

A Lesson for the Chinese Church

On examining the global ministries of the Chinese Church, we have to admit that we have lagged far behind. The majority of the Chinese churches, whether in China or overseas, still has the isolation mentality and “has remained unchanged in a rapidly changing world”. A careful examination shows that the difficulties in initiating world mission in the Chinese churches are very similar to those in the Early Church. To achieve breakthroughs and improvements, the Chinese Church today could learn much from the success and failure of the mission ministry of the Early Church.

The Book of Acts has recorded the repetition work of the Holy Spirit to attain breakthroughs and expansion of the church. But almost every time, the Holy Spirit's work was hampered by man's “self-centeredness,” cultural tradition,” “racial superiority,” “pride and prejudice,” “headquarters-syndrome” and “parochialism.” God wanted people to “go,” but people wanted to “stay”. He wants people to look at the “big picture,” but people care only about “me” (myself, my family, my church, my denomination, my race, etc). The traditional attitude of Chinese is “to mind only our own business.” But God wants us to “care about the world also”.

By the grace of God, let us take a look at the 17 important breakthroughs which the Holy Spirit wrought in the Early Church as recorded in the Book of Acts. It is our hope that the Chinese Church may experience similar breakthroughs by the power of the Holy Spirit.