

mosaic

C O M M U N I T Y



Membership Covenant

Living as a collaborative and cohesive expression of God's love and mercy to the people of our community, nation and world.





2 The New Testament Example

The New Testament church in the book of Acts presents the most effective model for this ministry mission. Before Christ's ascension, he commanded the apostles to wait for the baptism of the Holy Spirit before they were to take the message of Christ from their local proximity to the edges of their known world. They prayed together in faith and expectation for this supernatural baptism.

The empowerment they received from this new baptism immediately resulted in thousands being added to their numbers. The consistent persecution they faced from polytheistic government officials and legalistic religious zealots only served to spread the gospel and compel the believers to share what they had seen and heard firsthand. They encountered something deeper than a religion that purified by its laws; they found a truth and freedom that purified by Christ's redemptive blood.

When circumstances arose to suffocate the Way, the Holy Spirit would breathe fresh life, courage, and vision to the leaders. They fought boldly with the love of Christ, served humbly with the conviction of the Holy Spirit and taught responsibly with the Word of God. Salvation resulted from the believers disciplined lifestyles. Salvation always followed the gifts of the Spirit and the regular occurrences of signs and wonders.

From this foundation we understand that the churches mandate to pray in order to be spiritually unified. We must also embrace the directive that the only effective permanent spiritual change occurs through the supernatural actions of the Holy Spirit, and we must be completely and utterly reliant on him.

When we trust the Spirit to move on the hearts of those to whom we minister, we can in faith expect to be used in the gifts of the Spirit and to see signs and wonders. However, as clearly exemplified in the Early Church, the supernatural gifts and miraculous signs and wonders point people to Christ, not to those operating in the gifts or those through whom the miracles occur.

Christ lovingly established himself the superior and ultimate governing authority of the church. Our message and mission must remain about him, our lives lived for him and our hearts aligned in obedience to him. Circumstances, governments, and religious leaders must ultimately all submit to the authority of Christ.

The apostles demonstrate the challenge of waging through our human tendency to replace Christ's work by man's regulations and culture's expectations. The New Testament example also teaches that our actions can reflect purity, but not prove it. Purity is a condition of the heart as a result of submission to the conviction of the Spirit, not to submission to the religious laws and ceremonies of men.

We also accept that love serves as a powerful weapon and establishes a banner over God's people that draw others to him. Tremendous influence occurs when we emulate Christ's and the apostle's examples of not loving our lives so much we won't use them as resources for those in need. We receive that effective authority leads in service to others.

A community atmosphere creates covenant opportunities. Early church members protected and promoted community through solid teaching,

