

How Churches Stay Strong (and Grow Weak) Through the Years

- A. Our study of *Acts* has shown us how churches in Jerusalem, Antioch, Galatia, Ephesus, Philippi, Thessalonica, Corinth and beyond first started, how they flourished, and the difference they made.
- B. What can we learn from a brief overview of *Acts* about how churches stay strong through the years?

How Churches Stay Strong Through the Years...

...churches are made up of people and people are made strong in the Lord through:

- _____ (*Acts 2:37, 42a*)
- Commitment (*Acts 2:42b*)
- _____ with each other (*Acts 2:46-47*)
- A spirit of generosity (*Acts 4:32*)
- The _____ of the Lord and comfort of the Holy Spirit (*Acts 9:31*)
- Good works and acts of charity (*Acts 9:36-39*)
- Active _____ for those who need to hear the gospel (*Acts 10:24*)
- A willingness to listen to each other (*Acts 11:1-2, 18*)
- Steadfast _____ (*Acts 11:23*)
- Earnest prayer (*Acts 12:5, 12*)
- A _____ for the Lord and the world that is bigger than themselves (*Acts 13:1-3*)
- Another generation that has been taught to take God seriously (*Acts 16:1-2*)
- Attentive _____ (*Acts 20:28*)

How Churches Grow Weak Through the Years...

...churches are made up of people and people become weak by:

- _____ the love they had at first (*Rev 2:4*)
- Losing the fear of the Lord and compromising the message of the Holy Spirit (*Rev 2:14*)
- A love for the world that breeds a spirit of _____-centeredness (*Rev 2:20*)
- Spiritual apathy that rests in empty reputation (*Rev 3:1-2*)
- A failure to see ourselves as _____ sees us (*Rev 3:15-17*)

MY NEXT STEP to being the change I want to see in 2017 is...