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**107 Spirit Empowered Churches Study Guide**

**Students must complete this study guide in its entirety and bring a hard copy to turn in at the beginning of the class.**

**Textbook:** *A Spirit-Empowered Church* by Alton Garrison

**Course Objectives**

* The student will be able to identify key characteristics of a healthy church
* The student will be able to define the five functions of a healthy church
* The student will be able to recognize the lifecycle stages of a church
* The student will be able to develop a strategic plan for a healthy church

1. In Acts 2:42-47, the Holy Spirit began to explain the process of how to move from a temple model to a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ model.
2. At \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ , an amazing and dramatic thing happened: Those who believed in Jesus became the place where heaven and earth met.
3. \_\_\_\_\_ TRUE/FALSE: Evangelism, discipleship, fellowship, ministry (service), and worship were to be the functions of an effective, Spirit-empowered church—they are the five functions upon which the Acts 2 process is based: *connect, grow, serve, go,* and *worship*.
4. *\_\_\_*\_*\_\_ Grow* is about discipleship. It’s how your church promotes spiritual formation in:

a. individuals

b. the congregation

c. ministry teams and the congregation

d. individuals, ministry teams and the congregation

1. \_\_\_\_\_\_ TRUE/FALSE: The first century church was empowered by the Spirit, but Jesus had a plan for those He was leaving behind. He *revealed* that plan through the power of His Spirit, and He *accomplishes* the plan through the hard work of His followers.
2. Spiritual experiences are wonderful, but without a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, you’ll find yourself wondering how to take your church from where you are to where it needs to be.
3. \_\_\_\_\_\_ TRUE/FALSE: What worked for the first-century church continues to work today because the Builder, Christ, used a sound blueprint when He founded the church in Acts.
4. The willingness to admit we need to do things \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ is one of the biggest challenges we face in our Acts 2 Journeys.
5. We can be transformed by the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of the Spirit, and we can then change the atmosphere of our churches and congregations through the same plan that God used to transform the church of the first century.
6. \_\_\_\_\_\_ TRUE/FALSE: The future of a church belongs to one visionary leader, the pastor.
7. Working as a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ enables us to reach people for Jesus effectively.
8. \_\_\_\_\_\_ TRUE/FALSE: It’s critical that our churches become outward focused. No matter the size of our churches, we must fulfill our mandate: the Great Commission. For too long we have focused on making churchgoers comfortable.
9. \_\_\_\_\_\_ God’s plan for the future of a church comes from:
   1. a book
   2. a prophetic word in a service
   3. the pastor and his core team of church leaders sitting, praying together, and hearing what God wants them to do in the future
   4. pastor’s vision of leadership

14. \_\_\_\_\_\_ TRUE/FALSE: Preachers aren’t modern priests; each believer has the indwelling presence of the Holy Spirit, and the entire congregation shares the mission of showing God’s goodness to others.

15. Each believer is part of a royal nation and is called to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, even if they aren’t paid full-time ministers.

16. \_\_\_\_\_\_ Modern day priests (believers) have the following responsibilities:

a. inviting friends and coworkers to church

b. greeting visitors warmly

c. serving the next generation in children’s programs

d. doing whatever it takes to do the Lord’s work

e. all of the above

17. \_\_\_\_\_\_ TRUE/FALSE: The people exist to help the pastor; the pastor exists to help the people fulfill their callings.

18. Compassion \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ is a result of giving, serving, and helping without replenishing the necessary love, joy and strength all of us need to keep going.

19. \_\_\_\_\_\_ TRUE/FALSE: Unlike many church leaders, God isn’t obsessed with size as a measure of the effectiveness of a church. He desires small churches to be healthy just as much as He desires big churches to be healthy, and He desires that all churches be full of hope.

20. \_\_\_\_\_\_ With the challenges facing the church today, we must rely upon:

a. our ingenuity

b. our intellect

c. Spirit-empowerment

d. human effort

21. \_\_\_\_\_\_ TRUE/FALSE: Experiencing Spirit-empowered discipleship is about doing more

for God, performing at a higher level, and experiencing signs and wonders.

22. \_\_\_\_\_\_ Every spiritual discipline, every behavioral truth, every spiritual activity rings

hollow without a growing relationship with Christ—and will eventually bring:

a. frustration

b. disappointment

c. burnout

d. all of the above

23. \_\_\_\_\_\_ Which of the following statements is true about transformation?

a. Transformation occurs at both a personal level and a corporate one.

b. Congregational transformation is the process of changing beliefs and behaviors.

c. Both A and B

d. None of the above

MATCHING: Match the term with the correct description of the functions of a healthy church.

