



REBUILDING THE CHURCH

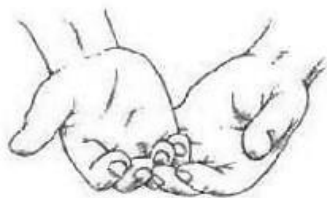
HAGGAI STUDY



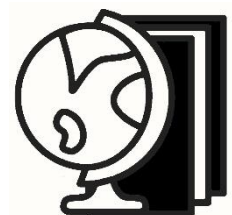
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The 4-Stage Growth Development for Revitalizing a Church

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|---|------------|-------------------|
| 1. Pioneer – Design a Biblical Foundation... | | Haggai 1:1-15 |
| a. Realign with Scripture... | OT Summary | 1:1-4 |
| b. Renew our Minds | Clarify | 1:5-11 |
| c. Redirect our Hearts; | Align | 1:12-15 |
| 2. Parent – Structure a Vision... | | Haggai 2:1-9 |
| a. Reconstruct our Plan | | 2:1-4 |
| b. Reform our Tradition | | 2:5 |
| c. Replant the Missional Mandate | | 2:6-9 |
| 3. Partner – Develop a Strategy... | | Haggai 2:10-23 |
| a. Recommit to the Great Commandment | | 2:10-19 |
| b. Reinstitute Discipleship | | 2:20-23 |
| c. Rebuild our Process | Movement | Deuteronomy 6:5-7 |
| 4. Participant – Expand Out... | | Acts 1 & 2 |
| a. Recycle our Resources | Focus | 1:4-26 |
| d. Replicate the Biblical Church | | 2:14-36 |
| b. Repeat the Model to Plant Churches | | 2:37-47 |

What is our Vision Statement for the Church?

Our Vision statement should line up with scripture, encourage the fellowship of believers, and connect to our culture.

- A SIMPLE CHURCH is a congregation designed around a straightforward and strategic process that moves people through the stages of spiritual growth.
- Spiritual growth, which is sanctification, is the process of the believer becoming more and more like Christ.
Clarity, Alignment, Movement, Focus

What are some things involved to move people through the stages of spiritual growth?

CLARITY – the ability of the process to be communicated and understood by the people.

ALIGNMENT – the arrangement of all ministries and staff around the same simple process.

MOVEMENT – the sub sequential steps in the process that cause people to move toward greater areas of commitment.

FOCUS – the commitment to abandon everything that falls outside the simple ministry process.



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**EXPAND OUT:
(PART 4 OF REBUILDING THE CHURCH)
Expand Out by Recycling our Resources
Acts 1:4-26**

**March 3-24, 2019
Pastor Trevor Cooper**

FOCUS

Acts was written by Luke, who was a great physician and historian. The 1st account is found in Luke 1 in consecutive order and is addressed to Theophilus (publisher). The book of Acts is a historical book and we read this morning of actual occurrences. **Let us be inspired and motivated by their passion, obedience, and their surrender.**

READ, ACTS 1:1-11

First, We Recycle Christ's WORK through the CHURCH. (v 1-2)

The Lord began His work of REDEMPTION through His Son Jesus. The Lord continues His work of REACHING all nations. The Lord CHOSE His people for service. The word "began" tells us that Jesus is still working, but not through Himself only but now through the church. The work of blessing other nations is being done by the leading and guiding of the Holy Spirit within the Church. (Matt 28:20) ³ Jesus gives EVIDENCE to His disciples. ⁴ How often do we wait for the LORD? When we ask the right Q's, do we seek the right answers? We need clarity & Understanding?

