Harvester Christian Church

Life Groups | **PERSONAL BIBLE STUDY**

ACTS | SPIRIT POWERED LIFE

**WEEK 3 – CHAPTER 2:42-47**

Imagine how crazy it must have been to go from 120 believers in Jerusalem (Acts 1:15) to over 3000 in one day after the miraculous events of the Day of Pentecost (Acts 2:41)! The concluding verses of Acts 2 tell us a lot about the early days of the church: what they devoted themselves to, how they lived, how they treated one another, and how God blessed them.

We deduce by the fact that “The Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved” (Acts 2:47) that God was pleased with what they were doing. Our task this week is to observe how those first disciples began to navigate the process of carrying on the mission of Jesus after his ascension.

**TO WHAT WERE THEY DEVOTED?**

Luke says the first church was devoted (had single-minded fidelity) to four things. What were they?

Their primary teaching came from the Apostles. Why was that? (See Acts 1:21-22) Being “devoted” to the teaching can’t mean just “listening to it”. What do you think that devotion looked like? (James 1:22)

The word “fellowship” expresses a deep experience of togetherness and joint participation. Why do you think they wanted (or felt the need for) this deep sense of connection? (Ecclesiastes 4:9-12)

“Breaking of bread” can refer to sharing communion together (Luke 22:19) or even just having meals together (Luke 24:35). We know the early church did both.

* What was the purpose of celebrating communion? (I Corinthians 11:23-26)
* What value do you think there was/is in sharing meals together in each other’s homes?

Acts 1:14 indicates these disciples were deeply committed to prayer even before the Day of Pentecost. How do you think their prayers may have changed after what they witnessed that day?

**MIRACULOUS SIGNS**

Acts 2:43 says that “many miraculous signs were done by the Apostles.” **Read the next chapter (Acts 3)** and then answer the following questions.

What kind of miracle did Peter and John perform here?

How did Peter and John respond when people wanted to give them credit for the miracle?

Peter used it as an opportunity to preach about Jesus. In what ways does this sermon sound similar to the one he preached in chapter two?

**EVERY DAY**

One of the most striking features of that first church was the “every day” commitment they made to living out their faith in community. “Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts…” (Acts 2:46-47).

Rather than seeing this as an obligation, they had glad and sincere hearts. Why do you think that was?

What impact do you think their daily, joyful togetherness had on the city as a whole?

How does Paul describe the “togetherness” of the body of Christ in 1 Corinthians 12:12-31? What image does he use to describe the “body of Christ” (the Church)?

One theme in this passage is how much the various parts of the body need one another. To what extent do you find that to be true, that you “need” other people in the church?

In what ways do you need them?

**DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

Acts tells us that the believers devoted “themselves", not just a particular time or situation, but their whole selves. What do you think it would look like to devote your entire self to each of the actions mentioned (apostles’ teaching, the fellowship, the breaking of the bread, and prayers)?

The early church gathered together daily, both in the temple courts and in their homes. What are some of the barriers to Christians today experiencing that much togetherness?

These believers, though innately different due to their individuality, were bound together through a common belief and experience. Describe a time in your life when an experience created a sense of unity among a group of seemingly otherwise different people. What are ways the Church can strive to help manifest those types of experiences to promote unity in Christ?

What are the benefits of feeling like you are part of a “church family”? What are some of the consequences of doing life too much on your own in isolation?

What connection do you think there is between those first Christians meeting together with “glad and sincere hearts” and the fact that they “enjoyed the favor of all the people”?