

The Church by the Holy Spirit

Acts Chapter 2

Act 2:1 1) Filled with the Holy Spirit vs 1-4

When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place.

- Day of Pentecost: one of three mandatory pilgrimage feasts Passover, Pentecost, and Tabernacles.
 - Leviticus 23:15-21 "*Even unto the morrow after the seventh sabbath shall ye number fifty days; and ye shall offer a new meat offering unto the LORD.*" 49 plus one day after Passover That is important because 7 sabbaths plus one day would make that Sunday.
 - Because this was a pilgrimage feast many people had come to Jerusalem
 - KJV "had fully come" this is the one Pentecost that fully completed its purpose. There had been some 1500 Pentecost celebrations, Yet this is the one that is complete with meaning.
- Together in one place
 - The unity of those that were gathered is wonderful but care must be taken so the reader should not come to the conclusion that it was because of this unity that the Holy Spirit had come. The Holy Spirit had come because of the promise of the Father. The Holy Spirit had come because it was the designated time. The Father determined the time and the place. Not because of man's virtuous quality.
 - The place we see in verse 2 is a house. Yet in Luke's gospel 24:53 says they were continually in the temple praising and blessing God. Jesus called the temple His Father's house. The courts of the temple that they could have been in an area publicly yet separate enough to worship the Messiah. Thus when the Holy Spirit comes upon them there are people there to hear and be amazed. That 3000 are saved.

Act 2:2 And suddenly there came from heaven a noise like a violent rushing wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting.

Act 2:3 And there appeared to them tongues as of fire distributing themselves, and they rested on each one of them.

Act 2:4 And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit was giving them utterance.

- Suddenly - Without warning.
- From heaven, a noise like a violent rushing wind came. It wasn't a wind it was the sound.
- Filled house were they were sitting. Interesting the posture of prayer. They may have started on knees and on their face, but after 10 days they were sitting. It is ok to pray sitting.

Baptism of the Holy Spirit

- There are very basic, foundational truth concerning the Holy Spirit that we must hold as truth.
 - 1) He is one of the persons of the triune God.
Psalm 78:17,21; Acts 5:3-4; Matt 28:19 (ex 17:7 & Heb 3:7-9)
 - 2) He inspired Scripture
2Ti 3:16; 2Pe 1:21
 - 3) He is Eternal
Hbr 9:14
 - 4) He is Omnipresent
Psa 139:7-13
 - 5) He is Omniscient
1Cr 2:10
 - 6) He is Omnipotent
Luk 1:35; Rom 15:19
 - 7) He is the Spirit of Glory and of God
1Pe 4:14
 - 8) He is Creator Gen
1:26,27; Job 33:4
 - 9) He is Equal To, and One with the Father
Mat 28:19; 2Cr 13:14
 - 10) He is Sovereign Disposer of All Things
Dan 4:35; 1Cr 12:6,11
 - 11) He is the Author of the New Birth
Jhn 3:5,6; 1Jo 5:4
 - 12) He Raised Christ from the Dead
Act 2:24; 1Pe 3:18; Hbr 13:20; Rom 1:4
 - 13) He Inspired Scripture
2Ti 3:16; 2Pe 1:21

- 14) He is the Source of Wisdom
1Cr 12:8; Isa 11:2; Jhn 16:13; 14:26
- 15) He is the Source of Miraculous Power
Mat 12:28; Luk 11:20; Act 19:11; Rom 15:19
- 16) He Directs Where the Gospel Should Be Preached
Act 16:6,7,10
- 17) He is Dwelling in Saints
Jhn 14:17; 1Cr 14:25; 3:16; 6:19
- 18) He is the Comforter of the Church
Act 9:31; 2Cr 1:3
- 19) He is Sanctifying the Church
Eze 37:28; Rom 15:16
- 20) He is the Witness
Hbr 10:15; 1Jo 5:9
- 21) He Convicts of Sin, of Righteousness, and of Judgment
Jhn 16:8-11

- In chapter 1 we looked at the 3 administrations of the Holy Spirit
"the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it does not see Him or know Him, {but} you know Him because He abides with you and will be in you." **John 14:17**
 "Para" John 14:17 Alongside or with
 "En" John 14:17 Dwell in John 20:22 The disciple had already received the Holy Spirit when Jesus breathed on them and said "receive the Holy Spirit."
 "Epi" Acts 1:8 Upon

