

# CHURCH OF HOPE 17 WEEK EVANGELISM AND MINISTRY TRAINING COURSE



**STUDY GUIDE: WEEK TWELVE (POWERPOINTS)**

**TOPIC TEN: ATTRIBUTES OF A HEALTHY  
CHURCH / EXPERIENCING GOD'S POWER IN  
OUR MEETINGS – PART TWO**

In this PowerPoint teaching for Part Two of week Twelve of the 17 week Evangelism and Ministry Training Course we will be looking at;

i. The importance of experiencing God's power in our meetings, and



ii. Some further important keys to having healthy churches with some related scriptures for each key

i. **The importance of experiencing God's power in our meetings**



**WHEN WE LOOK AT PASSAGES OF SCRIPTURE IN THE BOOK OF ACTS WE SEE THAT THE EARLY CHURCH EXPERIENCED GOD'S POWER AND THAT MIRACLES AND HEALINGS WERE A COMMON OCCURRENCE**

“And through the hands of the apostles many signs and wonders were done among the people. And they were all with one accord in Solomon's Porch.” **(Acts 5:12)**

“And believers were increasingly added to the Lord, **multitudes** of both men and women, 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. Also a multitude gathered from the surrounding cities to Jerusalem, bringing sick people and those who were tormented by unclean spirits, **and they were healed.**” (Acts 5:14-16)



- The church was birthed in power on the day of Pentecost when all around 120 in the Upper Room (Acts 1:13-15) were baptised in the Holy Spirit. We see this in Chapter two of the book of Acts.



“When the Day of Pentecost had fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. And suddenly there came a sound from heaven, as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. Then there appeared to them divided tongues, as of fire, and one sat upon each of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.” (Acts 2:1-4)

- **Almost immediately after the Day of Pentecost the Apostle Peter preached a sermon (Acts 2:14-39) which resulted in about three thousand people being saved and added to the church (Acts 2:41)**



- **With the church birthed in power, miracles and healings were common place which resulted in many people coming to Christ and the rapid growth of the early church. (Acts 3:1-10) (Acts 5:16) (Acts 9:32-35) (Acts 9:36-42)**

“And through the hands of the apostles many signs and wonders were done among the people. And they were all with one accord in Solomon’s Porch.” (Acts 5:12)



“And believers were increasingly added to the Lord, **multitudes** of both men and women, 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. Also a multitude gathered from the surrounding cities to Jerusalem, bringing sick people and those who were tormented by unclean spirits, **and they were healed.**” (Acts 5:14-16)

“So continuing daily with **one accord** in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they ate their food with gladness and simplicity of heart, praising God and having favour with all the people. **And the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved.**” (Acts 2:46-47)



- **Seeing all believers being baptised in the Holy Spirit was a key focus of the early church.**
- In Chapter Eight of the book of Acts we see many people coming to Christ in Samaria through the preaching of Phillip **(Acts 8:5-8)**



“Then Philip went down to the city of Samaria and preached Christ to them. And the multitudes with one accord heeded the things spoken by Philip, hearing and seeing the miracles which he did. For unclean spirits, crying with a loud voice, came out of many who were possessed; and many who were paralyzed and lame were healed. **AND THERE WAS GREAT JOY IN THAT CITY” (Acts 8:5-8)**



- Prior to Phillip preaching in Samaria he was serving in the distribution of food to the widows. (Acts 6:5)
- After engaging in this helps ministry Philip was then used by God in Samaria to see multitudes coming to Christ as he preached the gospel in that city.
- Here we see a perfect example of how when we are faithful in the little, God is able to promote us into a major ministry calling.
- Phillip was also a non Apostle but this was no hindrance to his miracle ministry.



