

AM. OUTLINE  
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## BEING A "GREAT" CHURCH

(Acts 4:1-12)

**INTRODUCTION** - to be a "great" church, we need what they had.

1. (Acts 4:33) "And with **great power** gave the apostles witness of the resurrection of the Lord Jesus"

(v7) "By what power, or by what name, have ye done this?" - Answer: (v13) "they had been with Jesus" (v24) "they lifted up their voice to God" (v31) "all filled with the Holy Spirit" (v32) "were of one heart" (v33) "gave ... witness ..."

We have the same, too - (1 Peter 2:21) "follow his steps" (1 Thess. 5:17) "Pray ..."  
(Gal. 5:25) "If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit"  
(Eph. 4:3) "unity" (Rms. 1:16) "I am not ashamed of the gospel ..."

2. (Acts 4:33) "... and **great grace** was upon them all."

We have that, too - (Titus 2:11) "The grace of God has appeared that brings salvation to all"

We are also gracious to one another: (Heb. 6:9-11) "... ye have ministered to saints ..."

3. (Acts 5:11) "And **great fear** came on all the church ..."

Many of us have great fear that moves us to obey God in all things.  
(Ecc. 12:13; Matt. 10:28; Heb. 10:30-31)

4. (Acts 8:1) "At that time, there was **great persecution** against the church ..."

Right now we pray, "God, thank you that we may assemble free of molestation."  
The day may come when we do not enjoy this blessing.

5. (Acts 8:5) "... the city of Samaria, and preached Christ unto them"  
(v8) "And there was **great joy** in that city."

Salvation is always an occasion of joy, and we rejoice with each conversion.

6. (Acts 11:21) "... and a **great number** believed, and turned unto the Lord"

Growth of the NT church - (Acts 2:41) "about 3000" (Acts 4:4) "about 5000"  
(Acts 5:14) "more added ... multitudes" (Acts 6:7) "multiplied"  
(Acts 16:5) "increased in number daily" (Acts 18:8) "many"

We have great numbers; however, we don't always see the fruit of our labor (1 Cor. 3:6).

Someone said, "A child can count the number of seeds in an apple,  
but only God knows how many apples are in a seed."

**CLOSE** - a "great" church is the result of "so great a salvation" (Heb. 2:3).