24. \_\_\_\_\_ Connect A. Develops and mobilizes the people

25. \_\_\_\_\_ Grow B. Pursues and obeys God passionately

26. \_\_\_\_\_ Serve C. Engages and maintains loving relationships

27. \_\_\_\_\_ Go D. Acts with clear direction and outward focus

28. \_\_\_\_\_ Worship E. Reproduces and multiplies His mission in other peoples

and places

29. Only the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ power of the Holy Spirit will allow us to rekindle the passion for evangelism and mission, change the climate of the church, and disciple a priesthood of believers within the church.

30. While Spirit-empowered churches are our goal, we must recognize that churches aren’t made up of bricks and mortar but are made up of a far more valuable asset than real estate: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

31. \_\_\_\_\_\_ At the core of the Acts 2 process is having Spirit-empowered disciples who are:

1. loyal to their pastor and pay their tithes
2. baptized in the Holy Spirit with the evidence of speaking in tongues
3. encountering Jesus, experiencing the fullness of the Holy Spirit, learning Scripture, and engaging with God’s people.
4. All of the above
5. \_\_\_\_\_\_ TRUE/FALSE: Learning and doing (education and effort) without encountering the Holy Spirit are counter-productive—in fact, it’s dry, lifeless, and destined for failure.
6. Undeniably, sound \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ is foundational to the strength and effectiveness of the church, and it’s impossible to have sound disciples without sound doctrine.

MATCHING: For questions 38-41 choose the best answer of the two options for each question: a. Old Covenant or b. New Covenant

1. \_\_\_\_\_\_ Anointing available continually
2. \_\_\_\_\_\_ Anointing available sporadically
3. \_\_\_\_\_\_ Anointing provided when individuals were depleted or desperate
4. \_\_\_\_\_\_ Anointing provided in advance of a need
5. Spirit-empowered disciples don’t experience an isolated event but a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of complete transformation.

MATCHING: Match the term with the description:

1. \_\_\_\_\_\_ Reproducers A. People who haven’t received Christ as Lord and Savior

of their lives.

1. \_\_\_\_\_\_ Disciples B. People who’ve received Christ as Lord but haven’t yet

become learners who obey God’s Word.

1. \_\_\_\_\_\_ Unbelievers C. People who adhere to the teaching and practices of

growing in Christ and demonstrate a lifestyle

corresponding to God’s Word.

1. \_\_\_\_\_\_ Servant Leaders D. People who’ve grown in the direction, ways, and timing

of the Lord and share their knowledge of Christ with

others so they, too, can learn His direction, ways, and

timing.

1. \_\_\_\_\_\_ Believers E. People who mentor others through relationship to the

point where they become servant-leaders.

1. \_\_\_\_\_\_ TRUE/FALSE: The road to a healthy church, regardless of size or age demographics, begins with asking the right questions of ourselves and assessing our current status as Spirit-empowered disciples.
2. \_\_\_\_\_\_ TRUE/FALSE: When a church is in the Death stage of a lifecycle, there is no hope for transformation.
3. Transformation is not a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. It is an ongoing journey.
4. \_\_\_\_\_\_ Which of the following statements is true?
5. The New Testament church’s mission is timeless.
6. The New Testament church’s mission is the same today as it was the day Christ ascended.
7. The New Testament church’s mission is the same for each and every church.
8. All of the above
9. We call our mission the\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ .
10. \_\_\_\_\_\_ The revitalization of any church begins when \_\_\_\_\_\_ persons/people catch(es) the dream of the Holy Spirit’s empowerment to accomplish His mission on the earth.
11. two
12. three
13. one
14. four
15. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ is often a misunderstood word, but for our purposes, it is our current understanding of God’s preferred future for a person, group, or congregation.
16. Vision always involves\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and invites criticism, especially for the individuals into whom God breathes the dream that becomes a vision.
17. \_\_\_\_\_\_ TRUE/FALSE: As we endeavor to execute a vision for ourselves or for a body of believers, we’ll face many challenges, but none of them will derail or delay the fulfillment of the vision.
18. \_\_\_\_\_\_ As we seek to develop God inspired vision, we must recognize a few things that can prevent us from seeing possibilities and opportunities. These “blinders” may include:
19. denial and complacency
20. past successes and past failures
21. personal agendas and preconceptions
22. all of the above
23. We must exchange blinders for spiritual \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ because how we perceive things shapes our current reality.
24. \_\_\_\_\_\_ Core values are:
25. like a church’s personality
26. like DNA
27. both a and b
28. neither a or b
29. \_\_\_\_\_\_ TRUE/FALSE: Core values drive priorities; shape behaviors, attitudes, and actions; direct processes; govern relationships; and articulate what the church stands for.
30. \_\_\_\_\_\_ TRUE/FALSE: Every church has the ability to cast vision, but if the values can’t support the vision or aren’t being lived, that vision will fail.
31. With clearly defined values you’ll know clearly what is most \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to your church.
32. Sometimes what seems like a core value may actually be something completely different—a personal preference or \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
33. Biblical absolutes, community standards, and personal convictions are all subject to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_directives and should supplant personal beliefs and behaviors.
34. \_\_\_\_\_\_ The entire Acts 2 process is built upon the understanding that:
35. God has a plan
36. The Holy Spirit wants to reveal God’s plan to us
37. Both a and b
38. Neither a or b
39. \_\_\_\_\_\_ TRUE/FALSE: We must recognize that without Holy Spirit empowerment in our churches, the mission, vision, values and plans merely amount to programs.
40. A vision without a plan to carry it out is nothing more than a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
41. God does nothing out of order. There’s a divine \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ in all He does.

