

Is the Church Dying?

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I was asked, "Do you think the church is dying or losing its power?" We were looking at how no matter where you go in this state, houses are being built. People are moving here every day, but the church does not seem to be growing.

Let's look at some reasons the church is as great and powerful as on the day of Pentecost.

I. Growth of church was promised in prophesy.

Isaiah 9:6-7 6 For unto us a Child is born, Unto us a Son is given; And the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. 7 Of the increase of *His* government and peace *There will be* end, Upon the throne of David and over His kingdom, To order it and establish it with judgment and justice From that time forward, even forever. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will perform this. There will "be no end to the increase of his government."

What do you see the church as, winning or losing? The church is wonderful! The church is glorious! The church is powerful! How powerful?

Matt. 16:18 And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.

"The gates of hell shall not prevail against it!"

II. The church continues to overcome.

John 16:33 These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world.

Sure we will have problems, take courage, Jesus has overcome, the victory Jesus has can be ours. The world did its worse to Jesus, what more could they have done? He emerged victorious.

III. The church is faithful, our commitment is faithful.

John 15:13 Greater love hath no man than this that a man lay down his life for his friends.

On the cross Jesus stayed, when all left, He stayed to the end. He made a commitment. We have made a commitment to stay until the end. Men and women giving their time, energy and money, and sisters and brothers coming alone. We are committed.

Philemon 7 For we have great joy and consolation in thy love, because the hearts of the saints are refreshed by thee, brother.

The twelve Apostles were committed; look at how we think they died.

James ran through with a sword.

Andrew crucified on a transverse cross.

Peter crucified upside down.

Phillip crucified.
Thomas thrust through with a spear.
Bartholomew crucified.
Matthew slain with an ax.
James brains dashed out with a club.
Simon crucified.
Matthias beheaded.
Paul beheaded
And John.
Then there were 75,000 to 1,000,000 Christians killed in the coliseum of Rome.

The church dying? No way.

IV. The gospel gives respect.

John 8:3, 4:10-11 And the scribes and Pharisees brought unto him a woman taken in adultery; and when they had set her in the midst, Jesus answered and said unto her, If thou knewest the gift of God, and who it is that saith to thee, Give me to drink; though wouldest have asked of him, and he would have given thee living water. The woman saith unto him, Sir, thou hast nothing to draw with, and the well is deep: from whence then hast thou that living water?

V. The church is not dying because of where Jesus is.

Matthew 28:18 And Jesus came and spake unto them. Saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth.

When you think of Jesus how do you see Him? As a baby, the perfect life He lived, dying on the cross or at the right hand of God?

Is there anything that can stop the Kingdom from growing? NO!