

# The Church Triumphant

Acts 2:42-47

## Introduction

On Friday, during the funeral of Tracy Brown I asked this question, “What will you do with difficult cup that has been handed to you? Today as a church we face a similar question. Where do we go from here? You have lost your pastor and you still mourn that experience. You have many questions about the new pastor and where we go as a church. Next week you will vote on me as your new pastor. I think it is only fitting that I share with you what I believe God’s word says about the church.

**God is not calling me to be your CEO but your Shepard.** God has not called me to take my visions and make them your visions. He is calling me to join with you and allow Him to reveal to us together His plans.

Hanging on to every past success can be futile when their time has been spent.

Adopting the methods of other can be impotent when they are not Gods plan for our church.

We must allow God to reveal to us His plans for BBC and we must be faithful.

Read Scripture: Acts 2:42-47

### 1. **Devotion to the Right Things (vs. 42)**

#### a. **Teaching of God’s Word**

Devotion – steadfast commitment

Believers are eager to learn about God’s purposes

God’s truths applied to their hearts, their actions and everyday life

Discovering God’s answers to marriage, business, leadership, dating, parenting, relationships service, righteous living and every other aspect of our lives

We must find who God wants us to be, how He wants us to minister and we will find that in His Word

#### b. **Fellowship**

Spirit filled believers want to be with other believers

Not for entertainment but for common spirit

Be about God’s work with God’s people

Understand the concept in 1 Cor 12, of one body with many members

“Among your people, where you are”, Larnell Harris

Rather be among each other than anywhere else

#### c. **Breaking of Bread**

Reminder of His great sacrifice for salvation and cleansing

Reminder that all good things come from God

Important act of obedience

Fulfilling act of worship

Never becomes a meaningless ritual

#### d. **Prayer**

Pray seeking God’s Plan

Prayer is not only where we talk to God but it is where we listen to God.

Discover God’s Solutions to our problems & challenges

I want to lead you not with my best thinking but by God’s best leadership

I want to lead you not with my vision but rather God’s revelation, revealed to us all as one body

We must find who God wants us to be, how He wants us to minister and we will find that on our knees

## 2. Filled with Awe (vs. 43)

Hushed and subdued as we watch in awe?

God's presence in our hearts and lives

God's presence in our church

God providing opportunities for ministry & service

God providing for our needs

Ill: FBC like gypsies after the fire, fellowship, growing, serving

Ill: Child's prayer: "Dear God. I didn't think orange went with purple until I saw the sunset you made

Tuesday. That was really cool." Thomas

There are things God wants to do through BBC that we can't even imagine.

Reveal them to us Oh God!

## 3. United in Common Spirit (vs. 44)

We must not miss this important point

When we are devoted to the right things, we become united

Closer we come to God individually, closer to one another

With His presence, we become united in our ministry, objectives, beliefs and directions

Ill: Pam and I canoe trip

"Loving each other, loving You" Bill Gaither

United in Spirit, we are great instruments in building the Kingdom of God

Divided we become a lousy witness and a hindrance to the Kingdom of God

## 4. Giving Sacrificially (vs. 45)

Concerned about the loss

Concerned about the less fortunate

Doesn't apply in our capitalistic society?

What about love your brother does it not apply as well?

God's word is clear, we must love our brother. Love your brother!

If you say you love Me and you do not love your brother...

Quote: "Christians can learn through instruction but they cannot grow if they remain uninvolved in ministry and service" Rick Rusaw

## 5. Experiencing God's Blessings (vs. 46, 47)

Ill: In Texas, "He is all hat and no cattle"

At BBC, we will not be superficial, fancy on the outside or on the surface but empty on the inside

We want to be the genuine article of exactly what God wants us to be

How will we know when that is happening?

When we experience the blessings of God? – New Converts!

Not money, not buildings, not riches and good fortunes, new believers.

People meeting Jesus Christ and having their destiny changed for eternity.

Having their entire purpose in life turned around to serving God.

My most eager experience at BBC is Baptism, your sons and daughters, brothers & sisters, neighbors

Then, we will know we are experiencing the blessings of God!

## Conclusion

Human resources will not build the Kingdom of God, His grace will. We will be His instruments & servants. We will know our success in ministry not in buildings & money but in people to whom we have ministered & loved.

## Illustration: **Heart Surgery**

"Tomorrow morning," the surgeon began, "I'll open up your heart..."

"You'll find Jesus there," the boy interrupted.

The surgeon looked up, annoyed. "I'll cut your heart open," he continued, "to see how much damage has been done..."

"But when you open up my heart, you'll find Jesus in there", replied the boy.

The surgeon looked to the parents, who sat quietly.

"When I see how much damage has been done, I'll sew your heart and chest back up and I'll plan what to do next."

"But you'll find Jesus in my heart. The Bible says He lives there. You'll find Him in my heart."

The surgeon had had enough. "I'll tell you what I'll find in your heart. I'll find damaged muscle, low blood supply, and weakened vessels. And I'll find out if I can make you well or not."

"You'll find Jesus there too. He lives there." The surgeon left.

Following the surgery, the surgeon sat in his office, recording his, "...damaged aorta, damaged pulmonary vein, and widespread muscle degeneration. No hope for transplant, no hope for cure. Therapy: painkillers and bed rest. Prognosis: " here he paused, "death within one year."

He stopped the recorder, but there was more to be said. "Why?" he asked aloud. Why did You do this? You've put him here; You've put him in this pain; and You've cursed him to an early death. Why?"

The Lord answered and said, "The boy, My lamb, was not meant for your flock for long, for he is a part of My flock, and will forever be. Here, in My flock, he will feel no pain, and will be comforted as you cannot imagine. His parents will one day join him here, and they will know peace, and My flock will continue to grow."

The surgeon's tears were hot, but his anger was hotter. "You created that boy, and You created that heart. He'll be dead in months. Why?" The Lord answered, "The boy, My lamb, shall return to My flock, for he has done his duty: I did not put My lamb with your flock to lose him, but to retrieve another lost lamb."

The surgeon wept.

Later the surgeon sat beside the boy's bed; the boy's parents sat across from him. The boy awoke and whispered, "Did you cut open my heart?"

"Yes," said the surgeon. "What did you find?" asked the boy. "I found Jesus," said the surgeon.

**May all those who come into BBC, find Jesus.**