Second, We Recycle Christ's MISSION as the CHURCH. (v 6-8)

The Church is the MISSION; there is no Plan B. ⁶The apostles waited for Jesus' political power. ⁸ The mission of spreading the gospel was the major reason the Holy Spirit empowered them. Soon they would receive power for witnessing and receive His indwelling Spirit that illuminates the understanding of Scripture and things to come. **The Church is the WITNESS of Christ.** Wherever you are at either on an Airplane, standing in line, or hanging out at home, Christians are to be a good witness. We can also portray a bad witness for Christ as well but may it never be. This event dramatically altered world history, and the gospel message eventually reached all parts of the earth. (Matthew 28:19, 20)
Witnesses – are people who tell the truth about Jesus Christ. This Greek word means "one who dies for his faith" because that was commonly the price of witnessing.
3. The Church spreads the GOSPEL to reach YOU.
Therefore, in our Christian lives it is important that we depend on the Holy Spirit's power, recognizing that any significant work is done "Not by might, nor by power, but by my Spirit, says the Lord of hosts" Zechariah 4:6

Third, We Recycle Christ's QUALIFICATIONS for Church LEADERSHIP. (v 12-26)

How are Leaders for the Church chosen? (v 2 & 24) READ, Acts 1:12-17 **The Lord sovereignly chose the APOSTLES.** "You didn't choose me. I chose you. I appointed you to go and produce lasting fruit, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask for, using my name." John 15:16

¹² Olivet is located across the Kidron Valley, East of Jerusalem, looking over the city which was the site from which Jesus ascended into heaven. Upper room – same room where Jesus appeared to them and where the last supper was held. Men and women of faith who were (filled & consistent in deep conversation, meditation, and prayer toward the church's responsibility. ¹⁵ They spent ten

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days of prayer and fellowship. Jesus had Discipleship Groups when you look at it. Jesus had Small Groups of 12 & Community Groups of 120. He also had an Accountability Group of just 3 (Peter, James, and John). Recycling Jesus' teachings & model by encouraging everyone at First Baptist Church of Cypress to be in a Small Group once a week.

It was God's purpose to replace Judas and have only 12 apostles (Matt. 19:28 "thrones-tribes")²⁴ through prayer and unity of one Spirit, they sought God to choose the 12th apostle. ²⁶ A common OT method of determining God's will. This is the last biblical mention of lots – the coming of the Spirit made it unnecessary. **The Lord sovereignly chose the APOSTLES. The Lord is sovereignly choosing all BELIEVERS.**

"All praise to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly realms because we are united with Christ. ⁴ Even before he made the world, God loved us and chose us in Christ to be holy and without fault in his eyes. ⁵ God decided in advance to adopt us into his own family by bringing us to himself through Jesus Christ. This is what he wanted to do, and it gave him great pleasure. ⁶ So we praise God for the glorious grace he has poured out on us who belong to his dear Son." Ephesians 1:3-6 "God the Father knew you and chose you long ago, and his Spirit has made you holy. As a result, you have obeyed him and have been cleansed by the blood of Jesus Christ." 1 Peter 1:2

1 Timothy 3:1-13 (Leaders); 1 Timothy 3:8-13; (Deacons) Titus 1:5-9 (Elders)

Leader/Overseer – any man or woman above reproach as God's steward, respectable and not quick-tempered, not addicted to wine, not aggressive, not fond of easy gain; but hospitable, loving what is good, sensible, just, devout, self-controlled, free from the love of money, faithful words fit for teaching to exhort other believers. **Deacons** – any man or woman of dignity (serious about important things), not double-tongued (non-hypocritical, but honest & consistent), not addicted to much wine nor fond of sordid gain (making money by their role), always being evaluated of character and service by the church, while not gossips, but temperate and faithful in all things. **Elders** – any man must live above reproach, the husband of one wife or pure single man, believing children and not rebellious to the gospel.

