

The Church

By Randy Henson

Picture of Church building

Our income increased 17%

While our attendance held steady 806 to 804

Deeper followers!

28% tithing

God over money

Money is talked about often in the Bible

Money can be the most insidious, sneaky, persuasive temptation

Matthew 6:24

“No one can serve two masters; you will either hate one and love the other or be loyal to one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and mammon. (Money / riches)

Is money bad?

Jesus teaches that the problem with mammon is that we end up being mastered by it

The word for serve – douleuo (dool-yoo-o) – means to be a slave to

No one can be a slave to two masters

God or money/riches/wealth

At the heart of the matter it is not simply an issue of choice for the sold-out believer

Choice of priority

Choice of accountability

Choice of morality

It really is an issue of impossibility – No choice

To be a willing “slave to” God releases our responsibility to carry the load, we simply have to be obedient

Obviously with 17% increase in tithe and 0% increase in attendance we are a people that get it!

28% anyway

We have this thing going on

Ever been to a church that seems dead?

Ever been to a church where there is a divine anticipation and you can just sense the presence of God?

You know when you have been because you just can't get enough and sometimes you just don't want to leave

So, what is the thing? How do you define it?

IDK

We really don't know

Pretty sure that it has a lot to do with the Holy Spirit

What I do know is that we aren't doing it

God is...

For Him, by Him, and for His glory

We try to help other churches

There is just something supernatural and hard to explain going on here

It is not because we have the best programs (Though they are really good)

We don't have the best facilities (Though they are very comfortable)

We don't even have the best staff (Though they love you and will lay down their lives in service to you)

We can look at the early church and something very similarly supernatural was going on

They would try to kill them and they would spread and multiply

Even when church was boring

Acts 20:7-12

On the first day of the week, we gathered with the local believers to share in the Lord's Supper. Paul was preaching to them, and since he was leaving the next day, he kept talking until midnight. The upstairs room where we met was lighted with many flickering lamps. As Paul spoke on and on, a young man named Eutychus, sitting on the windowsill, became very drowsy. Finally, he fell sound asleep and dropped three stories to his death below. Paul went down, bent over him, and took him into his arms. "Don't worry," he said, "he's alive!" Then they all went back upstairs, shared in the Lord's Supper, and ate together. Paul continued talking to them until dawn, and then he left. Meanwhile, the young man was taken home alive and well, and everyone was greatly relieved.

Supernatural

There is a kid that was shot

Brother caught with weed
Challenged

Supernatural

Acts 2:42-47

All the believers devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching, and to fellowship, and to sharing in meals (including the Lord's Supper), and to prayer. A deep sense of awe came over them all, and the apostles performed many miraculous signs and wonders. And all the believers met together in one place and shared everything they had. They sold their property and possessions and shared the money with those in need. They worshiped together at the Temple each day, met in homes for the Lord's Supper, and shared their meals with great joy and generosity— all the while praising God and enjoying the goodwill of all the people. And each day the Lord added to their fellowship those who were being saved.

This is your church!

We want more though...right?

We decided a long time ago to do things the way the Lord is telling us to do them

When we do that the "more" that we want sometimes because way MORE than we were asking for

In order to have an effect on people that no one else is reaching out to we have to do things that others aren't willing to do

Kids

1100 seat auditorium where are we going to put twice as many kids?

Traditionally churches build for the adults and add facilities as needed for children

We build for children and as their parents get saved we will add space for them to go to church

I believe that we have everything that we need to do everything that God has called us to do

Not only the church...

You have everything that you need to do everything that God has called you to do

Acts 3

Peter and John went to the Temple one afternoon to take part in the three o'clock prayer service. As they approached the Temple, a man lame from birth was being carried in. Each day he was put beside the Temple gate, the one called the Beautiful Gate, so he could beg from the people going into the Temple. When he saw Peter and John about to enter, he asked them for some money. Peter and John looked at him intently, and Peter said, "Look at us!" The lame man looked at them eagerly, expecting some money. But Peter said, "I don't have any silver or gold for you. But I'll give you what I have. In the name of Jesus Christ the Nazarene, get up and walk!"

If he had the money, he would have given the guy what he asked for instead of what he needed

Often our greatest limitation is where God teaches us the most

God meets us at our weakest point

To be weak means to serve

That is where Jesus shows up...

Matthew 25

“Then the King will say to those on his right, ‘Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the Kingdom prepared for you from the creation of the world. For I was hungry, and you fed me. I was thirsty, and you gave me a drink. I was a stranger, and you invited me into your home. I was naked, and you gave me clothing. I was sick, and you cared for me. I was in prison, and you visited me.’ “Then these righteous ones will reply, ‘Lord, when did we ever see you hungry and feed you? Or thirsty and give you something to drink? Or a stranger and show you hospitality? Or naked and give you clothing? When did we ever see you sick or in prison and visit you?’ “And the King will say, ‘I tell you the truth, when you did it to one of the least of these my brothers and sisters, you were doing it to me!’

And honestly you would say to Jesus “I would have served the least but...”

Paul pretty directly addresses this very issue

1 Corinthians 9

Even though I am a free man with no master, I have become a slave to all people to bring many to Christ. When I was with the Jews, I lived like a Jew to bring the Jews to Christ. When I was with those who follow the Jewish law, I too lived under that law. Even though I am not subject to the law, I did this so I could bring to Christ those who are under the law. When I am with the Gentiles who do not follow the Jewish law, I too live apart from that law so I can bring them to Christ. But I do not ignore the law of God; I obey the law of Christ. When I am with those who are weak, I share their weakness, for I want to bring the weak to Christ. Yes, I try to find common ground with everyone, doing everything I can to save some. I do everything to spread the Good News and share in its blessings.

I just can't...

Be weak then

That is the sweet (uncomfortable, terrible, messy, ugly, terrifying) spot

2 Corinthians 12

“My grace is all you need. My power works best in weakness.” So now I am glad to boast about my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ can work through me. That’s why I take pleasure in my weaknesses, and in the insults, hardships, persecutions, and troubles that I suffer for Christ. For when I am weak, then I am strong.

If God called you to do something, then you shouldn't be able to do it without him

If you could do it without him, then it's really not a God-thing

Sometimes we feel like God is asking us to do something that works against our strengths

God has called us and that means His strength is working through us and that is the only thing that will make us sufficient for the task

We shouldn't let our weaknesses be an excuse for not doing what he's asking us to do

God didn't call other people to this task!

He called you and in His strength you can do it

The only thing holding us back is us