- After many people had been converted to Christ through Philip’s preaching, we read how the apostles came to Samaria to pray for all those who had come to Christ to be baptized in the Holy Spirit,



“Now when the apostles who were at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them, who, when they had come down, prayed for them that they might *receive the Holy Spirit*. For as yet He had fallen upon none of them. They had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. Then they laid hands on them, and they *received the Holy Spirit*.” (Acts 8:14-17)

- It is so important in all of our church meetings that we encourage all believers to be continually filled with the Holy Spirit (**Ephesians 5:18**) and that we have an expectation (faith) that God will perform miracles in our meetings as we pray for people in need of healings and miracles in their life. (Hebrews 11:1)



- As we do, we will see the same miracles that occurred on a regular basis in the early church.
- IN THE BOOK OF HEBREWS WE READ, “Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever.” (**Hebrews 13:8**) **AND**

## ii. Some further important keys to having healthy churches with some related scriptures for each key

### 1) The importance of making mature disciples.

(The Great Commission – Matthew 28:19-20)



- The role of those in the five-fold ministry is for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry and for the edifying and building up of the body of Christ.
- As every believers fulfils God's plan for their life (Ephesians 2:10) we see growth in the body of Christ (the church)

**The Apostle Paul wrote, “And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, for the **EQUIPPING** of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ, till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the **knowledge** of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ;” (Ephesians 4:11-13)**



“from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself IN LOVE.” (Ephesians 4:16)

## 2) The importance of training up and mentoring leaders and releasing people into ministry.



- As pastors we need to be continually investing our lives in other future leaders to help them to be released into other ministry roles and new extension services or church plants.
- As pastors we need to imitate the apostle Paul and become fathers of the faith. **(1 Corinthians 4:15-16)**

**The Apostle Paul wrote,** “For though you might have ten thousand instructors in Christ, yet you do not have many fathers; for in Christ Jesus I have begotten you through the gospel. Therefore I urge you, imitate me. For this reason I have sent Timothy to you, who is my beloved and faithful son in the Lord, who will remind you of my ways in Christ, as I teach everywhere in every church.”  
**(1 Corinthians 4:15-17)**





- Developing mature leaders will help to see a church growing and making a greater impact in the community.
- We must always have a Kingdom building mindset as a pastor and leader.
- It is about seeing His Kingdom being built.



**The Apostle Paul said to the young pastor Timothy, “And the things that you have heard from me among many witnesses, commit these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also.” (2 Timothy 2:2)**

**3) The importance of appointing Christians of character into leadership positions as directed by the Lord (Holy Spirit) - (Acts 13:2) As Christian leaders, it is important that we model what it is to live the Christian life.**



- For this reason appointing leaders with Godly character and integrity is vitally important.
- As pastors we should be careful to not appoint leaders hastily. **(1 Timothy 5:22)**
- What is in the heart of the leaders will influence the spiritual state of the church.

**The Apostle Paul wrote to Titus to give him instructions about how to perform his pastoral duties as well as outlining the qualities required for people to be put into leadership roles. The Apostle Paul wrote,**

“For this reason I left you in Crete, that you should set in order the things that are lacking, and appoint elders in every city as I commanded you - if a man is blameless, the husband of one wife, having faithful children not accused of dissipation or insubordination. **(Titus 1:5-6)**



“For a bishop must be blameless, as a steward of God, not self-willed, not quick-tempered, not given to wine, not violent, not greedy for money, but hospitable, a lover of what is good, sober-minded, just, holy, self-controlled, holding fast the faithful word as he has been taught, that he may be able by sound doctrine, both to exhort and convict those who contradict.” (**Titus 1:7-9**)

**(See also 1 Timothy 3:1-7)**



**4) The importance of having programs for children and the youth. It is so important that we minister to the needs of children and the youth in a way that is relevant and understandable to them.**



- Having Kids Clubs and Sunday Schools for children and separate programs for youth is an important part of seeing a church growing strong and healthy over time.
- It is so important that we invest our lives in the next generation of children and youth to see them growing up in the ways of the Lord

- There are many good teaching tools and literature for teaching children that can be downloaded from the internet.
- If children are disciplined at an early age they will find it hard to depart from the ways of the Lord when they grow up.



**In the book of Proverbs we read,**

**“Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it.” (Proverbs 22:6)**

## 5) The importance of having specialised women's meetings and men's fellowship groups

- Having women's meetings and men's fellowship groups gives the opportunity for men and woman to be ministered to in areas relevant to their roles in the Christian family.
- Having strong families is a key to seeing stability in our communities and in our church fellowships.
- For this reason, bi-monthly men's breakfasts and regular women's meetings can be invaluable to seeing growth in the lives of those in our congregations.



- Many of the larger churches have regular meetings and events to specifically address the unique issues and spiritual needs of men and women.



