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## Church Planting is the Hope of the World!

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## Church Planting is the Hope of the World!

Dave Earley

Ministry is tough. Ministry is fought by the Enemy. Ministry occasionally feels hopeless. But Jesus gave a promise that has sustained many of us for the past 2,000. Some call it the Great Promise.

### The Great Promise

In Matthew 16, Jesus was giving His disciples an opportunity to grasp a deep understanding of His identity and thereby, a clearer comprehension of their destiny. In verse sixteen, He gave a statement which has become known as the Great Promise.

***“I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it” (Matt. 16:18).***

This passage carries two linking promises within a promise. The first promise is given when Jesus proclaims, **“I will build my church!”** It is a promise that **Christ**, not Peter, or any other person or persons, **is ultimately the one who plants and grows churches**. The ever, and ultimately, victorious Christ will build His church. Our job is to simply cooperate with Him in the work *He* longs to do – build His church.

It is incredibly liberating when we realize that ultimately, our job is to *be* the church. His job is to *build* the church. He is definitely a much better church builder than any of us. When he builds the church, it takes the pressure off of us. Ministry is more fun and fulfilling.

The second promise is that, **“The gates of Hell cannot prevail against the church!”** **When Jesus builds His church, the church is an unstoppable force.** Satan and all his demons cannot triumph against it. No matter what opposition she is facing, or how bleak the scene may be, the church will always ultimately overcome. Even the bloodiest persecutions have only aided Christ in building His church. The church is the hope of the world!

### The Great Promise and Church Planting

Throughout history, the birthing of new churches has carried the hope of the prevailing church to a lost and dying world. The conception of every newborn church is an affirmation that Jesus is still building His Christ, and that His church will always prevail.

When Jesus gave the Great Commission and the Great Promise, He forever linked church planting with evangelism. The church is the hope of the world!

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Dr. Dave Earley is an experienced church planter and coach. He serves as the Director of the Liberty Center for Church Planting at Liberty University. He is also

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