MATCHING: Match the terms with the correct descriptions.

1. \_\_\_\_\_\_ values A. where you want to go
2. \_\_\_\_\_\_ vision B. how you get from where you are to where you

want to go

1. \_\_\_\_\_\_ strategic plan C. where you are
2. In building an Acts 2 church, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ is the glue that holds everything together.

69. The Christian life is more than belief and action—it’s \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. It’s connection, belonging, and community.

70.\_\_\_\_\_\_ TRUE/FALSE: We need to deconstruct discipleship as it exists today, exchanging rational/ behavioral models for relational/experiential models.

1. \_\_\_\_\_\_ Spirit-empowered discipleship requires a lifestyle of the following:
2. Fresh encounters with Jesus
3. Frequent experiences of Scripture
4. Faithful engagement with God’s people
5. All of the above

72. \_\_\_\_\_\_ TRUE/FALSE: Relevant discipleship begins with solid doctrine and teaching.

1. \_\_\_\_\_\_ TRUE/FALSE: Statistics show that adults tend to stop growing spiritually in the fifth to seventh year of their Christian experience.
2. Discipleship \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ with each phase of life, but the need for it never wanes.
3. \_\_\_\_\_\_ TRUE/FALSE: When you create empowered disciples, the living and life-giving relationship they have with the Holy Spirit won’t let them stay immature; it will urge them forward from glory to glory.
4. \_\_\_\_\_\_ Nothing helps a churchgoer feel more connected or have a greater sense of ownership than:
5. becoming involved in a form of service
6. being served by their pastor
7. being honored in front of the church
8. none of the above

77.\_\_\_\_\_\_ TRUE/FALSE: Most pastors find it is one of the easiest tasks to delegate decisions to Spirit-empowered team members.

1. Any willing disciple of God can change the world, but we must \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ out into that world in order to make a difference.
2. \_\_\_\_\_\_ TRUE/FALSE: Unlike people who grow old and eventually die, organizations have the capacity to reinvigorate themselves, to instill new energy and vitality, and to keep growing through countless stages.
3. \_\_\_\_\_\_ TRUE/FALSE: The burden of ministry belongs to the pastor.
4. \_\_\_\_\_\_ TRUE/FALSE: We must help our congregations understand that attracting new people is *not* the pastor’s job. Pastors aren’t paid to reach new people; they’re paid to shepherd those who come.
5. It’s our job as pastors and leaders to teach and disciple the people in our churches, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ them for ministry.
6. \_\_\_\_\_\_ TRUE/FALSE: Your church and your vision don’t have to be big for your actions to have a big impact on the people around you.
7. \_\_\_\_\_\_ TRUE/FALSE: *Go* is about reaching unreached people groups around the world in every way possible, from our neighbors to the farthest corners of the earth.
8. Worship isn’t an event. It’s a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
9. Worship is a lifestyle, but in this age of emphasis on worship through music, many have forgotten that \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ is a powerful form of worship.
10. \_\_\_\_\_\_ TRUE/FALSE: Worship is a tool for connecting us to God—of reaching up to our heavenly Father to ask His glory to come down.