

# The State of the Church

## 2026



# The Church?

What is it

Who is it

What does it/we do?

Gen 1-2; Matt 28:29; Acts 1-2

# The State of the Church

1. The Epic Story
2. The Gospel
3. You and the Church
4. Our Missions and Vision

# 1. The Epic Story of Humanity

Things are not what they seem

We are at war

You have an enemy

You have a role to play

(See Gen 1-2; Eph 1-6)



## **2. The Gospel (Acts 2:16-47)**

**Revelation** - Who He is / what He did

**Response** - What we do

**Result** - What we get

# Gospel Result (Acts 2:16-47):

1. Forgiven
2. New Life / Holy Spirit
- 3. Family of Faith (Church)**
4. New Mission



The Gospel must be **first** (1 Cor.2:2)  
**central** (1 Cor.15:3-4)  
in **everything** we do (Col.2:6),  
because it is essential in **Identity**,  
understanding worth and purpose in  
who we are (Col.1:16)



# 3. You and the Church

Individuals and Institutions with a Goal  
(Matthew 28:19; Acts 1-2; Ephesians)

**You (Disciples, followers of Jesus)-**

**Come together in community...**

**Eph. 4:11-16**

**To grow, learn, encourage, edify,  
share, and serve...**

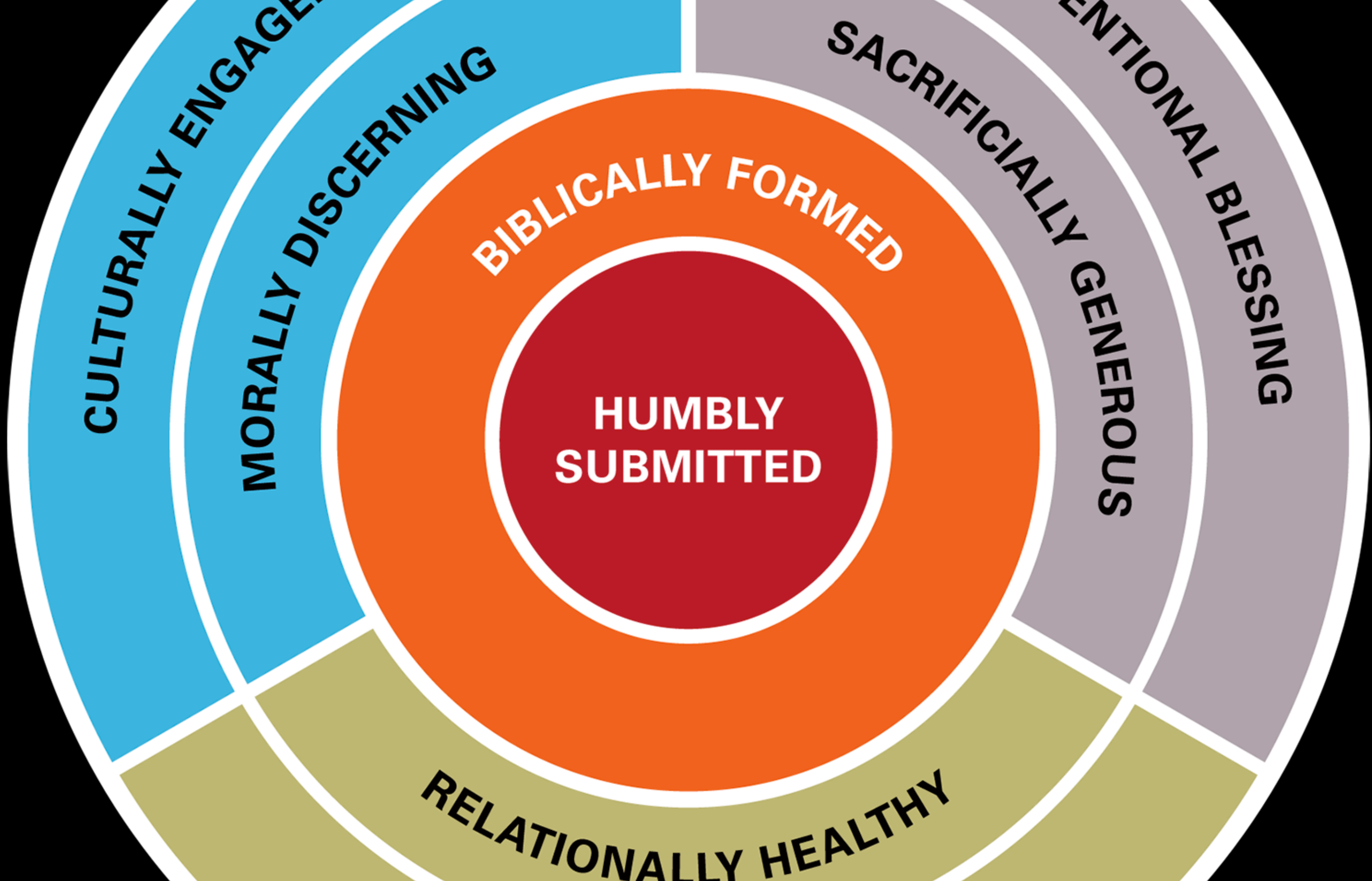
# Discipleship is:

