



Pastor's Comments

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Northampton Assembly of God

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Traits of a Great Church #2

Last week I listed the first five of **ten traits** that reflected the greatness of the early New Testament church. Here are the last five.

6. **Great Grace** Acts 4:33 states, "...and **great grace** was upon them all." **Grace is the divine influence** that comes through humility, "...be clothed with humility: for God resisteth the proud, and **giveth grace to the humble**" (1 Peter 5:5). **Grace is the divine character** of the fruits of the Spirit.

7. **Great Fear** God brought judgment on hypocrisy and lying to the Holy Ghost, "And Ananias hearing these words fell down, and gave up the ghost: and **great fear** came on all them that heard these things" (Acts 5:5). "And **great fear** came upon all the church" (Acts 5:11). The church today needs this **great fear and reverence for divine holiness!**

8. **Great Persecution** "And at that time there was a **great persecution** against the church" (Acts 8:1). Sooner or later, a **great church** will experience **great persecution!** It stands to reason that a powerful, bold, Holy Ghost filled church in this dark and evil day will rile up the devil and be persecuted! "Yea, and **all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution**" (2 Timothy 3:12).

9. **Great Joy** "And there was **great joy** in that city" (Acts 8:8). **Joy** is the result of the Holy Spirit's working in lives. "But **the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy...**" (Galatians 5:22).

10. **Great Purpose** The **great purpose** of the early church was to obey **Christ's** command, "But **tarry...until ye be endued with power from on high**" (Luke 24:49). Their **great purpose** was to obtain the promise of Jesus and be His witnesses, "But **ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you and ye shall be witnesses unto me...unto the uttermost part of the earth**" (Acts 1:8). May that **great purpose** be ours today!

Hear this full message at: www.naog.ws/sermons.htm