

A “Great” Congregation



Churches Are Not Great Because Of Their . . .

Size

Wealth

Preacher

Reputation

Heritage

Traditions



Jerusalem Church

- Prominent spiritual features
- Examples of worthiness
- “Great” things, *Acts 4:32-37*



“Great” Unity of Faith



Acts 4:32



Unity of Faith

- Hearts and lives united in Christ,
Acts 4:32; 1 Corinthians 1:10
 - Devoted to God's word, *Acts 2:42*
 - Truth produces faith
 - Truth instills the value of unity and strength of oneness, *2 Timothy 2:2*



Unity of Faith

- **Common practices, 4:32 (2:42-46)**
- **Guard unity in Christ, *Eph. 4:1-3***
 - **Factionousness happens when hearts are not united in truth and faith, *1 Corinthians 3:1-4 (4:6)***
 - **Be likeminded, *Romans 15:5-6***



“Great” Power



Acts 4:33



Power of God

- Emboldened apostles' preaching, *Acts 1:8; 2:43; 4:31 (Mark 16:20)*
- We rely on their testimony, *Gal. 1:11-12; Eph. 3:3-5, 20-21*
 - Faith in God's power, *1 Cor. 2:4-5*
 - A truth-guided church relies on the power of God's word, *Rev. 2:29*



“Great” Grace



Acts 4:33



Blessed with Grace

- Greatly blessed, *Ephesians 1:3-7*
- Stand in grace, *Romans 5:1-2*
 - Justified by faith
 - Peace with God
 - Access by faith into grace
 - Rejoice in hope of glory
 - Great assurance of hope, *Rom. 5:3-5*



“Great” Sacrifice



Acts 4:34-35



Mutual Sacrifice

- To meet needs, *Acts 2:44-45*
- Full expression of love helps one another in times of need, *1 John 3:16-19*
 - Common treasury, *Acts 4:35*
 - Also to relieve brethren in other places, *1 Corinthians 16:1-3*



“Great” Encouragement



Acts 4:36-37



Son of Encouragement

- Every church needs a Barnabas
Acts 11:21-24
- Every Christian can be a
Barnabas, *Hebrews 10:24-25*
 - We can work on becoming more
effective encouragers of others,
Galatians 6:2 (1 Thess. 5:14-15)



“Great” Fear



Acts 5:5, 11



Reverence for God

- **Genuine character and authentic faith contrasted, *Acts 4:36-5:2***
- **Two reactions, *Acts 5:12-14***
 - **None like Ananias and Sapphira wanted any part of the church**
 - **People of faith and integrity were being saved (*Acts 2:47*)**



Challenges to Face

- **False teachers, *Acts 15***
- **Negligence, apathy, and unbelief, *Heb. 3:12-14; 4:11; 5:12; 6:11-12; 12:1***
- **Any church that thinks it cannot fall has already started to drift, *Hebrews 10:36 (2:1)***