“the greatest opportunity individual human beings have in life and the only hope corporate mankind has of solving its insurmountable problems”

- Willard











Church =  
ἐκκλησία (ekklēsia) =  
“Called Out Ones”

- a gathering of people called out  
from their homes into some public  
place, an assembly. (See Mat 16:18,  
1st Cor 1:2, etc.)

Church =  
ἐπισυναγωγή (episynagōgē) =  
“Assembly”

- a Christian meeting (for worship), a gathering together in one place, to come to the side of. (Heb 10:25)

# Purpose of the Church Gathering

1. Eph. 4:11–16 – Church exists to equip the saints and build up the body into maturity in Christ
2. Col. 1:28–29 – Proclaim Christ to present believers mature

3. Heb. 5:12–14 – Move from milk to solid food; grow beyond spiritual infancy

4. Heb. 6:1 – “Go on to maturity” rather than remaining immature

5. Acts 13:2 – Gathered church ministers to the Lord in worship and obedience

6. 1 Pet. 2:5 – We are a holy  
priesthood offering spiritual  
sacrifices to God

7. Matt. 28:19–20 – The church's  
mission is to make disciples, not  
spectators

The church embodies the realized activity of salvation and good works (2 Tim. 3:15), the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things (Eph. 3:9-10), and a tangible expression of gospel love and living (Col. 1:24).

**Goal:** Gospel centered Christlikeness

**Church:** A gathered community,  
saved and motivated by the Gospel,  
formed and living by the Word and the  
Spirit.

**Heart:** Love God and love others





**Motto, Mission, and More**  
Learning, Loving, and Living Jesus

**Motto:** Love God Love Others

(Mark 12:30-31)

# Mission Statement:

1. **PREACH** - To be a community of believers that brings people into an interactive-love-based relationship with Jesus
2. **TEACH** - To grow Christians into maturity
3. **REACH** - To reach out locally and around the world

**Vision Statement** (what the mission looks like here and now):

1. To give every person of our community an opportunity to know and walk with Jesus
2. To see every person in the church engaged in ministry or life groups
3. To see people raised up and sent out on a regular basis

# Core Values

1. Humility, Holiness, and Heart (John 13)
2. Loyal Love is our motivation
3. Committed Christlikeness is our goal
4. Faithful Family interactions (Love and Truth)

# Our Commitments

1. Gospel, Word, Spirit Centered
2. We Will Love and Prioritize the Next Generation (Psalm 78:5–7; Titus 2)
3. Build a Christlike Culture, Not Just Programs (John 13:34–35; Acts 2:42–47)

# Our Commitments

4. We Will Grow as Disciples Who  
Join Jesus on Mission (Luke 19:10;  
1 Pet. 3:15)

5. We Will Plan Intentionally and Pray  
Expectantly (Matt. 28:18–20; Acts  
1:8)

# WHO YOU ARE:

1. Set Free
2. Set Apart (from the world/sin/enemy)
3. Set Together (church/community/family)
4. *Sent* on Mission



# HOW YOU GROW

1. A humbly submitted heart
2. A personal daily time with the Lord  
(word & prayer)
3. A small group/Bible study/discipleship
4. A way to serve...