- This passage in Acts 2 is a dramatic beginning of the church but not the end of the Holy Spirits involvement with the Church. We out not be afraid of the Holy Spirit.
- The Churches difficulty and division arises out of abuses. He gives Gifts Fruits Ministries.
- Filled / Baptism 4th chapter filled again, 8th chapter in Samaria, 11th chapter recounting the 10th chapter the gentiles were baptized yet 10th says they were filled.
- Eph 5 Paul teaches "be ye being filled with the Holy Spirit" continual action

Tongues

- Paul said "Let all things be done decently and in order" One group will do all things. The other group does things decently and in order but not all things.
- 1 Cor Paul teaches, "I will pray with understanding, I will pray with the Spirit"
- Gifts cease when the perfect comes 1 Cor 13:8-13 This is not when canon is complete.
 - One of those done away is knowledge We still need knowledge
 - The assumption is that the Corinthians understood all scripture is absurd
 - Rev 19:10 "the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of Jesus" Do we no longer have need of the testimony of Jesus? No, We still need this testimony.
- James 3:1-12 says the tongue is a fire, world of iniquity, defiles our whole body, is set on fire of hell and that no man can tame it. I think it is fantastic that the first thing that the Holy Spirit does when He fills the Church is control the tongue of man.
 - Maybe that is still yet to be accomplished in you. It is the first thing done.

Act 2:5 2) Amazed by the Holy Spirit vs 5-13

Now there were Jews living in Jerusalem, devout men from every nation under heaven.

Act 2:6 And when this sound occurred, the crowd came together, and were bewildered because each one of them was hearing them speak in his own language.

Act 2:7 They were amazed and astonished, saying, "Why, are not all these who are speaking Galileans?"

- Men from everywhere had come to Jerusalem for the Pentecost Pilgrimage.
- These men were devout. They honored God with observance to the Law.
- When the sound of the 120 was heard the crowd of the devout came. And heard...
 - They each heard them in their own language
 - Language = dialektos a known language, speech to a particular people.

- The hearers wondered why these people were not speaking Galilean
- Acts 4:13 says that the rulers and people of Israel looked at Peter and John (Galileans) as ignorant and unlearned men.

Act 2:8 "And how is it that we each hear {them} in our own language to which we were born?
 Act 2:9 "Parthians and Medes and Elamites, and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia,
 Act 2:10 Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the districts of Libya around Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes,
 Act 2:11 Cretans and Arabs--we hear them in our {own} tongues speaking of the mighty deeds of God."
 Act 2:12 And they all continued in amazement and great perplexity, saying to one another, "What does this mean?"

- Where are these people from?
 - Parthians / Medes Area of Iraq (a large territory from Turkey to Saudi Arabia)
 - Elamites / Mesopotamia East of Israel Ancient Babylon or Modern Iran & Iraq
 - Judea Israel
 - Cappadocia / Pontus/ Asia Turkey (North)
 - Phrygia / Pamphilia Asia Minor
 - Egypt / Lybia / Cyrene North Africa
 - Rome Far West Italy
 - Cretans / Arabs From the sea to the desert.
- All these heard them in their native language.
- What they heard - **The mighty deed of God**
 - Acts 10:46 when Cornelius' household received the Holy Spirit they were speaking in tongues and exalting God
 - Acts 19:6 when Paul Prayed for believers in Ephesus they received and spoke in tongues and prophesied.
- 1 Cor 12:30 "Have all the gifts of healing? do all speak with tongues? do all interpret?" The answer is no. So then we can see that the initial evidence of the Baptism is not speaking in tongues but a perception of God and His glory.

But others were mocking and saying, "They are full of sweet wine."

- Mocking always seems to follow a move or a work of God.
- There are always those who will demean the things of God.
- Also, notice no one is saved by the speaking in tongues

Act 2:14 **3) Preaching by the Holy Spirit** vs 14-41

But Peter, taking his stand with the eleven, raised his voice and declared to them: "Men of Judea and all you who live in Jerusalem, let this be known to you and give heed to my words.

