

Introduction

The title, “The Seventeen Breakthroughs of the Early Church”, should actually be “The Seventeen Breakthroughs of the Holy Spirit in the Early Church.” Because the multiple breakthroughs were not initiated by the Early Church herself, but mainly the work of the Holy Spirit in various circumstances that prompted the Church into taking certain actions, changing directions, and setting goals in global missions .

In fact, most of the missionary work of the Early Church was not voluntary, nor motivated by her obedience of the Great Commission of the Lord. The Christians were actually driven out of Jerusalem under persecution and some extraordinary situations. For the Early Church, “Global Missions” was a product of birth-pain. The same has been true in both Old and New Testament eras, and throughout later Church history.