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Randall L. Adkisson, Ph.D.

## Monday

[Acts 14:27](#) When they had arrived and gathered the church together, they began to report all things that God had done with them and how He had opened a door of faith to the Gentiles.

Church is only a club unless it is made up of members who have committed their lives to Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord. Indeed that is the difference between a church and hundreds of other well meaning and good working organizations. The church is not a benevolence organization, though it does benevolence. The church is not an educational organization, though it educates. The church is not a community action relief organization, though it brings healing and help to broken people. The church is the body of Christ, the family of God, the worshiping saints.

## Tuesday

[Matt. 16:18](#) "I also say to you that you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build My church; and the gates of Hades will not overpower it."

The church will prevail! The church will conquer the gates of hell. The church is secured, founded upon the rock of Jesus as Lord and Savior. How foolish the believer who walks away from the church! When the scripture speaks of the church it speaks of the local congregation united together as a prevailing people of God. God did not call on Moses to enter the land alone or David to conquer alone or Peter to do missions alone. Each was called to be a part of the visible viable people of God. The church was established by Jesus and is empowered by God. Find your place of power, service, and community in the church.

## Wednesday

[Matt. 28:19](#) Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit.

One — only one command in the 'great commission.' That command is to make disciples. The other verbs, 'go,' 'baptizing,' 'teaching,' speak of the means or manner in which you are to make a disciple. The church then has one clear and glorious command — MAKE DISCIPLES! Everything we do should either be a clear part of that mission or it is a distraction to it. What is a disciple? He or she is a fully committed follower of Jesus Christ. He or she is a learner, a missionary, a follower, a minister, and a servant. He/she is! Are you? As a church what must we focus upon? What must be our passion? MAKING DISCIPLES!

## Thursday

[Acts 12:1](#) Now about that time Herod the king laid hands on some *who belonged to the church* in order to mistreat them.

The real difference between the church of power and authority, and a weak and anemic church may be found in this verse. The disciples of Acts belonged to the church. Today's so called disciples seem to believe that the church belongs to them. The consumer mentality has stolen the power of the church because consumers believe the church is to serve them, be used by them, and please them. Not so the disciples of the early church. These men and women loved the Lord, loved the church, and gave their lives to serve their Lord through their church — gave their lives literally. Does the church belong to you? Or do you belong to the church?

## Friday

[Acts 12:5](#) So Peter was kept in the prison, but prayer for him was being made fervently by the church to God.

Here is a beautiful picture of the loving church. When Peter was cast into prison, the church gathered and prayed. God heard the prayer of the church and Peter was miraculously set free. So the church gathers and prays for its leaders, its people, and its mission. The church ministers to its members and reaches resolutely to those who are not its members. The church is the power of God, the witness of God, and the embodiment of God in a lost and dying world. JOIN THE CHURCH!