- "With the eleven" - This includes Matthias. He is accepted in Scripture as an apostle. (See Ch 1:26)
- Peter standing up to the perplexity mocking, he raised his voice.
 - Verse 4 "they were all filled with the Spirit"
 - Chapter 4, verse 8 Peter Speaks when he is filled with the Holy Spirit.
 - Contrast Peter at the time of Jesus' arrest to now. The difference in his life is the filling of the Holy Spirit.

Act 2:15 "For these men are not drunk, as you suppose, for it is {only} the third hour of the day;
 Act 2:16 but this is what was spoken of through the prophet Joel:

- Peter is addressing the mis-perception of the move of the Holy Spirit.
- He addresses is issue clearly and then uses scripture to defend or give authority to the actions.
- In the list of Church's Statement of faith, there is usually a statement about the Word of God.
- "We believe in the inerrancy of Scripture, that the Bible, Old and New Testaments are the inspired, infallible Word of God, given to godly men by the Holy Spirit."

- 2 Timothy 3:16 "All scripture [is] given by inspiration of God, and [is] profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:"
- If this is believed, then any move of the Holy Spirit would be backed up by Scripture. Or at the very least would not contradict Scripture. The Holy Spirit gave both, He would not contradict Himself.
- Peter here explains what is seen and heard with scripture
- These next verses are given by the Holy Spirit to Peter. Peter wasn't in the upper room with his hand pocket edition of the scrolls searching out these verses. This was The Holy Spirit's doing. This is

Act 2:17 'AND IT SHALL BE IN THE LAST DAYS,' God says, 'THAT I WILL POUR FORTH OF MY SPIRIT ON ALL MANKIND; AND YOUR SONS AND YOUR DAUGHTERS SHALL PROPHECY, AND YOUR YOUNG MEN SHALL SEE VISIONS, AND YOUR OLD MEN SHALL DREAM DREAMS;

Act 2:18 EVEN ON MY BONDSLAVES, BOTH MEN AND WOMEN, I WILL IN THOSE DAYS POUR FORTH OF MY SPIRIT And they shall prophesy.

- The pouring forth of the Holy Spirit is for:
 - ALL MANKIND
 - Sons, Daughters No Generational Distinction
 - Young and Old No Age Distinction
 - On Bondslaves No Economical or Social Distinction
 - Men and Women No Gender Distinction
 - Implied with "All Mankind" the Gentiles
- The Last Days - Note the plurality of the days. Peter, by the direction of the Holy Spirit is identifying that the "Last Days" span from this moment in this text, The Day of Pentecost, to the Day the Lord shall come (vs 20)
- So when does He pour out His Spirit? From that day (Pentecost) to that day (Lord's Return/2nd Coming)

Act 2:19 'AND I WILL GRANT WONDERS IN THE SKY ABOVE AND SIGNS ON THE EARTH BELOW, BLOOD, AND FIRE, AND VAPOR OF SMOKE.

Act 2:20 'THE SUN WILL BE TURNED INTO DARKNESS AND THE MOON INTO BLOOD, BEFORE THE GREAT AND GLORIOUS DAY OF THE LORD SHALL COME.

Act 2:21 'AND IT SHALL BE THAT EVERYONE WHO CALLS ON THE NAME OF THE LORD WILL BE SAVED.'

- The Results or Purpose of this out pouring is Salvation!
- Everyone Again, there is no limit or barrier to who this salvation is for.
- Access to this Salvation is as simple as it possibly can be for us. Call on the name of the Lord.
- The Name of the Lord is more than J E S U S. His name encompasses all He is.
 - For Example if I gave these names:
 - Bill Gates You might think: Rich, Micro Soft, Geek, Rich Geek
 - Richard Nixon You might think: President, Crook, Watergate, China
 - John F. Kennedy You might think: President, Brothers, Tragedy, Conspiracy, Assignment, PT Boats
 - Madonna You might think: Diva, Pop Rock, Adoption, Blasphemy, Actress
 - Your Name What do others think?
- The Name of Jesus is what He said about Himself:
 - Jesus said
 - John 6:51: "I AM the living bread
 - John 8:23: "I AM from above.
 - John 8:12: "I AM the light of the world"
 - John 10:9: "I AM the door."
 - John 10:11: "I AM the good shepherd."
 - John 10:36: "I AM the Son of God?"
 - John 11:25: "I AM the resurrection and the life."
 - John 14:6: "I AM the way, the truth, and the life."
 - John 15:1: "I AM the true vine"
 - John 19:2: "I AM the King of the Jews."
- By Calling On This Name Man Shall Be Saved.

