

## **The Church (Acts 1:8)**

Now that Jesus ascended to heaven, the Apostles move to the front of the line so they can build the church. This church, which began in Acts 2, experiences some amazing growth from its birth and continued to grow through the trials they suffered as they faced the opposition from the Judaizers. After dealing with the prejudices of old, they continued to grow and gain prominence in the Mediterranean World. Christianity as it is now called replaced the other religions as God blessed the work of the Apostles. The foundation was laid and now it is our turn to continue what the Apostles started. This sermon series will help us focus on what we should be doing today.

**6/4 - Pentecost (Acts 2:1-41):** 10 days had passed since Jesus ascended into heaven, and it is now time to start building the church. God is getting ready to unleash the church on the world, and the Disciples were going to lead the way. They were to be the Apostles of the church which means the pioneers who will be building what God has designed. Jesus has set the standard; He laid the foundation, now it is the Disciples' turn to build the church upon that foundation! Let's see how God begins the church on the day of Pentecost.

**6/11 - The Fellowship of Believers (Acts 2:42-47):** Like the dog who finally catches the car he was chasing, the Apostles have all of these people who responded to the Gospel message, and now they need to organize them. This is where we see the bare essentials of the worship service, and the people responded by being like-minded in their fellowship. They began to grow from the Apostles' teachings and now the church is moving forward with momentum.

**6/18 - The Jerusalem Council (Acts 15):** This chapter gives us their first "Church-wide" issue with false teaching. In an effort to control the damage that was caused, the churches sought an "Official" answer from the leaders in Jerusalem. There is much we can learn from this, and one of the lessons is the fact that sometimes it helps to seek out those who are more knowledgeable when there is an issue that cannot be solved locally.

**6/25 - 4 Pillars of the Church (John 17:20, 21):** After the generation of the Apostles ended, the church was left with a blueprint of how to be a church. Unfortunately, there are several versions of that blueprint available today in the form of denominations. How can we tell which blueprint is correct? The prayer of Jesus can help. He prayed that the church be built on 4 pillars:

1. Lordship of Christ
2. Authority of the Bible
3. Unity of believers
4. Evangelism of the world