# What does this mean for me?

1. Success is obedience/love (Isaiah 6:8)
2. Heart of faithfulness and servanthood (Phil 2:1-8)
3. Pray, Fast, Grow, Serve, Send, Go, and Calling (Acts 13:2-3, Phil 4:15-17)
4. ALWAYS BE *ON MISSION*



# 2025 Review

1. Gospel went out every week with many baptisms and commitments to Jesus
2. Growing discipleship through Life Groups and Titus Groups

3. Multiple baby and family dedications
4. Community outreach through evangelism and Blessing Bags
5. Helping Hands ministry provided assistance to hundreds
6. Great VBS Outreach

6. Summer Internship Program
7. Cambodia Trip (Meas church plant)
8. Pedregales Mexxxico Trip
9. Tokyo Souting Trip
10. Returned Dillon Wakeford (Intern)
11. Sent out the Grants (church plant)
12. Playground and facility improvements



# 2026 Prayer and Vision

1. More lost saved, more leaders raised
2. Growing Fast Pray Worship as core
3. Biblical Counseling center training and development (2026/27 launch?)



4. Bump out Coffee House & siding
5. Quarterly outreach/evangelism and training and events; Famars market? Alpha?
6. Missions to Mexico, Cambodia, Japan.
7. Another great VBS

8. New ESL outreach classes!
9. Christmas light competition and movie night as an outreach?
10. Your ideas here....

Thank you for being part of this!

"But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Therefore, my beloved brothers, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain."

- 1 Corinthians 15:57-58

“I will build My church,  
and the gates of Hell  
shall not prevail against it.” - Jesus

Matthew 16:18



Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;

Praise Him, all creatures here below;

Praise Him above, ye heav'nly host;

Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

Amen.



“The Lord bless you and keep you;  
The Lord make His face shine upon you,  
And be gracious to you;  
The Lord lift up His countenance upon you,  
And give you peace.”

Numbers 6:24-26 NKJV







# Self Examination -> Sanctification

1. Honest self-evaluation (Eze. 14:1-5)
  - a. Weakness, limitations, temptations
  - b. Issues of the heart and root,  
(Luke 6:43–45; Matt. 23:25–26),  
what rules your heart? (James 1:14)

# Self Examination -> Sanctification

## 2. Have a goal (Gal. 2:20; 5:16-22)

- a. Christlikeness, Fruit of the Spirit

- b. being and doing (1 John 2:6)

- c. Know, feel, do (Eph. 5:1-2)

# Self Examination -> Sanctification

## 3. Start growing (2 Peter 3:18)

a. Prayer, Word, Spirit, Community

(Eph. 4:15-16; Col. 2:6-7 )

b. Be recaptured/enraptured,  
in love with Him (Phil. 1:9)

## Reflection Questions

“For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”

-Matthew 6:21 NKJV

We are treasure hunters, meaning makers and value finders by nature. Much of what we treasure can be detected by asking good questions and paying attention to how we feel about the things, people, situations and goals we treasure most. For the Christian, we are called to treasure our Lord Jesus Christ and His kingdom and our new heart wants this. However, our old man, the flesh is still at work and we should use God's word and questions to root out who is in control. Is it the new heart or the old man? Answer the below questions honestly, not as a Bible study, but as a true reflection of what is in your heart.

1. What do you love? Is there something you love more than God or your neighbor?
2. What do you seek? What are your personal expectations and goals? What are your intentions? What are you working for?
3. Where do you bank your hopes? What hope are you working toward or building your life around?
4. What do you think you need?
5. What are you really going after in the situations and relationships of life? What are you really working to get?
6. Where do you find refuge, safety, comfort, and escape? When are you fearful, discouraged, and upset, where do you run? Do you run to God for comfort and safety or something else?

7. What do you trust? Do you functionally rest in the Lord? Do you find your sense of well-being in His presence and promises or do you rest in something else or someone else?
8. How do you define success or failure in any particular situation? Are your standards God's standards?
9. What do you see as your rights? What do you feel entitled to?
10. What do you really want out of life? What payoff are you seeking from the things you do? What is the return you are looking for?



After honestly answering these questions, find the scriptural answer for them. What does the Bible say about these things and our desires? What do we love versus what the Bible tells us to love? What do we seek versus what the Bible calls us to seek? You can follow this method for every single question that is asked. What was my answer versus what the Bible is calling us to do, seek or follow. The areas that are not aligned with the Scriptures are the areas the Lord will work in for His glory and our good. Share this with your spouse, a friend, or an accountability partner to work through a plan for abiding in Christ in 2025 and praying for one another regarding these things.