- Act 2:22 "Men of Israel, listen to these words: Jesus the Nazarene, a man attested to you by God with miracles and wonders and signs which God performed through Him in your midst, just as you yourselves know--
- Act 2:23 this {Man,} delivered over by the predetermined plan and foreknowledge of God, you nailed to a cross by the hands of godless men and put {Him} to death.
- Act 2:24 "But God raised Him up again, putting an end to the agony of death, since it was impossible for Him to be held in its power.
- Peter says 3 things that God did (the God these Jews are here to celebrate.)
 - 1 God attested to you through miracles, wonders + signs; Jesus the Nazarene. You know these. (some 30+ miracles mentioned in the gospels)
 - 2 God planned & foreknew His arrest, crucifixion and death YOU NAILED HIM TO A CROSS by godless (the Roman) men.
 - 1) 1 Peter 1:19 "Who verily was foreordained before the foundation of the world, but was manifest in these last times for you,"
 - 2) Revelation 13:8 "And all that dwell upon the earth shall worship him, whose names are not written in the book of life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world."
 - 3 God Raised Him up from death Ending the agony of Death.
 - Here says God raised Him.
 - Rom 8:11 the Spirit Raised Jesus,
 - John 10:17-18 Jesus has the power to lay it (His life) down and take it up again.
 - How Is This Possible? All are 1 in the Same
 - Attested means to supply evidence of the genuine nature of something.
 - Peter is moves from defending this pouring out of the Holy Spirit to Preaching Jesus. This is a beautiful picture of the character of the Holy Spirit. Peter speaking by the power of the Holy Spirit has said enough about the Holy Spirit. This is what the Holy Spirit speaks about. JESUS! The rest of the sermon is pointing to Jesus.
 - In churches today we focus on us or our ministry or giftedness. Or we focus on the Holy Spirit and His move or sign or wonder. But that isn't what the Holy Spirit's purpose. Here is see that He (the Holy Spirit) defends the action but quickly moves to point to Jesus. That is what our lives / ministry should do.
 - What is being led of the Spirit? Doing what the Spirit does. Point to Jesus.
- Act 2:25 Peter quotes Psalm 16 where David prophesied that death could not hold Jesus
Again using scripture to verify beliefs
"For David says of Him, I SAW THE LORD ALWAYS IN MY PRESENCE; FOR HE IS AT MY RIGHT HAND, SO THAT I WILL NOT BE SHAKEN.
- Act 2:26 "THEREFORE MY HEART WAS GLAD AND MY TONGUE EXULTED; MOREOVER MY FLESH ALSO WILL LIVE IN HOPE;
- Jesus said "I will never leave you nor forsake you" Hebrews 13:5
 - David said "the Lord always in my presence"
 - The result is: not being shaken; glad heart; tongue with praise; living in hope
- Act 2:27 BECAUSE YOU WILL NOT ABANDON MY SOUL TO HADES, NOR ALLOW YOUR HOLY ONE TO UNDERGO DECAY.
- David speaking of himself when he says "my soul"
 - Hades = the grave
 - David speaks of the Messiah when he says "Your Holy One"
 - He will not decay resurrection happened before the body of Jesus decayed
- Act 2:28 'YOU HAVE MADE KNOWN TO ME THE WAYS OF LIFE; YOU WILL MAKE ME FULL OF GLADNESS WITH YOUR PRESENCE.'
- Act 2:29 "Brethren, I may confidently say to you regarding the patriarch David that he both died and was buried, and his tomb is with us to this day.