- Hillsong Church has also run a yearly colour conference for women for many years as well as an annual weekend retreat for men.
- In the book of Titus the Apostle Paul emphasised the importance of older women training up the younger women in the church in the ways of Christian living as a wife.



**The Apostle Paul wrote,** “the older women likewise, that they be reverent in behaviour, not slanderers, not given to much wine, *teachers of good things* – that they admonish the young women to love their husbands, to love their children, to be discreet, chaste, homemakers, good, obedient to their own husbands, that the word of God may not be blasphemed.” **(Titus 2:3-5)**



## 6) The importance of encouraging all believers to use their spiritual gifts and to flow in God's plan for their life.



- As a team we can achieve much.
- Every believer has a unique calling and gifts which are to be a blessing for the wider body of Christ **(1 Corinthians 12:7)** and for helping others to come to Christ.
- As we all need one another in the body of Christ, it is good to encourage all believers to use their spiritual gifts.
- True joy and purpose comes from using our God given gifts and talents for the Kingdom Cause **(Matthew 25:14-23)**

**The Apostle Paul wrote, “Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, let us use them: If prophecy, let us prophesy in proportion to our faith; or ministry, let us use it in our ministering; he who teaches, in teaching; he who exhorts, in exhortation; he who gives, with liberality; he who leads, with diligence; he who shows mercy, with cheerfulness.” (Romans 12:6-8)**



**7) The importance of allowing the Holy Spirit to have His way in our meetings. (*Zechariah 4:6*) Not quenching the Spirit.**



- Having the tangible presence of God in our meetings is a great key to seeing lives being touched and transformed by the love of Christ.
- We must not cut meetings short when the Holy Spirit is moving upon peoples' hearts and lives.

**The Apostle Paul wrote, “Do not quench the Spirit”  
(1 Thessalonians 5:19)**



- We can also quench the Spirit if we allow an attitude of pride and showmanship to distort the simplicity of God’s workings in our meetings.
- We must always be careful to give all the glory to God

**The Apostle Paul also wrote,**

**“Therefore, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.” (1 Corinthians 10:31)**

8) The importance of also having Godly order in our meetings. “...The spirits of the prophets are subject to the prophets.” (1 Corinthians 14:32)



- To preserve balance and to prevent confusion in the worship service, the apostle Paul emphasised the importance of regulating prophecies in that those who function in the gift of prophecy are to judge the authenticity of all prophetic utterances, in relation to their content, alignment with God’s Word and relevancy to the meeting. **(1 Corinthians 14:26-32)**

- **The Apostle Paul also commented on the importance of not distracting others by talking out of line to people during the middle of church meetings. He addressed this matter in relation to women speaking to their husbands during a church meeting. *(1 Corinthians 14:34-35)***
- **The Apostle Paul also wrote, “Let all things be done decently and in order.” **(1 Corinthians 14:40)****
- **When the Holy Spirit is free to move in our meetings and people are respectful of others and prophetic utterances are judged as to their authenticity, we can expect God to move in a mighty way in our meetings.**



**9) The importance of the LORD being in control of all that we do in our church. It is crucial that we continually allow the Lord to guide and direct our steps in all that we do and that we follow HIS BLUEPRINT FOR OUR CHURCH.**



**In the book of Psalms we read,**

**“Unless the LORD builds the house, they labour in vain who build it; Unless the LORD guards the city, The watchman stays awake in vain.” (Psalm 127:1) AND**



**10) The importance of all church pastors being accountable to other mature pastors. It is so important that pastors of churches are accountable to others and open to people speaking into their lives.**



- Having checks and balances through pastors being accountable to other mature men of God is a great key to a church remaining strong and healthy.
- It is good for all churches to be affiliated with a healthy movement such as the Assemblies of God, or associated with a network of churches.

- **It is advisable for all pastors to have fellowship with other pastors. Iron sharpens iron.**



- When pastors become isolated and are not prepared to have people speak into their lives, there is an ever increasing danger of error and wrong doctrine creeping into their church fellowships.
- Having healthy relationships with other pastors is a great safeguard to help us remain doctrinally sound in all that we do in our church meetings.
- Jesus Himself warned that in the days just prior to His return that many would be offended.

