

How Do We Become a Great Church?

Great Grace = Greatness

Acts 4:33

And with great power gave the apostles witness of the resurrection of the Lord Jesus: and great grace was upon them all.

INTRODUCTION:

(Romans 5:20)

But where sin abounded, grace did much more abound:

(Romans 6:14)

For sin shall not have dominion over you: for ye are not under the law, but under grace.

(Romans 12:6)

Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, whether prophecy, let us prophesy according to the proportion of faith;

(1 Cor. 15:10)

But by the grace of God I am what I am:

(2 Cor. 8:9)

For ye know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that, though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, that ye through his poverty might be rich.

(2 Cor. 12:9)

And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.

(Eph 2:5)

(by grace ye are saved;)

- What is Great Grace? There are two forms or application of grace:
 1. Divine Grace! (When God flows in grace toward us!)

2. Delegated Grace! (When we flow in grace imparted from God toward others!)

- Great Grace is the application of God's supernatural love and mercy upon the lives of men regardless of whether they desire that love or not!
- How do you measure the greatness of a church or a local congregation?
- It is simple! How much grace do we possess?

5 Marks of A Great Church

1. A Great Church is a place where you can share your victories or defeats and know that you are received and accepted! (V.23)

And being let go, they went to their own company, and reported all that the chief priests and elders had said unto them.

2. A Great Church is a place that will pray as one voice! They pray for others needs with the same intensity as their own! (V.24a)

And when they heard that, they lifted up their voice to God with one accord,

3. A Great Church will pray those tough prayers and stand up in the midst of opposition and refuse to back up! (V.24b-30)

...and said, Lord, thou art God, which hast made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and all that in them is:

25 Who by the mouth of thy servant David hast said, Why did the heathen rage, and the people imagine vain things?

26 The kings of the earth stood up, and the rulers were gathered together against the Lord, and against his Christ.

27 For of a truth against thy holy child Jesus, whom thou hast anointed, both Herod, and Pontius Pilate, with the Gentiles, and the people of Israel, were gathered together,

28 For to do whatsoever thy hand and thy counsel determined before to be done.

29 And now, Lord, behold their threatenings: and grant unto thy servants, that with all boldness they may speak thy word,

30 By stretching forth thine hand to heal; and that signs and wonders may be done by the name of thy holy child Jesus.

4. A Great Church understands the design of God's power and is not attached to the things of this world! (V.31 & 32)

And when they had prayed, the place was shaken where they were assembled together; and they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and they spake the word of God with boldness.

32 And the multitude of them that believed were of one heart and of one soul: neither said any of them that ought of the things which he possessed was his own; but they had all things common.

5. A Great Church is marked by the power of His resurrection and known by its great grace! (V.33-35)

And with great power gave the apostles witness of the resurrection of the Lord Jesus: and great grace was upon them all.

34 Neither was there any among them that lacked: for as many as were possessors of lands or houses sold them, and brought the prices of the things that were sold,

35 And laid them down at the apostles' feet: and distribution was made unto every man according as he had need.