- Act 2:30 "And so, because he was a prophet and knew that GOD HAD SWORN TO HIM WITH AN OATH TO SEAT {one} OF HIS DESCENDANTS ON HIS THRONE,
- Act 2:31 he looked ahead and spoke of the resurrection of the Christ (Messiah), that HE WAS NEITHER ABANDONED TO HADES, NOR DID His flesh SUFFER DECAY.
- Peter is using David's prophecy to show the David envisioned the Messiah being resurrected.
 - Peter is clearly stating that Jesus, who you know died, has raised from the dead and is the Messiah.
- Act 2:32 "This Jesus God raised up again, to which we are all witnesses.
- Act 2:33 "Therefore having been exalted to the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, He has poured forth this which you both see and hear.
- This pouring forth is from God given to Jesus, given to us.
- Act 2:34 "For it was not David who ascended into heaven, but he himself says: 'THE LORD SAID TO MY LORD, "SIT AT MY RIGHT HAND,
- Act 2:35 UNTIL I MAKE YOUR ENEMIES A FOOTSTOOL FOR YOUR FEET.'"
- Act 2:36 "Therefore let all the house of Israel know for certain that God has made Him both Lord and Christ (Messiah)--this Jesus whom you crucified."
- This is not a seeker friendly message. It is to the point. It is strong. It is true.
 - Romans 9:33; 1 Peter 2:8; (blend of Is 28:16 & Is 8:14; " "BEHOLD, I LAY IN ZION A STONE OF STUMBLING AND A ROCK OF OFFENSE, AND HE WHO BELIEVES IN HIM WILL NOT BE DISAPPOINTED."
 - This is the second time Peter has called Jesus the Messiah and the second time he told them you crucified Him. I thing that is intolerant of Peter. This is a narrow message. There is not given much wiggle room for people to think that they are ok.
- Act 2:37 Now when they heard {this,} they were pierced to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, "Brethren, what shall we do?"
- When the message is true and the Holy Spirit is orchestrating it the hearers are pierced to the heart.
 - Where does the alter call originate from. The preacher or from the heart of the sinner.
 - These hearers are responding to the truth that they are responsible for the death of the Messiah. The cry for help comes from the knowledge of their helplessness.
- Act 2:38 Peter {said} to them, "Repent, and each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.
- REPENT** what an unpopular word.
- But it is a simple word. We have made it harsh and difficult.
 - Greek word is *metaneo* "to change ones mind"
 - The question is what shall we do? This was asked by those men making a pilgrimage to Jerusalem. Devout, religious men who are well versed in "DOING" need to change their direction. It isn't about "DOING" it is about believing.
 - Repentance is not the thing we do before we come to God. Repentance **IS** the act of coming back to God.
- BAPTISIM** this is the second act mentioned by Peter.
- Unfortunately some have taken this verse as the proof text to say that one must be baptized to be saved.
 - Acts 9 Paul saved on the Damascus road calls Jesus Lord. 3 days later Ananias comes and prays for him, then is baptized. After he believed and was saved.
 - Acts 10 Peter baptizes the in Caesarea after the Holy Spirit falls upon those Gentiles there. This was after they were saved and after the Holy Spirit fell upon them.
 - 1 Corinthians 1:14-17 Paul thanked God that he didn't baptize any of them (except Crispus, Gaius, and Stephanas) He said Christ didn't send him to baptize but to preach the gospel. If baptism saves people Paul would have also been sent by Christ to baptize. He would have said I desire to baptize the whole world.
 - Finally, Baptism was the public declaration of their allegiance/surrender to Christ. Take a public Stand.
- Act 2:39 "For the promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off, as many as the Lord

our God will call to Himself."

Act 2:40 And with many other words he solemnly testified and kept on exhorting them, saying, "Be saved from this perverse generation!"

Act 2:41 So then, those who had received his word were baptized; and that day there were added about three thousand souls.

- When Peter preached Jesus 3000 received eternal life
- Deut 32:28 "And the children of Levi did according to the word of Moses: and there fell of the people that day about three thousand men." When Moses brought the tablets of Law to Israel.
- When the Law came 3000 died
- When the Holy Spirit came 3000 received life eternal

Act 2:42 **4) Continuing in the Holy Spirit** vs 42-47

They were continually devoting themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.

