

## A High Impact Church

“He’s Alive Again!”

Reference: **Acts 8:4-8**

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Thom Rainer, in his book titled “The Autopsy Of A Deceased Church,” estimates that between \_\_\_\_\_ & \_\_\_\_\_ churches close their doors each year. Jesus confronted the church at \_\_\_\_\_ and described them as being dead.

**Revelation 3:1**, “... *I know your works that you have a name that you are alive, but you are dead.*”

There is no greater example of a high impact church that is alive than what is given in the book of Acts concerning the events that followed the birth of the Lord’s church.

Exposition:

**verse four** (see screen)

A church sign once read “A Church Alive is Worth The Drive”. I agree 100% with that statement! The question is, What constitutes a \_\_\_\_\_ Church?

- I. A Church on the \_\_\_\_\_ is A Church That Is Alive –  
**v4**, “*Therefore they that were scattered abroad went everywhere preaching the Word.*”

The Church was not huddled together as the frozen chosen. They were out and about sharing the \_\_\_\_\_ of Jesus Christ.

My great prayer is that God ignite a \_\_\_\_\_ in this place! When the \_\_\_\_\_ begins to spread, when God begins to move, know that \_\_\_\_\_ will come. “A church that is alive” will face great attacks from the enemy.

There is one man who said – The devil is not \_\_\_\_\_ Christianity today... he is \_\_\_\_\_ it. He is not fighting churches today... HE IS JOINING THEM!

A Church that is Alive must be willing to remain when trouble comes! I want the devil to be concerned about the impact that we can have on this corrupt world. When he attacks and tries to stop us... I PRAY THAT WE ENDURE!

II. The \_\_\_\_\_ In A Church That Is Alive –  
v4, “(They) ... *went everywhere preaching the Word.*”

Evangelism is vital to the health of the local church. This group in the book of Acts chapter 8 were scattered, but everywhere they went they told people about Jesus.

What I believe is one of the biggest struggles of the church to understand is that the church is the one institution that is designed not just for those inside, but for those who have yet to become a part of it. We need to understand the need to share the message with them in such a way that they want to know what the Christian life is all about!

For God to use us, we MUST be in right \_\_\_\_\_ with Him!

III. The \_\_\_\_\_, Jesus Christ in a church that is Alive –  
v5, “*Then Philip went down to the city of Samaria, and preached Christ to them.*”

Philip had one goal, one focus, and one purpose! He preached Christ! He did not set out to make a name for himself. Philip was focused on Moving with THE message about THE MAN.

The focus Was Jesus in Paul’s preaching likewise –  
**1 Cor. 2:2**, “*For I determined not to know anything among you except Jesus Christ and Him crucified.*”

Jesus was the message that Peter preached to the High Priest in **Acts 4:12**, “*Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.*”

If a church is a high impact church, then you can rest assured that she is making Jesus her laser focus.

For the churches that are dying churches, they each have one major thing in common, they have lost their \_\_\_\_\_! Jesus is no longer who that church is about. It becomes more about the people of the church than the Savior of the church.

It’s a great day when God’s church realizes that this thing is not about them... IT IS ABOUT \_\_\_\_\_ AND HIM ALONE.

Bottom line my friends, IF the church is not Alive, the answer is not to blame someone else... the answer is to look in the mirror. We only have a short time to make an impact on this world for Christ, so we should determine to make it HIGH IMPACT. Let us be on the MOVE, sharing the MESSAGE, and making it all about the MAN Jesus Christ. May there be encounters, evidence and excitement among this body of believers. May the world look at us and say...

- ‘They are weird, they don’t just say it, they live it... how can we get in on that?!’

My great prayer today is that when Jesus looks at us, may He see “\_\_\_\_\_”!  
When the world looks at us, they see “\_\_\_\_\_”!

**Free thought as you go:**

“Here, it is my duty  
To be as Christ in the world,  
To do what he would do,  
To live as he would live,  
To walk in love and meekness;  
Then would he be known,  
Then would I have peace in death.”

From: *The Valley of Vision* - Puritan Prayers & Devotions - Page 41.