

Not A Rolled Away
Stone
But A Carried Away
Church

What do people look for in a:

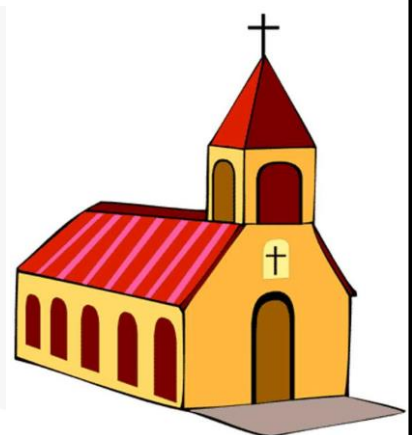
A. School?



B. Hotel?



C. Church?



Outline:

1. The Essence of a Church
2. The Carried Away Church
3. The Never-Ending Story

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1. The Essence of a Church

Acts 2:42-47 (NIV)

42 They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. **43** Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles. **44** All the believers were together and had everything in common. **45** They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need. **46** Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, **47** praising God and enjoying the favour of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.

1. The Essence of a Church

- **v42** - Devoted to teaching and fellowship

1. The Essence of a Church

- **v43** - Everyone kept feeling a sense of awe.
Many signs and wonders were taking place.

Acts 5:15 [Peter's Shadow]

So that they brought the sick out into the streets and laid them on beds and couches, that at least the shadow of Peter passing by might fall on some of them.

Acts 19:11-12 [Paul's Handkerchiefs]

11 Now God worked unusual miracles by the hands of Paul, **12** so that even handkerchiefs or aprons were brought from his body to the sick, and the diseases left them and the evil spirits went out of them.

1. The Essence of a Church

- **v44** - Believers who were together had things in common.
- **v45** - Selling possessions; sharing them.
- **v46** - Worshipping with one mind breaking bread; sharing meals with gladness and sincere hearts.
- **v47** - Praising God.
And the Lord was adding to their number people who were saved everyday.

Koinonia

Fellowship,
Sharing in Common,
Communion.



Expressed through phrases with **“one another”** in the Bible:

- Romans 12:10 - Devoted to **“one another”**
- Romans 12:16, 1 Peter 3:8 - Live in Harmony with **“one another”**
- Romans 15:7 - Accept **“one another”**
- Galatians 5:13 - Serve **“one another”**
- Ephesians 4:32 - Kind and compassionate to **“one another”**
- Colossians 3:16 - Admonish **“one another”**

Expressed through phrases with “**one another**” in the Bible:

- 1 Thessalonians 5:11 - Encourage “**one another**”
- Hebrews 10:24 - Spur “**one another**” towards love and good deeds
- 1 Peter 4:9 - Offer hospitality to “**one another**”
- 1 Peter 1:22 - Love “**one another**”
- **John 13:35** - By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love “**one another.**”

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1. The Essence of a Church

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2. The Carried Away Church

Acts 2:12 So they were all amazed and perplexed, saying to one another,

“Whatever
could this
mean?”



2. The Carried Away Church

1 Peter 3:13-16 (NIV)

13 Who is going to harm you if you are eager to do good?

14 But even if you should suffer for what is right, you are blessed. “Do not fear their threats; do not be frightened.”

15 But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect, **16** keeping a clear conscience, so that those who speak maliciously against your good behaviour in Christ may be ashamed of their slander.



2. The Carried Away Church

Joshua 2:8-13

8 Now before they lay down, she came up to them on the roof,
9 and said to the men: "I know that the Lord has given you the land, that the terror of you has fallen on us, and that all the inhabitants of the land are fainthearted because of you.
10 For we have heard how the Lord dried up the water of the Red Sea for you when you came out of Egypt, and what you did to the two kings of the Amorites who were on the other side of the Jordan, Sihon and Og, whom you utterly destroyed.



2. The Carried Away Church

Joshua 2:8-13

11 And as soon as we heard these things, our hearts melted; neither did there remain any more courage in anyone because of you, for the Lord your God, He is God in heaven above and on earth beneath. **12** Now therefore, I beg you, swear to me by the Lord, since I have shown you kindness, that you also will show kindness to my father's house, and give me a true token, **13** and spare my father, my mother, my brothers, my sisters, and all that they have, and deliver our lives from death."