Questions from Paul Tripp's "Instruments in the Redeemer's Hands"



# **Bibliography/ Recommended Reading :**

1. Epic by John Eldridge
2. The Divine Conspiracy by Dallas Willard
3. Following the Master: Discipleship in the Steps of Jesus. By Michael J. Wilkins.
4. The Anatomy of a Disciple: So Many Believers. So Few Disciples. by Dr. Rick Taylor
5. [https://arizonachristian.edu/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/CRC\\_AWVI2023\\_Release1.pdf](https://arizonachristian.edu/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/CRC_AWVI2023_Release1.pdf)

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2. [2] Breshears, Gerry, "TH503 Outline Ecclesiology" Church Outline Class Notes, August 2022  
Richard L. Pratt Jr, *I & II Corinthians*, vol. 7, *Holman New Testament Commentary* (Nashville, TN: Broadman & Holman Publishers, 2000), 441–442.
3. Matthew Henry, *Matthew Henry's Commentary on the Whole Bible: Complete and Unabridged in One Volume* (Peabody: Hendrickson, 1994), 2292–2293.
4. David K. Lowery, "2 Corinthians," in *The Bible Knowledge Commentary: An Exposition of the Scriptures*, ed. J. F. Walvoord and R. B. Zuck, vol. 2 (Wheaton, IL: Victor Books, 1985), 585.
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7. Hodge, Charles "I & II Corinthians" (*Geneva Commentaries*) (Edinburgh: Banner of Truth Trust, 1988 reprint of 1857 edition)

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9. *Kruse, Colin G. "2 Corinthians" (Tyndale New Testament Commentaries) (Grand Rapids, Michigan: Eerdmans/IVP, 1987)*
10. *Baker, Mark D. Centered-Set Church Discipleship and Community without Judgmentalism. (Westmont: InterVarsity Press, 2022), 241.*
11. "Covenant Community," *Mile High Vineyard*, December 12, 2018, 5-7.
12. *Tripp, Paul David. Instruments in the Redeemer's Hands: People in Need of Change Helping People in Need of Change. (Phillipsburg, N.J: P & R Pub, 2002), 19-20.*
13. *Wheeler, Erin. The Good Portion - The Church: The Doctrine Of The Church, For Every Woman. (Ross-shire, IV20 1TW, Scotland: Christian Focus Publications, 2022), 33-34.*
14. *Tripp, Paul David. Lead: 12 Gospel Principles for Leadership in the Church (pp. 24). Crossway. Kindle Edition.*
15. *Newbigin, Lesslie. The Household of God: Lectures on the Nature of the Church. (Eugene, Or: Wipf & Stock, 2008), 89.*



## **Some good books on sanctification:**

1. *Anatomy of a Disciple, Rick Taylor*
2. *Instruments in the Redeemer's Hands: People in Need of Change Helping People in Need of Change, Tripp, Paul David.*
3. *Neil T. Anderson & Robert L. Saucy God's Power at Work in You*
4. *John Piper, Desiring God*
5. *J.I. Packer, Keep in Step with the Spirit*
6. *Jerry Bridges Pursuit of Holiness*
7. *Dallas Willard: Renovation of the Heart: Putting on the Character of Christ*
8. *AW Tozer, Pursuit of God*
9. *Donald Alexander, Christian Spirituality (Five Views)*

# Gospel Revelation:

1. **Acts 2:22, 36** = Son of God,  
Emmanuel, Lord, Messiah
2. **Acts 2:23, 36** = Died/Crucified,  
(Gen 3:15; Psalm 2, 22; Isaiah 52, 53;  
Dan 2)

# Gospel Revelation:

3. **Acts 2:24 -32** = Raised / Resurrected  
(Romans 6)
4. **Acts 2:33-35** = Jesus is Exalted /  
Glorified – (Psalm 110; Ephesians  
1:20-2:9)
5. **Acts 2:33** = Poured out the Spirit



# Gospel Response

1. **Acts 2:26, 37** = **Convicted** / cut to the heart -awareness that I have a problem - Psalm 16
2. **Acts 2:37** = **Confession** - Rom 10:9-10

# Gospel Response

3. **Acts 2:38** = Repent - Return to God/  
change of allegiance/mind/heart see  
Acts 26:18 – from darkness to light.
4. **Acts 2:38** = Baptized
5. **Acts 2:38** - Received /Believe/ Trust
6. **Acts 2:42-45** - Devoted to a church

# Gospel Results

1. **Acts 2:38** = forgiveness of sins. –  
Justification
2. **Acts 2:38** = New everlasting life /  
Gift of the Spirit/ Resurrection (1  
Cor 15)
3. **Acts 2:42-45** = Get to be part of a  
church

# Gospel Results

4. **Acts 2:45** = New mission/ hope/  
love/ Identity (Acts 1:8; Matt 28:29;  
Gal 5:22)