Understanding Pentecost: Spirit & Tongue

Acts 2:1-13

First, Believers are BAPTIZED with the Spirit (READ, Acts 1:5)

Differing views... First, some believe that **Baptism in the Spirit is SIMULTANEOUS with conversion.**

Second, others believe that **Baptism in the Spirit is AFTER conversion.**

We believe at First Baptist Church of Cypress the latter. That this is a one-time act by which God places believers into His body. "For we were all baptized by one Spirit into one body – whether Jews or Greeks, slave or free – and we were all given the one Spirit to drink." 1 Corinthians 12:13

The Holy Spirit alone brings new life to God's people. Baptism of the Spirit is a distinctive blessing for all new covenant believers to understand OT imagery of God pouring His Spirit out onto the people! The Greek word "Baptisto" appeared in the NT but is actually all over the OT and used as a word of "Cleansing". The origins of baptism are found in the book of Leviticus where the priests were commanded to perform a symbolic cleansing in water before and after performing their priestly duties found in Leviticus 16:4-10. **We receive the full "BAPTISM" of the Spirit at SALVATION.**

"And it happened that while Apollos was at Corinth, Paul passed through the inland country and came to Ephesus. There he found some disciples. ² And he said to them, "Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?" And they said, "No, we have not even heard that there is a Holy

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Spirit.” ³ And he said, “Into what then were you baptized?” They said, “Into John’s baptism.” ⁴ And Paul said, “John baptized with the baptism of repentance, telling the people to believe in the one who was to come after him, that is, Jesus.” ⁵ On hearing this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. ⁶ And when Paul had laid his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came on them, and they began speaking in tongues and prophesying. ⁷ There were about twelve men in all.” Acts 19:1-7

Second, Believers are FILLED with the Spirit (READ, Acts 2:1-4)

This is different to that baptism with the Spirit. **We are filled with the Spirit at SUBMISSION.** “Filling” is a repeated reality of Spirit-controlled behavior that God commands believers to have. **Filled with the Spirit is an ONGOING experience.** “Don’t be drunk with wine, because that will ruin your life. Instead, be filled with the Holy Spirit,” Ephesians 5:18 “And I will put my Spirit in you and move you to follow my decrees and be careful to keep my laws.” Ezekiel 36:27

We must always be willing to submit to the Spirit and move when the Spirit fills us. While serving in Montana as a North American Missionary for two summers, some kids were riding with me in a Church van on our way to a movie matinee. When we arrived at the theater and parked in a Parking garage, some of the kids were pretending that the garage would collapse and smash the van. However, the oldest girl spoke up and began sharing the gospel with the whole van saying that death is not something to be afraid of if you have Jesus in your heart as LORD and Savior. That day, six children prayed to receive Christ in their life. While I was in Japan, God gave our Mission Team some wonderful opportunities to share the gospel with Japanese students. My friend Bobby went on a Mission Trip in Rio de Janeiro. While he was there sharing the gospel to a group of people in this small house, a man walked in with a machine gun threatening to kill anyone who preaches. My friend continued and while the man brought fear to others, he left just as quick as him came and never returned. The Spirit of God filled these people to be used by God and do marvelous things. **We experience the filling of the Spirit throughout our lives ONLY if we receive the Spirit’s baptism through Salvation.**

Third, Understanding the Gift of TONGUES (READ, Acts 2:5-13)

³⁻⁴ We don’t know if “they” was only the apostles or the 120 followers, but generally it refers to the group the text speaks of prior to this phrase. ^{2:37} indicates the apostles speaking in tongues and being set apart from the rest of the group. Speaking in tongues, biblically, as the spirit gives them utterance, is not the Spirit speaking but the person speaking. If it were the Spirit speaking, we would not need so much instruction about tongues in

