

Introduction:

1. God blessed our church to advance.
2. How do we keep advancing?

A. Be Christ-centered (Matt. 16:13-18)

1. Be aware of the different public **opinions** about Jesus (vv. 13-14).
2. Be sure of your personal **conviction** about Jesus (v. 15).
3. The Father's **revelation** of Jesus (vv. 16-17; John 5:17-18).
4. Four **facts** about Jesus and the church (v. 18).

B. Be Spirit-empowered

1. The power from on **high** (Luke 24:49).
2. The power to **witness** (Acts 1:8).
3. Jesus' **example** (Acts 10:38).
4. Spirit-empowered **table** waiters (Acts 6:1-7).
5. The Zerubbabel **anointing** (Zech. 4:6).

C. Be prayer and word focused (Acts 6:3-4)

1. Cross-cultural growing **pain**.
2. Two **legs** to move our church forward.
3. The need for prayer and the Word **immersion**.

Conclusion:

1. How to become a part of Christ's overcoming church (Acts 2:36-41; 1 Cor. 12:13-14).
2. How to keep our church advancing (Refer to the Charisma Connection).

Read: Matthew 16:13-18

1. Why is it important to know what others think about Jesus (vv. 13-14)?
2. What is the right personal conviction about Jesus that was revealed by the heavenly Father to Peter (vv. 15-17)?
3. In verse 18, Jesus is:
 - a. The Builder of the church
 - b. The Foundation of the church
 - c. The Owner of the church
 - d. The Victor of the church

How do these four facts encourage you as a part of Christ's church?

Read: Luke 24:49; Acts 1:8; Zechariah 4:6

4. What difference does the Holy Spirit-empowerment make in our personal and congregational life? And do you receive this Spirit empowerment?

Read: Acts 6:1-7

Rapid church growth brings growing pain that requires pastoral leaders to focus their attention to prayer and the ministry of the Word.

5. What should our members and leaders do to implement these prayer and Word focus?
6. Respond to the five strategies on how to keep our church advancing, printed on the Charisma Connection.

PRAY