The Essentials of a Growing Church (Part 7)
- Sharing the Good News -
Acts 2:42-47

42 They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching, to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread, and to prayer.

43 Everyone was filled with awe, and many wonders and signs were being performed through the apostles. 44 Now all the believers were together and held all things in common. 45 They sold their possessions and property and distributed the proceeds to all, as any had need. 46 Every day they devoted themselves to meeting together in the temple, and broke bread from house to house. They ate their food with joyful and sincere hearts, 47 praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. Every day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved. (Acts 2:42-47 CSB)

- There are seven essentials to which the first believers devoted themselves. We have been able to look at the first six essentials: Apostles' teaching, Fellowship, Breaking of Bread, Prayer, Giving or Ministering to one another, and Praising God or Worship.
- In this message, our focus is on Sharing the Good News or Evangelism - "the Lord added to their number who were being saved."
- Worship should result in the Salvation of many people through the Mission of God which may be accomplished by His people who devotedly praise His Name.
- In other words, the outcome of worship should be more worship from more people who are added as new worshippers.

Key Milestones of the Growth of the Church in Acts

But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come on you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." Acts 1:8 (CSB)

In Jerusalem

Acts 2:41 (CSB)

So those who accepted his message were baptized, and that day about three thousand people were added to them.

Acts 2:47 (CSB)

praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. Every day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

Acts 4:4 (CSB)

But many of those who heard the message believed, and the number of the men came to about five thousand.

Acts 5:14 (CSB)

Believers were added to the Lord in increasing numbers—multitudes of both men and women.

Acts 6:7 (CSB)

So the word of God spread, the disciples in Jerusalem increased greatly in number, and a large group of priests became obedient to the faith.

In Judea, Galilee, and Samaria

Acts 8:1b

On that day a severe persecution broke out against the church in Jerusalem, and all except the apostles were scattered throughout the land of Judea and Samaria.

Acts 9:31 (CSB)

So the church throughout all Judea, Galilee, and Samaria had peace and was strengthened. Living in the fear of the Lord and encouraged by the Holy Spirit, it increased in numbers.

To the Ends of Earth

Acts 11:19-21 (CSB)

19 Now those who had been scattered as a result of the persecution that started because of Stephen made their way as far as Phoenicia, Cyprus, and Antioch, speaking the word to no one except Jews. 20 But there were some of them, men from Cyprus and Cyrene, who came to Antioch and began speaking to the Greeks also, proclaiming the good news about the Lord Jesus. 21 The Lord's hand was with them, and a large number who believed turned to the Lord.

Acts 16:5 (CSB)

So the churches were strengthened in the faith and grew daily in numbers.

Acts 16:10 (CSB)

After he had seen the vision, we immediately made efforts to set out for Macedonia, concluding that God had called us to preach the gospel to them.

Acts 19:18-20 (CSB)

18 And many who had become believers came confessing and disclosing their practices, 19 while many of those who had practiced magic collected their books and burned them in front of everyone. So they calculated their value and found it to be fifty thousand pieces of silver. 20 In this way the word of the Lord spread and prevailed.

Acts 28:30-31 (CSB)

30 Paul stayed two whole years in his own rented house. And he welcomed all who visited him, 31 proclaiming the kingdom of God and teaching about the Lord Jesus Christ with all boldness and without hindrance.

- From the time when Jesus ascended in Acts 1 until the time when Paul was under house arrest in Rome in Acts 28, there was a total span of thirty years. This was around 60 AD.
- From the original 120 disciples in Jerusalem, the church grew in number and the Good News continued to spread out.

Current Situation of the Word

- At the beginning of 2020 the number of evangelical Christians was 660 million, 26% of the 2.5 billion Christians around the world; global population of 7.9 billion people. So, there were a total of 5.4 billion non-Christians. (source: www.evangelicalfocus.com)
- An evangelical Christian is a person who is committed to the Good News of Christ, emphasizing the salvation work of Christ, viewing the Bible as the authority for life and practice, and actively engaging in sharing the Good News.
- If there were only 100 people alive in the world right now…8 evangelical Christians…23 non-evangelical Christians…and 69 people non-Christians or non-believers.

WHAT IS THE GOOD NEWS?

32 "God has raised this Jesus; we are all witnesses of this. 33 Therefore, since he has been exalted to the right hand of God and has received from the Father the promised Holy Spirit, he has poured out what you both see and hear…36 Therefore let all the house of Israel know with certainty that God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Messiah." (Acts 2:32-33, 36 CSB)

There is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to people by which we must be saved." (Acts 4:12 CSB)

FOUR ELEMENTS OF THE GOOD NEWS

1. **Jesus Rises From the Dead.**

   Jesus said, "Because you have seen me, you have believed. Blessed are those who have not seen and yet believe." (John 20:29CSB)

   - ❖ Do you believe in what the Bible says about the resurrection of Jesus…that he is alive?

