

THE FORMATION OF THE CHURCH  
(ACTS 3-6)  
APRIL 12, 2026



The early church did not remain a moment, it became a movement!

What began in power in Acts 2 now takes form to stand until the return of Jesus.

The Church must always remember that its priority is JESUS, its power is HOLY SPIRIT, and its purpose is to glorify the FATHER.

**1. The Church is Founded on JESUS**

- JESUS' name brings authority
- Strategy and Schematics must never replace the prominence of our Savior, JESUS
- The Church must always stand on the faithfulness of the Word, not the feelings of the audience

**2. The Church Flourishes through Persecution**

- Boldness increases the bounty of the harvest
- During the Reformation, men like Martin Luther stood in boldness against pressure to deny or compromise truth: JESUS.

**3. The Church Focuses on Holiness**

- The Church (followers of JESUS) must be holy as He is holy
- The Church must obey God above pleasing men

**4. The Church Frames Structure for Endurance and Excellence**

- Deacons are installed to provide physical service to people so the Elders could minister the Word and Prayer
- This framework caused the Word of God to impact more people, thus the Kingdom of God grew
- Church infrastructure should always be focused on the importance of God's Word

May we never strive to **reinvent** Church, but rather **return** Church to its Biblical formation!

1. Read Acts 3:6; John 14:13-14; Philippians 2:9-11

What does it mean to minister in the name of Jesus? What are some ways that the Church relies on human ability rather than the power of Jesus?

2. Read Acts 4:12; Romans 1:16; John 14:6

Why is the exclusivity of the Gospel essential to the Church's identity? What are some attacks on the Gospel because it is exclusive? How do we resolve "whosoever calls on the name of the LORD" with "not everyone who says Lord, Lord"? What is the importance of faith alone in Jesus?

3. Read Acts 4:29-31; 2 Timothy 3:12; James 1:2-4

How should believers respond to opposition and persecution? How would you define boldness and how does your definition relate to the Church? What is the difference between boldness and pride?

4. Read Acts 5:1-11; 1 Peter 1:15-16; Hebrews 12:6

Why does God take sin so seriously within His Church? What does it mean to be holy? What is a spiritually healthy balance of grace and truth? What would that look like in the current day Church?

5. Read Acts 6:1-7; 1 Timothy 3:8-13; 1 Corinthians 14:40

What role does structure and leadership play in a healthy church? How does the role of deacon differ from the role of elder? What are some ways that structure should support healthy growth? What are some ways you have seen it hinder healthy growth?

6. Read Acts 6:7-15; Isaiah 55:11; Matthew 28:18-20

What is the relationship between the Word of God and growth in disciples? How does Stephen exemplify a life lived in obedience to the Word of God? In what ways are you like Stephen and in what ways are you different? How does Biblical growth differ from modern metrics for church success?