**Jesus Himself said,** “And then many will be offended, will betray one another, and will hate one another. Then many false prophets will rise up and deceive many.” **(Matthew 24:10-11)**

- We must be careful that we always maintain a soft heart as pastors and are quick to forgive those who may speak against us or offend us.
- We must always maintain a forgiving heart and be open to letting others speak into our life.
- There is wisdom in a multitude of counsellors.  
**(Proverbs 11:14) (Proverbs 15:22)**



- There are many Scriptures that warn of the dangers of being isolated from fellowship and from being disconnected from the wider body of Christ and which also warn of the fact that in the last days many false prophets will rise up and lead many believers astray. **(Proverbs 14:14) (1 Timothy 4:1) (Matthew 24:4-5) (1 John 2:18-19) (2 Peter 2:1-3)**



**The Apostle Paul wrote,** “Now the Spirit expressly says that in latter times some will depart from the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons,” **(1 Timothy 4:1)**



**The Apostle Peter wrote,**

“But there were also false prophets among the people, even as there will be false teachers among you, who will secretly bring in destructive heresies, even denying the Lord who bought them, *and* bring on themselves swift destruction. And many will follow their destructive ways, because of whom the way of truth will be blasphemed. By covetousness they will exploit you with deceptive words; for a long time their judgment has not been idle, and their destruction does not slumber.” **(2 Peter 2:1-3)**

- How important it is given the days that we are now living in, that we have healthy checks and balances in our life and that we are in relationship with other pastors and ideally affiliated with a healthy network of pastors or with a movement such as the Assemblies of God.



- **WE WILL NOW FINISH THIS WEEKS STUDY WITH A FEW PRACTICAL THINGS TO CONSIDER IN RELATION TO MAKING OUR FELLOWSHIPS HEALTHY COMMUNITY CHANGING CHURCHES**

# 1) The importance of having a clear God given vision for our church. (Habakkuk 2:2-3)



- Having a clear written down vision for our church, helps to attract believers to the life of the church and to take on ministry roles and responsibilities.
- Having a clear vision for our church fellowship helps us to stay focussed on reaching our community with the love of Christ and the gospel message.

**The LORD said to the prophet Habakkuk,**

“Write the vision and make it plain on tablets, that he may run who reads it. For the vision is yet for an appointed time; But at the end it will speak, and it will not lie. Though it tarries, wait for it; Because it will surely come, It will not tarry.” **(Habakkuk 2:2-3)**





## 2) The importance of connecting with our community in a relevant way



- We need to look for opportunities to engage with the community in a real and meaningful way.
- Each year Church of Hope holds a free Christmas lunch for the community in Blacktown as well as monthly breakfasts before our Sunday worship meetings.
- In Melbourne they provide every Saturday night a meal for the marginalized which is supplied by other church groups who have a heart to feed the poor.

- Each Monday Church of Hope NSW also holds a coffee and chat meeting at their Blacktown centre where people can also enjoy a free breakfast and lunch as they fellowship with others



- It is so important as a church that we build bridges into the community so that we can have opportunities to meet people and build relationships with them so that we are able to share our faith with them

- As pastors we need to encourage all believers to look for opportunities to share their faith with others. Every believer has a mission field and ministry. **(Ephesians 2:10)**
- **It is very important as a church in our community, that we also have a focus outside of the four walls of our church and that we have a heart to reach out to the lost and backslidden in our city.**



**In the book of Acts we read,**

“Now while Paul waited for them at Athens, his spirit was provoked within him when he saw that the city was given over to idols. Therefore he reasoned in the synagogues with the Jews and with the Gentile worshipers, and in the marketplace daily with those who happened to be there.”  
**(Acts 17:16-17)**



**Jesus Himself said,**

**“... ‘Go out quickly into the streets and lanes of the city, and bring in here the poor and the maimed and the lame and the blind.’” (Luke 14:21)**



- As church leaders we need to always be seeking the Lord for creative ways of connecting with our community to help those in our villages and cities come to Christ.**

### 3) Responding to some of the needs in our community.

- We need to seek the Lord as a church, as volunteers become available, for practical ways of connecting with the community such as Teaching English, Cutting Lawns for single mums and pensioners, or setting up Sowing Schools to help build relationships and bridges to share the gospel with those in our community
- Providing Christmas hampers to the poor is also a great way of reaching out to the lost in our community as part of our Christmas outreach initiatives



