

# Disciples Discipling Desciplers

After six years of establishing “God’s House On The Hill” first as a *seedling* in our home, then moving us to a public place as a *church plant*; I believe the Lord is getting ready to transplant us to a more permanent location to begin our foundational years as a *local congregation* of Jesus Christ’s church. The leadership format we choose should be biblical in its origins and functional in its application. I have no desire to superimpose some form that may have been successful elsewhere through the use of some book. I want to depend only on the word of God. Of course we will be in submission to the Foursquare bylaws, but the forming of our purpose is up to us as a congregation as the Word of God leads us.

The trend to follow the success of others and attempt to duplicate that success by following certain steps removes God from the process and makes it a work of man and not a work of God. “God’s House...” will be founded on faith in Jesus Christ, His Commandments and His Commission following God’s principles and we will grow through God’s demonstration of His power that God alone may get the glory!

I am not suggesting that we ignore what He has demonstrated elsewhere, just not attempt to copy the form expecting to arrive at the same results. The Lord is doing a new thing in these days; new wine in a new wine skin, and we will discover His special plan for us as we seek His directing by His Holy Spirit in His word. He provides the people, the people provide the prayer, the prayer provides a place for His power to bring about His purpose. We are to live as people of purpose, His purpose, not ours or some one else’s. He has a purpose for each of His children and brings them, us, together to accomplish His will as His church.

The first century church grew daily as they worshiped the Lord in the temple and shared faith, food and fellowship daily from house to house. This was not a weekly reminder or encouragement session it was a culture of continually seeking God and His purpose.

**Acts 2:42-47**

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<sup>42</sup> And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers. <sup>43</sup> Then fear came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were done through the apostles. <sup>44</sup> Now all who believed were together, and had all things in common, <sup>45</sup> and sold their possessions and goods, and divided them among all, as anyone had need. <sup>46</sup> So continuing **daily** with one accord **in the temple**, and breaking bread from house to house, they ate their food with gladness and simplicity of heart, <sup>47</sup> praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved.

This is describing the way the Lord originally built His church, one day at a time one person at a time. It is a lifestyle not a format. He had His original apostles follow His Great Commission.

- ✚ They walked in authority (Acts 3:6 “Silver and gold I do not have...”)
- ✚ They waited for the power from the Holy Spirit and received it (Acts 2:1-4)
- ✚ They preached the gospel, starting in Jerusalem (Acts 2:14-39)
- ✚ They went all over the known world (Acts 13:3 “...they sent them away.”)
- ✚ They made disciples (Acts 2:42 “And they continued steadfastly in the apostles doctrine...”)
- ✚ Signs and wonders were done through them (Acts 2:43)
- ✚ They preached repentance and forgiveness (Acts 3:19)
- ✚ They Baptized (Acts 9:36 [the Ethiopian eunuch] )
- ✚ They healed the sick (Acts 3:6 [the lame beggar at the gate beautiful] )
- ✚ They were all Christ's witnesses (Acts 2:32)

These people recognized they were to stick together, sharing time in the temple, together in their homes and in the streets. Something very powerful and real was happening then and the Holy Spirit wants to show us it can also happen today. Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever. (Heb. 13:8) It can and will happen through His Holy Spirit as we contend for His fullness and wait on His power. Just like the first century church did. He is calling us to Him!

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The Foursquare By Laws call for 30 adult members to sign a church charter to become a church. We need to invite more people that will become members in order to become a chartered Foursquare Church. We now have ten, Dede, Harry, Dustin and Amanda, Melitta, Sherry, Gordon and Patti, Raquel and I; ten people and a Pastor. We are 33% of the way there. To get the rest of the way we need more people to step into membership and more folks in general in church. So, please invite friends, family and total strangers. God will choose those He wants to be on that charter we just need to do the inviting.

Friday Night at The Movies is going well but not bringing any new people to the church as yet. I know it is a long process to connect with and convince people that God is here for them and we are here for them. Each of us, as we walk closer and closer with the Lord need to be like the first century church as it states in:

## Acts 2:46-47

<sup>46</sup> So continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they ate their food with gladness and simplicity of heart, <sup>47</sup> praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to the church<sup>[a]</sup> daily those who were being saved.

Whether we are gathering here or in our homes with family or just on our knees with the Lord we are called to connect with each other and make a point of spending time together so that the reinforcement is there for our walk of faith to be strengthened. This will build momentum and make a place in our heart for outreach to new believers. Remember we are workers in the harvest. We are to work at harvesting; whatever that may mean to you it is not honored by passivity. Pray, listen act.

The form of church leadership is to be one Church counsel with a minimum of 4 up to 12 people unrelated by blood or marriage that serve for two years, a secretary and a treasurer. Most foursquare churches also have an Elder Counsel of 4 to 12 members to advise the Pastor. This is our immediate goal as we invite one and all into membership.

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There is obviously a need for Sunday school teachers, child care workers, youth workers and adult teachers. This is all to arrive at the goal of being a body of disciples of Jesus Christ that are in the continuous process of discipling others that will disciple others. (2 Timothy 2:2)

[And the things that you have heard from me among many witnesses, commit these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also.](#)

This is the form or structure the Bible shows us. There is still more to developing a church body but that depends on the members and what they bring to the body by way of spiritual gifting. All people are part of the body and the realistic goal would be for each person to become all the Lord has for them to be in the community of fellow believers that would lift them up and encourage them in their gifts. This is how the body of Christ is built and operates.

Ephesians 4:16 (NIV)

[From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work.](#)

So, I invite each person that hears or reads these words to pray and ask the Lord what part you are to be as you do the work the Lord has for you. The gifts He put in you He did for the benefit of the whole body of Christ. It is in the fulfillment of that role you will find your completion. Married single widowed or divorced He has a place for you in His body and He is calling you to move into that place and feel the pleasure of the Lord as you walk in the gifting He has put in you.

By October I would like to have first counsel members in place. I choose the initial members and then the church, once a chartered church, votes for the members on an annual basis starting in the second year.

These are good signs of God's growth. Please prayerfully consider being part of this ongoing work through membership and then in service to His body. Let us pray!