

## The Power of the Church

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### *The Embassy Church - Small Group Notes – Sunday, June 30, 2019*

For a nation to be changed, and people to truly be mobilized with effectiveness, there needs to be something more than we presently have. It starts small and begins personal. But it's focus is on what the Bible calls *the church*. Catch the plan and see where you fit in!

Be blessed!

Pastor Doug Schneider

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### **Scriptures – All Scriptures New Living Translation**

#### *Romans 15:19*

<sup>19</sup> They were convinced by the power of miraculous signs and wonders and by the power of God's Spirit. In this way, I have fully presented the Good News of Christ from Jerusalem all the way to Illyricum.

#### *Romans 1:16*

<sup>16</sup> For I am not ashamed of this Good News about Christ. It is the power of God at work, saving everyone who believes—the Jew first and also the Gentile.

### **Main Points**

1. The Bible Blueprint Factor
  - 1% of salvation stories in New Testament can be primarily attributed to Friendship or Lifestyle evangelism
  - 1 - 2% of christians share the gospel message with an unsaved family member or friend
  - 99% of all conversions are due to the combination of FIVE FACTORS:
    - Prayer, Holy Spirit, Available Christians, Miracles & Powerful Testimonies
2. The Flatline Factor
  - Only about 5% of Christians will ever in their lifetime lead another person to the Lord
  - 47% of Canadians “never” attend any church service in the course of a year

- Presently, almost 50% of all churches in North America see NO CONVERSIONS per year
3. The Plateau Factor
    - 80% of all North American churches are plateaued or declining in attendance
    - 19% are growing primarily because of the transfer of Christians between churches, or the birth of babies
    - Only 1% or less of North American churches are truly growing due to “conversions” ... people getting saved!!!
  4. The Encounter Factor
  5. The Power Factor

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*“The number one reason people go to church is not out of a need to connect relationally with others. The number one reason people go to church is out of a deep longing to experience and encounter God!”*

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### **Digger Deeper - Discussion Questions**

#### *Revelation*

- How do we see the five factors in action in the church?
- How do we transition from relationship church to encounter church?

#### *Interpretation*

- While we do need to make friends with unsaved people, has the *Friendship Evangelism* model worked?
- Why do you think there has to be more evangelism than just *friendship* evangelism?
- What’s the difference between attending church for a relationship, instead of an encounter with God?
  - Why do you think people are looking for an encounter instead of a relationship?

#### *Application*

- Did the statistics outlined in this message surprise you?
- What is your main reason for attending church?
  - To find an earthly relationship, or an encounter with God?
- What comes to mind when you hear the phrase *Power Evangelism*?
- Are you ready to make a move from relationship to encounter?

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*For evangelism, “we depend minimally on the Holy Spirit and primarily on ourselves.” It is NOT just Biblical preaching we need, nor ONLY a greater emphasis on relationships. But rather a return to the power of God!*

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**Quotable Quotes:**

- A praying church produces people getting saved.