**4) As more people become connected to the life of our church, we need to encourage believers in our fellowships to reach into our schools, hospitals and prisons with the love of Christ and the gospel message**

- A great key to living a fulfilled Christian life is to live for the Kingdom Cause and to flow in God's plan for our lives
- Every believer has an important ministry
- As pastors and leaders it is important to encourage all believers to fully engage with God's plan for their lives. This is a great key to seeing our churches becoming community changing churches



**The Apostle Paul wrote,**

“from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself IN LOVE.” (Ephesians 4:16)





## 5) That people sense God's love and acceptance when they enter our church worship meetings.



- First impressions are very important.
- Having friendly ushers to welcome people to their church is a key focus for larger churches.
- We need to make all visitors feel welcome.
- We only have one chance at a good first impression. Serving tea and coffee after our meetings has the potential to help create a loving Christian community in our church.
- We need to cultivate an atmosphere of love and acceptance in all our meetings.

**6) That our church worship centres are clean and tidy (this helps people not to be distracted during the worship time and the preaching of the Word) – We should take pride in looking after God’s House**



**7) That where possible we help to resource new Christians with teaching materials and resources to get them started in their walk with the Lord**

## 8) That we help all new believers to be grounded in their walk with the Lord.



- Providing support and encouragement to new believers is especially crucial during the first month or two of their Christian walk until they become established in the fellowship, especially if they are the only Christian in their family
- Having new believer's classes is a great way of helping new believers to get a good start in their Christian walk

**9) That as a church we have a Kingdom building mindset and look to work with and support other churches in joint initiatives.**

- Every church has a unique calling and different strengths that are also to be a blessing for the wider body of Christ. (In every city we have one church with many congregations)



**10) The importance of having a sound administrative structure and financial integrity and accountability as a church. Complying with all Government requirements is crucial (Romans 13:1)**



- We must be an example to those in the corporate world.
- If we have integrity in our church administration, the Lord can entrust to us great amounts of resources to complete His work through our church and ministry and entrust to our care many souls to shepherd and care for **(Luke 16:10-11)**

**Jesus Himself said, “He who is faithful in what is least is faithful also in much; and he who is unjust in what is least is unjust also in much. Therefore if you have not been faithful in the unrighteous mammon, who will commit to your trust the true riches?” (Luke 16:10)**

**11) That our churches are safe places for people to come to (No hazards, that the premises are hygienic, that Child protection procedures are in place, etc)**

**And**



**12) That the Senior Pastor needs to be a bigger picture person who looks at training up and mentoring leaders to help see the vision for the church becoming a reality**



- It is so important for all senior pastors to prayerfully select a number of Christians to train up and mentor to fill leadership roles in their church

**The Apostle Paul wrote to the young pastor Timothy, “And the things that you have heard from me among many witnesses, commit these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also.” (2 Timothy 2:2)**

- WE WILL NOW CONCLUDE BY EMPHASISING AGAIN THE IMPORTANCE OF ENCOURAGING ALL BELIEVERS TO BE CONTINUALLY FILLED WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT (**Ephesians 5:18**) AND TO BE ACTIVELY PRAYING FOR OTHERS THAT HAVE NEED OF HEALING OR MIRACLES IN THEIR LIFE.



- Every Believer can see miracles of healing as they pray for the sick in the name of Jesus. (**Mark 16:17-18**)
- WE NEED TO CONTINUALLY PRAY FOR AND BELIEVE FOR MIRACLES OF HEALING in our church meetings.



- The world needs to see again in these times, and especially in the Western world, the demonstration of miracles of healings and God’s power in our lives and churches as we pray for the sick. **(1 Thessalonians 1:5)**



**The Apostle Paul wrote,** “For our gospel did not come to you in word only, but also in power, and in the Holy Spirit and in much assurance, as you know what kind of men we were among you for your sake.” **(1 Thessalonians 1:5)**

- We need to encourage all believers that God is able to use them in a great way for His glory. **(Ephesians 3:20)**

**The Apostle Paul wrote, “Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us,” (Ephesians 3:20)**

- One final concluding thought as we finish this week’s teaching for Week Twelve of the 17 week Evangelism and Ministry Training Course. How important it is that we continually allow the Lord to unfold His plan and purpose for our lives, churches and ministries. Because “unless the LORD builds the house, they labour in vain who build it; ...” (Psalm 127:1)

