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Let's Make A Ding In The Universe

(Why the Christian church is the only hope of the world)

(SERIES: We Don't Do Fear: 04 of 04)
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"I will build my church, and the gates of death will not overcome it. I will give you the *keys of the kingdom of heaven*; whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven." (Matthew 16:13-19 TNIV)

How do you define a great church?

A great church is about **new life**.

"And the multitude of them that believed were of one heart and of one soul: neither said any of them that ought of the things which he possessed was his own; but they had all things common. And with **great power** gave the apostles witness of the resurrection of the Lord Jesus: and **great grace** was upon them all." (Acts 4:32-33 KJV)

A great church is about **anonymous generosity**.

"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 KJV)

A great church is about **engaging the outsider**.

"And the word of God increased; and the number of the disciples multiplied in Jerusalem greatly; and a **great company** of the priests were obedient to the faith." (Acts 6:7 KJV)

"And Stephen, full of faith and power, did **great wonders and miracles** among the people." (Acts 6:8 KJV)

A great church is about **being misunderstood**.

"And Saul was consenting unto his death. And at that time there was a **great persecution** against the church which was at Jerusalem; and they were all scattered abroad throughout the regions of Judaea and Samaria, except the apostles." (Acts 8:1 KJV)

A great church is about **numbers**.

"And the hand of the Lord was with them: and a **great number** believed, and turned unto the Lord." (Acts 11:21 KJV)

"And it came to pass in Iconium, that they went both together into the synagogue of the Jews, and so spake, that a **great multitude** both of the Jews and also of the Greeks believed." (Acts 14:1 KJV)

The 3 Goals Are

Goal # 1; We will **be the church**.

"And when he had said these words, the Jews departed, and had **great reasoning** among themselves." (Acts 28:29 KJV)

Goal # 2; We will **build the kingdom**.

"This, then, is how you should pray: 'Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.'" (Matthew 6:9-10 NIV)

Goal # 3; We will **run to the battle**.

"Put on the full armor of God so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand." (Ephesians 6:11-13 NIV)