

THE CHURCH AWAKENING: AN URGENT CALL FOR RENEWAL

CHALLENGES, STRUGGLES, SOLUTIONS, PRIORITIES

ACTS 4:1–4, 8–14, 18–24, 29; 5:1–11, 14, 27–29, 40–42; 6:1–7



The Heart of the Matter

By examining the earliest church on record — the first-century church — we can find some insightful guidelines for our church in the twenty-first century. In spite of the differences in geography, culture, and some of the specific details of the Christian experience in their time period compared to ours, we're able to find some remarkable principles that apply. By doing so, we learn major lessons worth remembering and modeling.



Discovering the Way

1. Let's Recall Three Valuable Principles

Clear, biblical thinking must override secular planning and corporate mentality. Studied, accurate decisions must originate from God's Word not human opinion. Wise, essential changes must occur to counteract any evidence of erosion.

2. Let's Return to the First Church on Record (Selections from Acts 4 and 5)

The first church wasn't perfect. Though it experienced rapid growth, it also experienced strong resistance that called for a courageous response. And internal and external tests required appropriate reactions.

3. Let's Examine a Specific Issue (Acts 6:1–7)

As the church grew, so did its problems. One issue in particular brought a valid complaint and needed a wise solution: the church needed a godly team of servants. Once this problem was solved, the church continued to experience the blessing of God.

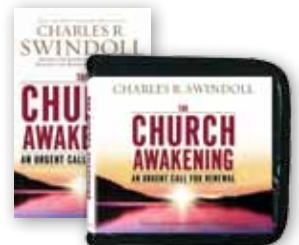


Starting Your Journey

Let's always remember: the Adversary will stop at nothing to disrupt and destroy the church. But the Lord will honor and bless any plan that upholds His Word and promotes prayer!

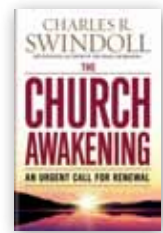


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