READ, 1 Corinthians 14:1-5

This was the first time hearing speaking in tongues; Singular Tongue builds up self in verses 1-4. While the real tongues are found in verses 5 & 27-28. The Greek word for this “tongue” mean language. Verse 10, 11, 21 supports Paul is speaking of human languages. Paul instructs the use of “words by humans or like angels” to use an interpreter and if no interpreter then do it alone. People would speak to God normal. **Tongues is not a more VALUABLE gift Paul suggests but rather speaking the Word of God. In Acts 2, we see the gift of speaking in foreign LANGUAGES.** This particular use of tongue was given for other people to hear the “mighty works of God” in their own language. The 5 languages of 15 nations were: Aramaic; eastern side of Judea 10 tribes (_{v 9a}); Hebrew; west to Judea (_{v 9b}); Greek; north to Asia Minor; Turkey (_{v 9c}); Greek; North Africa (_{v 10a}); Latin; Rome (_{v 10b}); Nabataea, Cretans & Arabians (_{v 11}) ¹²⁻¹³ Men were “amazed & perplexed” The scriptures guide us in what are tongues used for, when they should take place, and how should they be interpreted. We could mess it up; We need the Holy Spirit and Instruction to not mess it up. We need to submit to each other and question all practices of gifts (teaching, preaching, and hospitality) and making sure it’s

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being done correctly and biblically. Have you received the Baptism of the Spirit? Have you experienced the filling of the Spirit?

Expand Out by Replicating the Biblical Church

Acts 2:14-36

The major reason why the Spirit descended is so that the gospel of Jesus Christ would eventually reach all parts of the earth. Acts 2:1-13 (setting the scene) "A violent rushing wind" was earlier referred from Latin translation as the "Holy Gust". And when Latin was translated over into English, this is where we get the KJV name of Holy Ghost, which is now referred to as the Holy Spirit. **The Day of PENTECOST was 50 days after the Sabbath of the Passover week.** This was considered the Feast of Weeks because it was celebrated seven weeks after Passover and every Jewish man was to participate and celebrate these feasts. Some would stay for seven weeks and build up tent cities around the city. There were 1,000's of people at Jerusalem.

READ, Acts 2:22-24

First, The Apostles' ACTS are Clarified in Peter's MESSAGE. (v 22-36)

¹⁴⁻¹⁵Peter addresses the mockery men made about the speaking of tongues "They are full of sweet wine" suggests they were drunk. However, it was only 9 in the morning and these men had the Spirit.

A miraculous sign needs the SUPPORT of the gospel preached for SALVATION to occur. Now who was this miracle and message addressed to specifically? In verse 5, we see that the devout Old Testament Jews were being introduced to the gospel and even some for the first time. Like many professing Christians, some were devout in their faith while others never read their bible. Peter stands to give his 1st Sermon, which led to 3,000 conversions and established the church. **The Church must replicate the PREACHING of the Truth.**

Second, The Old Testament PROPHECIES Provide EVIDENCE that Jesus Christ is Messiah.

¹⁶⁻²¹ Joel's prophecy here will not be fulfilled until the millennial kingdom. Peter points to Pentecost as a pre-fulfillment, a taste of what will happen when the Spirit is poured out on all the redeemed.

Dreams and visions were not primary way God speaks in biblical days nor are they primary today, but they will be in the last days including signs and wonders of the resurrected & exalted Christ!

²²⁻²⁴ Peter presented and defended Jesus Christ as Israel's Messiah. This was the King they have been waiting for! A man from Nazarene who performed miracles and signs to show Himself as God's Son was to die on the cross for all mankind; these godless men were instruments God used to do it. BUT GOD... raised Him up; for death could not keep Jesus in the grave. **The Church must replicate PROOF of the Truth.**

Third, Jesus Christ is GOD and LORD Over All. ²⁵⁻²⁸ We see the Lord was speaking of His own resurrection prophetically through David. ²⁹ Peter reminded the Jews to not look for a Messiah in David, but only in Christ. Christ is Messiah and pours out His Spirit upon His people. Three things the Spirit does: (vv. 2:25-28) **The Spirit fills us with CONFIDENCE.** ²⁵ **The Spirit fills us with PRAISE.** ²⁶ **The Spirit fills us with GLADNESS.** ²⁸ As Peter preached the resurrection, his listeners were stunned that they had killed their Messiah. **The Church must replicate the PROCLAMATION of the Truth.**

