

**“The Church Expanding”**  
**Acts 2:40-41, 47**  
**Sermon Series: “More Than A Building”**

Read Acts 2:40-41, 47; Acts 9:31

**Main Idea: The Church expands as Jesus saves people.**

**How does Jesus work through His followers to save people and expand the Church?**

**1. Jesus gave the Church a mission to perform (Acts 1:8, Revelation 7:9-10)**

**2. Jesus gave the Church a message to proclaim (Acts 4:5-12)**

**3. Jesus gave the Church messengers to proclaim it.**

**You have the responsibility and the ability to reach people with the gospel of Jesus.**

Acts 8:1-8, Acts 11:19-26, Acts 13:1-3

**4. Jesus gave the Church a methodology to practice (Matthew 28:18-20).**

**A. Proclamation (“go”)**

**-Organic (Acts 10:24, 16:13, 16:32)**

**-Intentional (Acts 13:1-3)**

**-Strategic (cities outward, went to where spiritually interested people**

**were: synagogues for Jews, Mars Hill etc, for Gentiles)**

**-Supernatural (Acts 10:44)**

**B. Incorporation (“baptizing them...”)**

**C. Transformation (“teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you”)**

Acts 11:25-26

**D. The end result of this process is the planting of churches.**

I believe Acts gives us the pattern for a true New Testament Church, which definitely includes church planting. Malphurs continues by saying, “If we desire to know how the early church understood Christ’s commission, we can find the answer in the Book of Acts. Acts is a church-planting book because much of what takes place does so in the context of starting new churches.”

We see this in Acts 11 when the disciples were scattered by persecution. As they went, they shared Jesus with people. Many people were saved at Antioch so the church in Jerusalem dispatched Barnabas, who also took Paul, and they taught the people for a year. They developed into a church because Acts 11:26 and 13:1 call them a “church.”

Then, the leaders of this new church, under the leadership of the Holy Spirit, sent Paul and Barnabas out as missionaries, and they proclaimed the gospel, disciplined the converts, established leaders, and ultimately, planted churches in cities including Lystra, Iconium, Antioch (14:21-23), Galatia (16:6), Philippi (16:9-15), Thessalonica (17:1-4), Corinth (18:1-11), and Ephesus (19:1-10).