

All In – 2 (The Spirit Empowered Church)

And whatever you do, whether in word or deed,
do it **ALL IN** the name of the Lord Jesus,
giving thanks to God the Father through Him.
~ Colossians 3:17

There was once a church that took this to heart. They actually practiced this. They did this because Jesus promised:

“I will build my church...”
~ Matthew 16:18

And Jesus did. The earliest gathering of the followers of Jesus was marked by certain characteristics. It was not always easy. It was not always neat and pretty. In fact, at times it was downright messy. But it was so worth it.

They devoted themselves to the **apostles’ teaching** and to **fellowship**, to the **breaking of bread** and to **prayer**. Everyone was filled with **awe** at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles. All the believers were together and had everything in **common**. They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need. Every day they continued to **meet together** in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord **added** to their number daily those who were being **saved**.
~ Acts 2:42-47

Everyone in this room understands the beauty of that kind of a vision of a local church – A Community of Light by the Power of the LORD Jesus Christ.

We read what’s happening in many mainline denominational churches and the rise of the nones in our nation. But then we come back to Acts 2, a church that was birthed in the midst of such unbelievable opposition and purified in the fires of persecution.

Has the Holy Spirit lost His power?

Our Big Goal is 100% participation. We’re challenging every single one of us at Damascus Road to take this hill together, to pray about how God would have us give generously toward the vision the Spirit has birthed in us, and to make an impactful financial commitment.

The financial goal is trusting God for \$11.5 million over the next two years. This includes \$6.1 million allocated to fuel our existing ministries for two years and \$5.4 million to enable us to do one more expansion in our current facility, which would include a larger sanctuary and more classroom space for our children and youth.

We will deepen our partnership with Strong Tower Church and partnerships with local non-profits. Our elders and trustees have designated \$350,000 toward expanded ministry opportunities—local and global missions and to help us launch a second campus in the upcoming years.

What is at stake?

“I will build my church,
and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.”
~ Matthew 16:18

What Jesus is saying is that He is building His church to prevail. If the church is not prevailing, then what is prevailing? Hell is. That is what is at stake.

Jesus established the church to push back the Kingdom of darkness in the here and now. It is intolerable to Jesus that hell should prevail.

We will keep at it because Jesus said, hell will not prevail. Because there is this thing Jesus has established called the church. We are part of that. And this is our church. And everyone in this room shares a uniting passion. We love Jesus.

We are staking it all, betting the farm on the words of Jesus.
The. Church. Will. Prevail!

It’s why we give our lives to what we do.