

Seven Priorities of a Successful Church and Christian

Dr. John Carmichael

[Act 2:42, 47 NASB95] 42 They were continually devoting themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. ... 47 praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord was adding to their number day by day those who were being saved.

- Dr. Lee, pastor of Yoido Full Gospel Church, the largest church in the world, preached seven specific reasons why YFGC began the largest church most successful church in the world.
- Having the right priorities will set the stage for success.
- In Acts 2:42, we see the general priorities of the church. In Acts 2:47, we see the success of the church.
- The following seven specific priorities are an expansion of the four general priorities of Acts 2:42.

What are seven specific priorities that will make ENC a successful church?

These seven priorities will continue to help ENC to be a success church and help make you a successful Christian.

I. We are a church that preaches the Bible as the Word of God.

- a. In Acts 2:42, they continue steadfastly in the apostles doctrine. Teaching and preaching of God's word was vital to the growth and success of the Church.
- b. [2Ti 3:16-17 NASB95] 16 All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; 17 so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work.
- c. [2Ti 4:2 NASB95] 2 preach the word; be ready in season [and] out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort, with great patience and instruction.
- d. The only source of teaching must be founded upon the inspired Word of God.
- e. God's Word is our:
 - i. Food - [Mat 4:4 NASB95] 4 But He answered and said, "It is written, 'MAN SHALL NOT LIVE ON BREAD ALONE, BUT ON EVERY WORD THAT PROCEEDS OUT OF THE MOUTH OF GOD.'"
 - ii. Medicine - [Pro 4:20, 22 NASB95] 20 My son, give attention to my words; Incline your ear to my sayings. ... 22 For they are life to those who find them And health to all their body.
 - iii. Weapon - [Eph 6:17 NASB95] 17 And take THE HELMET OF SALVATION, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.
- f. We preach only God's inspired Word, the Bible.

II. We are a church that practices fervent and frequent prayer to God.

- a. In Acts 2:42, prayer was a regular part of the church.
- b. Jesus taught individual prayer. In Acts, there was corporate prayer.
- c. Corporate prayer schedule:
 - i. Current: Monday noon online, Wednesday preservice, and 4th Friday Soaking prayer.
 - ii. Adding (beginning) January 2025: Sunday preservice and Thursday 7-8AM.
- d. Individually, we encourage you to develop a daily prayer life. Set a time. Show up.
- e. Corporate and individual prayer is a must for a successful Christian and church.

III. We are a church that desires the manifestations of the Holy Spirit.

- a. [Act 2:43 NASB95] 43 Everyone kept feeling a sense of awe; and many wonders and signs were taking place through the apostles.

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- b. [1Co 12:7-11 NASB95] 7 But to each one is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. 8 For to one is given the word of wisdom through the Spirit, and to another the word of knowledge according to the same Spirit; 9 to another faith by the same Spirit, and to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, 10 and to another the effecting of miracles, and to another prophecy, and to another the distinguishing of spirits, to another [various] kinds of tongues, and to another the interpretation of tongues. 11 But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually just as He wills.
- c. [1Co 14:1 NASB95] 1 Pursue love, yet desire earnestly spiritual [gifts,] but especially that you may prophesy.
- d. The manifestations of the Holy Spirit are for today and we will pursue Him.

IV. We are a church that believes in divine healing for the whole person.

- a. [Act 4:29-30 NASB95] 29 "And now, Lord, take note of their threats, and grant that Your bond-servants may speak Your word with all confidence, 30 while You extend Your hand to heal, and signs and wonders take place through the name of Your holy servant Jesus."
- b. Ministry Jesus-style:
 - i. [Mat 4:23 NASB95] 23 Jesus was going throughout all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every kind of disease and every kind of sickness among the people.
 - ii. [Mat 9:35 NASB95] 35 Jesus was going through all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every kind of disease and every kind of sickness.
- c. Command to the church: [Jas 5:14-15 NASB95] 14 Is anyone among you sick? [Then] he must call for the elders of the church and they are to pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord; 15 and the prayer offered in faith will restore the one who is sick, and the Lord will raise him up, and if he has committed sins, they will be forgiven him.
- d. We faithfully pray for and release our faith to experience divine healing spirit, soul, and body.

V. We are a church that faithfully meets together corporately and in small groups.

- a. In Acts 2:42 – they met regularly. We get more clarity on how they met from the following verses:
 - i. [Act 2:46 NASB95] 46 Day by day continuing with one mind in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they were taking their meals together with gladness and sincerity of heart,
 - ii. [Act 20:20 NASB95] 20 how I did not shrink from declaring to you anything that was profitable, and teaching you publicly and from house to house,
 - iii. [Act 5:42 NASB95] 42 And every day, in the temple and from house to house, they kept right on teaching and preaching Jesus [as] the Christ.
- b. We will put great emphasis on corporate gatherings that are excellent and filled with God's presence, power, peace, and people.
- c. We will continue to offer and expand smaller groups: B-Groups and service groups.
- d. Every member is to be faithful in participating in corporate church meetings and small groups.

VI. We are a church that reaches out to the poor.

- a. In Acts 2:45, they helped everyone. [Act 2:45 NASB95] 45 and they [began] selling their property and possessions and were sharing them with all, as anyone might have need.

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- b. It was a priority in this church. [Gal 2:10 NASB95] 10 [They] only [asked] us to remember the poor the very thing I also was eager to do.
- c. We will continue to support the ENC Food Pantry and look for new ways to help people who are struggling to get their needs met.

VII. We are a church that actively practices and supports local and global evangelism.

- a. Every service we give opportunity for someone to come to Christ.
 - b. Every member is encouraged to share the Gospel as often as possible.
 - c. We will continue to financially support missionaries around the globe. A portion of the offerings from the coffee bar above the expenses will go to missions.
 - d. Will continue to use every avenue possible including social media and new mover mailers.
 - e. In 2025, in addition to the regular outreaches, we will visit every housing unit in Clarksville. Approx. 10k with a population of just over 22k.
 - f. Individually and as a church, we will actively reach out to every ethnic group and every age group in this region with the Gospel of Jesus by the power of the Holy Spirit and the love of God.
- **These seven specific priorities will make you as an individual and ENC as a corporate body successful in the eyes of God.**