2. The Carried Away Church

Joshua 2:21 Then she said, “According to your words, so be it.” And she sent them away, and they departed. And she bound the scarlet cord in the window.



The crowning evidence that Jesus was alive was not a vacant grave, but a spirit-filled fellowship. Not a rolled away stone, but a carried away church.

— Clarence Jordan —

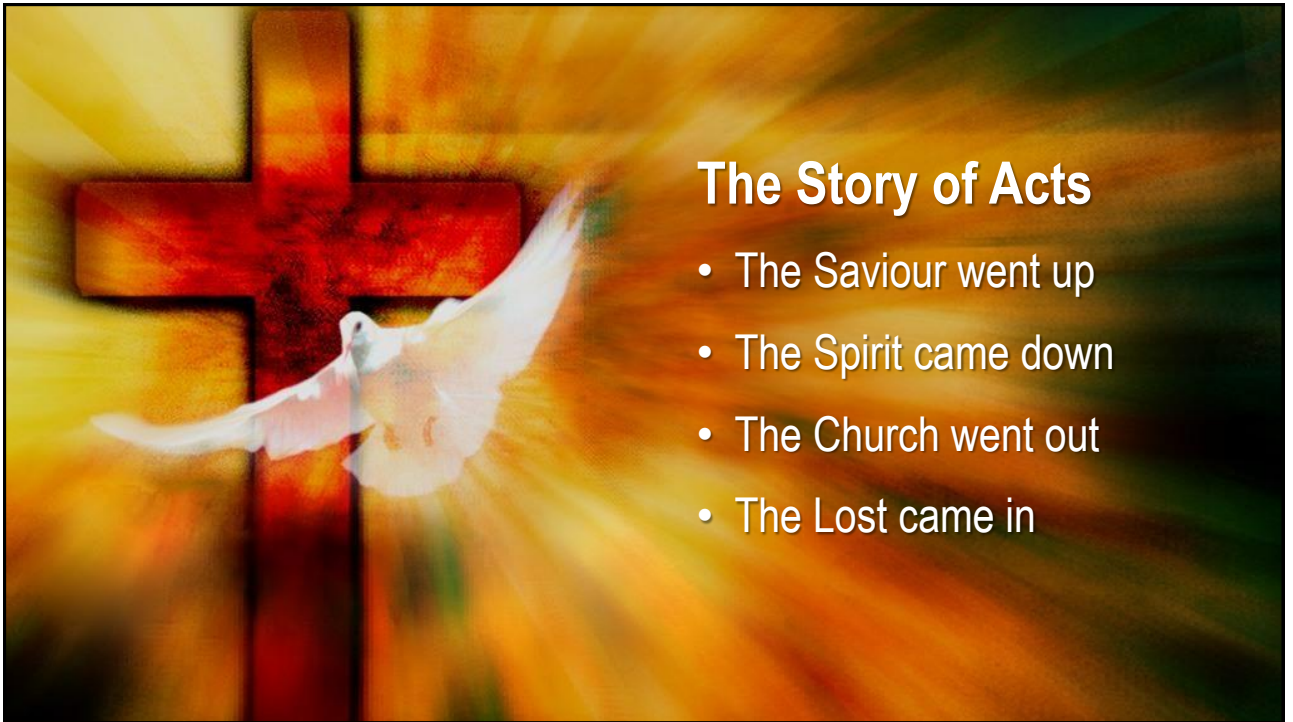
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Acts 28:30-31

30 Then Paul dwelt two whole years in his own rented house, and received all who came to him, **31** preaching the kingdom of God and teaching the things which concern the Lord Jesus Christ with all confidence, no one forbidding him.



The Story of Acts

- The Saviour went up
- The Spirit came down
- The Church went out
- The Lost came in

Conclusion

The Story of the Spirit-Filled
Church isn't ended yet

**What will your story
be like?**