2. **Jesus Reigns as The King.**
   - ❖ Jesus is now seated at the right hand of God, which is the most exalted place in the Kingdom of God. Jesus is now the reigning king.
   - ❖ Is he the reigning king of your life? Does he have the full authority of your life?

3. **Jesus is the Lord and Messiah.**
   - ❖ Not only is Jesus the Lord but also the Messiah. In other words, he is the Master or Boss who we should be serving and following. Messiah can be translated as Christ - the anointed Savior of the world.

   Therefore let all the house of Israel know with certainty that God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Messiah." (Acts 2:36 CSB)

   - ❖ God is the one who designated those titles to Jesus. Is Jesus your Lord and Savior?

4. **Jesus is the Only Way to Salvation.**

   "There is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to people by which we must be saved." (Acts 4:12 CSB)

- ❖ Is Jesus already your only way to salvation?
- ❖ If not, today is the day for you to make the most important decision of your life - to believe in Jesus, the Son of God!

What must you do now?

Nothing! Jesus has already done everything for you to be saved. All you need to do is to believe and follow Jesus.

But, here's a simple process by which you can express your belief in him:

1. Admit that you are a sinner and that you cannot change yourself.
2. Be willing to confess and repent from your sins.
3. Believe that Jesus died for you and that he rose from the dead.
4. Through prayer, invite Jesus to come in your life as your Lord.

"Dear God, thank you for loving me. I know I am a sinner and need your forgiveness. I want to turn from my sins. Please forgive me. I believe that your Son, Jesus, died for me and rose from the dead. I now invite you, Jesus, to come into my life. I want to trust you as Savior and follow you as Lord."

Send an email to cc@tokyobaptist.org.

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GOOD NEWS SHARING OPPORTUNITIES (2025 & Beyond)

- **Join the JOY Cafe Team**
  - Purpose: To share the Good News and pray with/for people.
  - Time required: 30 mins to one hour after each of the weekend services.
  - Training and orientation will be provided.
- **Assist in the Good News Class**
  - Purpose: To teach and explain the Good News.
  - When & Where: 11:00am-12:15pm, Sunday; Conference Room
  - Assist the participants in knowing more about the Good News; assist in admin-related tasks of the class like taking attendance, preparing the room, etc.
- **Outreach with TBC-West Tokyo Team**
  - What to do: Prayer-walking, Station Evangelism, Flyer Distribution
  - When: Every 1st Sunday of the month, from 1:30pm for an hour.
  - Where: Community around TBC-West Tokyo
- **Serve with Overseas Mission Teams in Partnership with TBC in TOKYO**
  - Mililani Baptist Church (Hawaii): August (dates to be decided).
  - Emmanuel Enid Baptist Church (Oklahoma): October 9-17.
  - Johnson Ferry Baptist Church (Georgia): December 16-25. (Mission plans are underway.)

LEARNING AND TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES FOR SHARING THE GOOD NEWS

- **CLASS 401- Discovering My Life Mission:** June 15, Sunday, 1:00pm-5:00pm, Lange Hall
- **CLASS 402- Personal Evangelism Training:** June 29, Sunday, 1:00pm-4:00pm, Conf. Room

To register for these classes, please visit https://t-b-c.us/classes

Have questions on any of the above? Interested in serving? Please contact: Pastor Joel (joel@tokyobaptist.org).

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Jo Kaminaga (Joel)
Tokyo Baptist Church
May 31 & June 1, 2025

Welcome FIRST TIME guests!

Thank you for visiting. Please visit the Meet&Connect Room for a free gift.

First time guest Connection:

COMMITMENT CARD

If you would like to believe in Jesus or have questions about baptism, let us know!

Email: cc@tokyobaptist.org or visit https://t-b-c.us/cc to let us know!

TBC Life SIGN-UP

weekly email news

http://t-b-c.us/tbclife

UPCOMING TBC BASE CLASSES

class 201 Maturity	class 401 Mission	class 402 Evangelism
June 7th (Sat) 1:30 - 5:30pm	June 15th (Sun) 1:00 - 5:00pm	Jun 29th, (Sun) 1:00 - 4:00pm

Please visit https://t-b-c.us/classes to REGISTER

Small Groups Info

SG Lesson

t-b-c.us/sg2325p

Find an SG

t-b-c.us/sgsu

CO42 PRAYER REQUESTS

so that as a church *we can pray for you!*

t-b-c.us/co42

Continue earnestly in prayer, being vigilant in it with thanksgiving. Colossians 4:2

For Online Giving please visit:

https://tokyobaptist.org/give

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