

## The New Testament Church – An Examination of the Early Churches

Scripture References	Name and Location	Characters Involved	Events and Time Frame	Additional Notes	Strengths/Weaknesses
Matt. 4:18; Acts 1:21,22	The church started in Galilee and ended up at Jerusalem for the Holy Spirit's authentication.	Jesus & John's baptized disciples.	The first church established under the Lord Jesus Christ.	Already a local, visible, organized, assembly, of baptized disciples. This church was involved in discipleship (Jn. 3:22; 4:1-2); This is the same church that was authenticated at Pentecost. Starting with 120 members (they kept a membership record; Acts 1-7). The largest church in the NT.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. They prayed together (Acts 2:42; 3:1; 4:24; 12:5-17)</li> <li>2. They loved one another (Acts 2:44-25; 4:32-35)</li> <li>3. They witnessed for the Lord (Acts 3:12; 5:42; 4:33)</li> <li>4. They appointed deacons (servants, ministers) (Acts 6:1-7) &amp; observed the ordinances.</li> <li>5. They influenced by the Judiazers (later) (Acts 21:18-25) (11:2)</li> </ol>
Acts 8:14-17	The church in Samaria	Philip, Peter, & John		Samaria is a city in the region of Samaria. (same name)	They had an evangelistic zeal to affect the villages of Samaria (Acts 8:25)
Acts 9:19	The church in Damascus	Annanias, Saul	Saul was baptized, and added to church membership, and began preaching.	Paul was "certain days with the disciples" (v.23 and Gal. 1:18 – three years).	They cared for their number one persecutor: Saul!
Acts 9:31 (cf. 11:19)	The churches in Judea, Galilee, and Samaria		No Biblical/Historical record. There must have been a number of churches already planted in the region by this time.	"the brethren which dwelt in Judea" (12:29)	They endured severe persecution
Acts 9:32-35	The church at Lydda	Peter heals Aeneas		Lydda & Saron "to the saints..." (9:32b)	"...many turned unto the Lord"
Acts 9:36-43	The church at Joppa	Peter and Simon the Tanner	Peter resurrects Dorcas - "the disciples" in Joppa sent two to fetch Peter.	"the disciples" of Joppa (9:38)	Dorcas was full of good works and almsdeeds. "many believed in the Lord"
Acts 10:47-48	The church in Ceaserea (Maritima)	Peter and Cornelius	Peter tarried "certain days."		
Acts 9:30; 11:25-26 (cf. Acts 15:41) (Gal.1:21-23)	Possible churches in Syria/Celicia (Tarsus)	Paul	Bi-vocational Evangelist- Tent making (Acts 18:3)	Paul's "silent years" ministry. (ca. 10 years) – Probabbly disinherited by his family (Phil. 3:8); and suffered 2 Cor. 11:23-27.	
Acts 11:20-26; Acts 13:1	The church in Antioch (Syria)	Barnabas and Paul transferred membership with that church, and were sent out by the church to do missionary work.		Men of Cyprus and Cyrene; the church at Jerusalem sent Barnabas to help establish them. Barnabas was himself from Cyprus (Acts 4:36).	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. They were first called Christians (Acts 11:26)</li> <li>2. They helped the church in Jerusalem (Acts 11:30)</li> <li>3. Challenged "Legalism" (Acts 15:1-2)</li> <li>4. They sent missionaries (Acts 16)</li> </ol>