

The Church Multiplied

Acts 9:31

The Church Had Peace

Strong's (*eirene* – Noun Feminine) –

- peace between individuals, i.e. harmony, concord
- of Christianity, the tranquil state of a soul assured of its salvation through Christ, and so fearing nothing from God and content with its earthly lot, of whatsoever sort that is

The Church Had Peace

- **Not by relief from persecution ...**
- **Acts 3:11ff** – Healing of the lame man and accusation of Jews
- **Acts 4:3** – Peter and John arrested for accusing the Jews of killing the Messiah
- **Acts 5** - Ananias and Sapphira lied to God (Holy Spirit) and died; apostles jailed and beaten

The Church Had Peace

- **Acts 6** - Stephen persecuted by Jews
- **Acts 7** – Stephen stoned to death for his faith
- **Acts 8** – Church in Jerusalem was scattered through Judea and Samaria
- **Acts 9** – Saul persecutes the church with violence
- **Acts 12** – James decapitated for the cause, Peter imprisoned, angel of God let him out

The Church Had Peace

- **Acts 16** – Paul and Silas jailed
- **II Corinthians 11:23-28** – Paul's persecutions
- **Hebrews 10:32-35** – Loss of possessions and respect, were plundered
- **The church didn't have relief from persecution. They withstood it. What then is this peace the church enjoyed?**

The Church Had Peace

- **Spiritual peace, knowledge of the truth**
- **Hebrews 10:32-35** – Recompense of reward
- **Acts 4:23** – The church prayed to God, communication brought confidence and peace
- They witnessed God's protection of the church (Peter/John released, apostles released by an angel, angel releases Peter, earthquake released Paul and Silas).

The Church Was Edified

- What is edification?
- **Strong** – (*oikodomeo* – verb)
 - to build a house, erect a building; to build (up from the foundation); to restore by building, to rebuild, repair
 - *metaph* - to promote growth in Christian wisdom, affection, grace, virtue, holiness, blessedness

The Church Was Edified

- They continued steadfastly in fellowship, breaking of bread, and prayers – Acts 2:42
- Scriptural worship – John 4:24
- United in truth – John 17:17-23
- Worked hard together – Ephesians 4:11-16
- Through the right attitude – Galatians 5:15
- They assembled – Hebrews 10:24-25

The Church Was Not Edified

How was the church not edified?

- Men's/Women's retreats
- Men's/Women's conferences
- "Fellowship meals"
- Church sponsored recreation

Feared God

- Strong** – (*phobos* - noun masculine) –
- fear, dread, terror, that which strikes terror
 - Reverence for one's husband

Feared God

Examples of fear

- **Exodus 19:16-25** – Israel trembled at Sinai
- **Proverbs 1:7** – Fear equals knowledge
 - cf. Deuteronomy 6:24 – “for our good always”
- **God's divine judgment**
 - **Acts 5** – Ananias and Sapphira
 - **Acts 12:21-23** – Death of Herod Agrippa by worms

Comfort Of The Holy Spirit

- **2 Peter 1:21** - The word was delivered by God the Spirit Who inspired men; they spoke it.
- **Ephesians 3:1-5** – This inspired, divine message was written down so others may read and understand.
- **Romans 1:16-17** – This word is the gospel, it saves us from sin, shows us the way

Comfort Of The Holy Spirit

- **Colossians 3:16-17** – This word dwells in us through reading and study
- **Hebrews 4:12** – The word is living and active
- **Acts 20:31-32** – Paul commended the elders at Miletus to the word of God

Comfort Of The Holy Spirit

- **Conclusion** – The church was multiplied because they immersed themselves in the divine word, the message of hope and the comfort it provides through rock solid promises.