw; Jurlean Warren; Bré elle Watts; Lisa Wells; Carolyn Wilkerson.

Eisenhower's Shut-ins

We have several dear members of this congregation who, because of illness and/or advanced age, are not able to assemble with us on the Lord's Day for Bible Study and Worship as they would like. They mean a great deal to us and we love them very much. These members are: Mildred Bell; Neva Carrigan; Roberta Hamil; Janice Laminack; Dusty and Kathy Marshall, Janelle Shirley, Wilma Squire and Lester Whisenant.

Youth

Bible Quiz Question...

What animals drew the chariot which took Elijah up to Heaven?

Last Week's Bible Quiz answer...

Mary took two turtle doves to the temple to offer after the birth of Jesus.

FYI

Denny Wilson is hosting a weekly radio program called "**Christian Take Aim**" at 6:30 pm Tuesdays; www.thegospelradionetwork.org. Feel free to please pick up a business card on the youth table in the foyer.

Watch *“In Search of the Lord’s Way”* every Sunday morning at 7:30 am on CBS, channel 7.

Also, tune in to hear a message from the Brown Trail Church of Christ on the *“Speaking the Truth in Love”* program every Sunday at 8:00 a.m. on ABC.

Events

The Westside Church of Christ in Midland will have a **“Fall Gospel Meeting”**—October 11th—14th with Allen Webster presenting the lessons. Please mark the date.

The Southside Church of Christ will have their **“18th Annual Lubbock Lectureship”**—October 4th -7th, 2015. Please check out the flyer posted on our bulletin board listing the speakers and the lessons to be presented during the lectureship.

The ladies of Eisenhower have been invited to the **Parkway Drive Church of Christ “Ladies Day”** Saturday, September 26th—9:00 a.m. –1:00 p.m. Registration will begin at 8;30 a.m. with a “Meet and Greet Continental Breakfast” in the foyer. The theme this year is: “Christian Women in Escalation and Obligation.” The Motivational Speaker is Urisonya Flunder from 20th & Birch church of Christ, Lubbock, TX

Lee Street Church of Christ, Midland, TX will hold their **“Fall Gospel Meeting”**, September 20th—24th with Roger Henderson from Dayton, OH as guest speaker. Their flyer is on our bulletin board.

Office News

Our **“Food Pantry”** is low on food. It needs to be kept supplied with food and supplies for the children’s homes and those in need especially at the holiday season.

The **New Mexico Children’s Home** will be in Odessa Tuesday, December 8th for a food drive. They are requesting **Cream of Chicken Soup**. Monetary donations also accepted.

There will be a **“Ladies Breakfast”** Saturday, October 3rd in the Annex. The men of the congregation will be doing the cooking.

Thought to Remember...

Excuses may satisfy you but not save you.

September 20, 2015

	A.M.	P.M.
Announcements	Jeff Wesson	Jeff Wesson
Song Leader	Rudy Ochoa	Cody Wesson
Sermon	Allen Weakland	Allen Weakland
Opening Prayer	Jeff Wesson	Jeff Wesson
Scripture	Dex Dennard	Tony Marrs
Second Prayer	Denny Wilson	Bill Tolbert
Closing Prayer	John Carroll	Clint Titlow
Lord's Supper		
West...	Bill Ryan Josh Wells Isaiah Armendarez	George Warren Communion (In Library)
East...	Tom Sorenson Trinidad Wood Scot Straw	

Other Responsibilities: *Elder* : Jeff Wesson 561-5302 *Deacon*: Josh Wells 770-6753 *Pulpit*: Chris Butler 362-7486 *Table*: George Warren 550-0805 *Song Leaders*: Denny Wilson 325-340-2291 *Recording Duties*: Jacob Carson 432-940-3775
Collections: Jacob Carson 432-940-3775

Sunday AM”

“Two Pivots”

(Exodus 3:6)

(Hebrews 11:16)

Sunday PM

“Two Great Commandments”

(Mark 12:28-34)

Our Records

Bible Class...81

Morning Worship...130

Evening Worship...71

Wednesday...76

Contribution...\$4,990.00