Two groups that I want us to identify with today: The first group are the **DEVOTED People Recognizes a MESSAGE from God.** Do we spend time with God enough to recognize His voice when He speaks,

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to trust His character & person when it's put into question? Devote your life to Christ... OR be like the second group which are the **DESPAIRING People Who Resents a MOVEMENT by God**. Another group of men who said they were drunk. Why? They have cynical attitudes. People today who avoid seeking Christ, stop attending church, stop praying or reading scripture and have become so distant from God that it is foreign to them. May we be a church that gives clarity, evidence and truth that Jesus is alive and is Lord. May we replicate the Biblical Church in everything we do and say!

Expand Out by Repeating the Model to Plant Churches

Acts 2:37-47

Hanging from the cross Jesus spoke, "Father forgive them, for they do not know what they do." In Acts 2, we see many Jews believed in Christ after His death and ascension, realizing that the One whom they rejected was truly the Messiah.

I. The Holy Spirit AWAKENS a people. (vv. 37-42)

The Spirit regenerates/transforms. We see genuine repentance of knowing that the evil of sin must be forsaken and the person and work of Christ must be embraced. The word "Repent" means to "turn away" then "turn toward". This transformation refers to: **A Change of HEART when the Spirit OPENED their eyes.**³⁸ A change of heart reveals that Forgiveness was given. **A Change of MIND when the People RECEIVED the Word.**³⁹ A change of mind reveals a different Mission Perspective. **A Change of LIFESTYLE when the People DEVOTED Themselves.**⁴¹ This change of lifestyle reveals an Action was needing to be made.

In Acts 2:47, Luke tells us that the growth of the church and baptisms came not by human effort alone, but that "the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved". This process whereby Christ builds the church is just a continuation of the pattern established by God in the OT whereby he called people to himself to be a worshipping assembly before him. Christ has been exalted with the highest authority so that both believers in the NT age and believers in the OT age are to become the church.

II. The Church is the COMMUNITY of all true believers for all TIME. (v 42-46)

There is a partnership between Christians who share in the passion and obedience to Christ and one another. We love eating together, praying and worship together as we hold all things in common. All they possessed individually is shared corporately to provide for those in need. **The Jerusalem church was joyful because its single FOCUS was on Jesus Christ. For us to receive the SPIRIT, we must receive CHRIST.** If you desire to be transformed and turn away from that sin and turn toward Christ, then ask God to save you and commit to Him being Lord of your life.

III. Obeying Christ in Discipleship EXPANDS the Church. (v 47)

The Holy Spirit enables the church to experience God's presence, obey God's commands and fulfill God's purpose which is found in Acts 1:8 "to be My witnesses in Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria and to the ends of the earth." Reading, Acts 8:1 we see the effects of obedience.

"And Saul approved of his execution. And there arose on that day a great persecution against the church in Jerusalem, and they were all scattered throughout the regions of Judea and Samaria, except the apostles."

Through persecution the message was spread farther and more rapidly. As the Apostolic Father Tertullian said, "The blood of Christians is the seed of the Church." The Spirit unites our lives with Christ through His presence in us.

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John Calvin says, "We must examine this question. How do we receive these benefits which the Father bestowed on his only-begotten Son – not for Christ's own private use but that he might enrich poor and needy men? First, we must understand that as long as Christ remains outside of us, and we are separated from him, all that he has suffered and done for the salvation of the human race remains useless and of not value to us... All that he possesses is nothing to us until we grow into one body with him... {And} the Holy Spirit is the bond by which Christ effectually unites us to himself."

Making a Commitment to Christ & His Church means ... you are willing to grow deeper, you are entrusting Christ to lead, you are putting your faith into practice. Join me in Prayer for our Vision Statement ... describing who we are as First Baptist Church. We will Design a Biblical Foundation that brings clarity, Structure a Vision that aligns us to God's Word, Develop a Strategy to move everyone forward in maturity and growth, and Expand Out by staying focused on Christ and His Mission.

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