



THE CHURCH: FIRE, FORGE, STRENGTH

MONOCERATOS Y DAKOTA
ALFESIS Y DAKOTA

Introduction:

God designed the church to be more than meetings and programs.

It's His process of making disciples who can withstand anything.

The early church discovered that growth requires us to face the very things we often try to avoid.

Seek therefore, brethren, from among you seven men of good report, full of the Holy Spirit and wisdom, whom we will entrust to this work. Acts 6:3 (adapted RVR1960)

This shows us God's process for transformation in the church.

It's the same process that's happening in our churches today.

It's the process we go through individually and as a congregation.

Three Images: Fire, Forge, Force

- A Fire that warms the wounded.
- A Forge that forms disciples into warriors.
- A Force that sends those called.

"The church is not a human institution, although it is composed of humans."

- It is the Body of Christ.
- It is the hope of the world.
- It is a hospital and also a warship.

"It is God's plan for your healing, your transformation and finally your sending!"

1. A Fire that warms the wounded

In those days, as the number of the disciples increased... Acts 6:1

Why did the church grow?

People ran to the early church because they found mercy, healing, acceptance, and belonging.

Today also:

- The Broken Come to Be Restored.
- The persecuted come to be strengthened.
- The Lost Come to Be Saved.

The Fire says,

"Welcome home. Are you sure. Jesus is here."

- A church living in the Spirit waits for God to manifest Himself.
- We expect Him to speak, to heal, to comfort, and to transform.
- Minister to the wounded: The Lord has provided a warming fire, but that's just the beginning.

2. A Forge that forms disciples into soldiers

Greek-speaking Jews complained against Hebrew-speaking Jews that their widows were neglected in the daily distribution of food. Acts 6:1

"... a complaint arose..."

- Growing Church = Real People = Real Problems.
- Even the early church had problems.
- Here they faced injustice and unequal treatment.
- God uses these moments as a forge.
- Just as the blacksmith heats metal and beats it, God forms His people.

Training occurs through:

- Correction
- Accountability
- Training
- Responsibility

It is painful, but necessary.

The Forge says, **"You will not stay the same."**

So, the twelve gathered the whole community of disciples together and said to them, "It is not right for us apostles to neglect the ministry of the word of God to serve tables. Acts 6:2

It teaches us priorities:

- God's Word First.
- Problems must be solved correctly, without neglecting teaching.
- The solution was to raise more leaders.

Brethren, choose from among you seven men of good repute, full of the Spirit and wisdom, to charge you with this responsibility. Acts 6:3

- Everyone has a role in the church, but that role involves change and challenge.
- Stephen waited tables in chapter 6... and in chapter 7 he laid down his life for Christ.
- No service is small to God.

"God Forms Us by Confronting Our Sin and Molding Our Character."

3. A Force That Sends Those Called

And the word of God spread: the number of the disciples increased considerably in Jerusalem and even many of the priests obeyed the faith. Acts 6:7

The result of the process is multiplication and sending.

As they participated in the worship of the Lord and fasted, the Holy Spirit said, "Set apart now Barnabas and Saul for me for the work to which I have called you." Acts 13:2

Sending is part of God's design.

The gospel must expand:

- To the next neighborhood
- To the next city
- To the unreached
- To those who do not yet know Christ

The Force says, **"The gospel must go forward."**

Balance in the Church

If there is only fire → the church is weakened.

If there is only forging → the church becomes religious.

If there's only shipping → people wear out.

But when there are all three:

"Hell trembles and lives are transformed."

God has a calling on your life.

Are you taking care of the fire?

Are you embracing the forge?

Are you responding to the submission?

"Lord, set our churches on fire with Your fire.

Form us in Your forge.

And send us as a force to advance Your Kingdom.

In Jesus' name.

Amen."

PAZ

Reuniones presenciales

Domingos 10:30am, 12:00pm y 1:30pm

Reuniones en línea

Domingos 10:30am, 12pm y 1:30pm

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Reuniones de oración

Martes 8pm

Presencial y en línea por:

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