

Series: Choices

Choosing to Grow the Church

Acts 2:1-21 (NIV)

1. THE CHURCH MUST CHOOSE AN ATMOSPHERE OF FREEDOM WHERE GOD CAN MOVE.

v. 1 *"When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place."*

The followers of Jesus had cultivated an atmosphere in which God was free to move. They did it in two ways.

- Obedience to His Word.

v. 4 *"Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised, which you have heard me speak about."*

- Faith in His Promise.

*...in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit...
(Acts 1:5)*

*...you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you,
and you will be my witnesses...(Acts 1:8)*

2. THE CHURCH MUST HAVE THE ATTENTION OF OUTSIDERS.

v. 7-8 *"Utterly amazed, they asked: 'Are not all these men who are speaking Galileans? Then how is it that each of us hears them in his own native language?'"*

v. 12 *"Amazed and perplexed, they asked one another, 'What does this mean?'"*

v.13 *"But others were making fun of them, saying, 'They have had too much wine.'"*

- We grab attention by being authentic.
- We grab attention by being different.
- We grab attention by our love.

3. THE CHURCH MUST CHOOSE TO OPEN ITS DOORS.

- Race Discrimination

v. 17 *"God says, 'In the last days I will pour out my Spirit on all kinds of people...'"*

- Gender Discrimination

v. 17 *"...Your sons and daughters will prophesy."*

- Age Discrimination

v. 17 *"...Your young men will see visions, and your old men will dream dreams."*

4. THE CHURCH MUST CHOOSE EVANGELISM AS A PRIORITY.

v. 21 *"Then anyone who calls upon the name of the Lord will be saved."*

Later, Peter finished his message by saying, "Repent and be baptized in the name of Jesus for the remission of your sins..." and he repeats the promise Christ made earlier: "And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit." (Acts 2:38)

Reaching our community is a mandate from God and He will provide everything we need to make it happen, but we must choose to join God in what He wants to do in our world.