- How is our practice / ordinance / doctrine established? We need to see the subject taught by Jesus in the Gospels, Practiced in the book of Acts and Expounded in the Epistles.
 - **Baptism**
 - **Matthew 28:19** we are commissioned to "Go ye therefore and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father the Son and the Holy Spirit.?"
 - **Acts 2:41; Acts 19:4-5; Acts 22:16** are some scenes in the early church where they baptized in water in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.
 - Then we find a number of passages where the ordinance of baptism is discussed in the Epistles. **Rom 6:3, 4; 1Cr 1:13-17; 12:13; Gal 3:27; Col 2:12; 1 Peter 3:21.**
 - **Foot Washing**
 - Old Testament passages (**Gen 18:4; 19:2: 24: 43:24; Jud 19:21; 1Sa 25:41; 2Sa 11:8; Song of Sol 5:3**) show this was a custom due to walking was the transportation and the roads were dirt. It was needful to wash feet when entering a house.
 - **John 13:1-6** has a clear picture of Jesus washing the disciple's feet. With that demonstration, comes clear and strong commands. **Vs 14** "You also ought to was one another's feet" **Vs 15** "You should do as I have done to you" **Vs 17** "You know these things, Blessed are you for you do them."
 - But there is no scene in acts where this is practiced and no explanation in the Epistles concerning foot washing.
 - The conclusion is that Jesus was illustrating a deeper lesson than washing feet. Being a servant to all. And being able to humble yourself and esteem others greater. These lessons are demonstrated in Acts and expounded in the Epistles.
- There are four things listed here that these 3000 or so believers adopted into their lives as disciplines needful for a healthy Christian living and a healthy church.

1) Devoted to Apostles Teaching

- **John 8:31** "Jesus to those Jews which believed on him, If ye continue in my word, [then] are ye my disciples indeed"
- As we have seen in Peter, the decisions that were made were founded in scripture. The Apostles laid a heavy dependence on the Scripture
- **2 Timothy 3:16** "All scripture [is] given by inspiration of God, and [is] profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:"
- **2 Timothy 4:13** Paul, when he was in prison he asked Timothy to come quickly and bring Mark, his coat and books and especially the parchments (scriptures).

2) Devoted to Fellowship

- Jesus said in **Matthew 23:8** "But do not be called Rabbi; for One is your Teacher, and **you are all brothers.**"
- **John 17:11** Jesus prayed for all of us saints "Holy Father, keep through thine own name those whom thou hast given me, **that they may be one, as we [are].**"
- In Acts They Prayed together **Acts 1:14**, they went to the temple together **Acts 2:46**; They ate

together and broke bread together Acts 2

- Paul's prayer for the saints is, "*Now I beseech you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye all speak the same thing, and [that] there be no divisions among you; but [that] ye be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment.*" 1 Cor 1:10
- We should bear one another's burdens Gal 6:2
- We should walk in love Eph 5:2
- We should strive together for the faith of the gospel Phil 1:27
- We should do nothing in strife or vain glory but esteem others higher than ourselves Phil 2:3
- We should comfort one another 1 Thess 4:18
- We should edify one another 1 Thess 5:11
- We should warn the unruly, support the weak 1 Thess 5:14
- We should provoke one another in good works Heb 10:24
- We should not forsake the assembling ourselves together Heb 10:25
- We should confess our faults to one another James 5:6
- We should pray for one another James 5:6

3) Devoted to the Breaking of Bread

- Matthew 26:26-30 Jesus instituted this ordinance
- Acts 2:42; Acts 20:7 show that the early church honored what we call communion. This was called breaking bread in the early church
- 1 Cor 10:21; 1 Cor 11:23-34; we see teaching concerning the breaking of bread. "*For as often as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup, ye do shew the Lord's death till he come.*"

4) Devoted to Prayer

- Luke 11 Jesus taught the disciple to pray
- Acts they prayed Acts 1:14 in the upper room; Acts 10 Peter prayed on housetops; Acts 12 The church gather to pray at Mary's house when peter was arrested.
- Phil 4:6 "*Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God.*"
- The list would go on and on concerning how we ought to pray.
- Types of prayers
 - **Prayer of Supplication** = Petition, to seek or ask for something (His will, strength, zeal)
(Luke 11: 9 - 13, James 5: 17-18, 1 kings 8: 37-40, 54 - 55)
 - **Prayer of Intercession** = to mediate, to beseech God on behalf of others.
(Genesis 18: 22 - 33 (Abraham) 1 Kings 18: 41 - 46 (Elijah) 2 Kings 4: 32-36 (Elisha)
Acts 12: 1 - 18 (The early church))
 - **Prayer of Faith** = Grounded in the Word this is different than supplication where one seeks His will this is knowing His will and praying His will to receive it.
(Mark 11:12 - 14, Mark 11: 20 - 25, Luke 7: 1 - 10, James 5: 13 - 18, Matthew 9: 18 - 26)
 - **Prayer of Agreement** = Two or more come together to pray with the Word of God that something specific would be done.
(Genesis 11: 1-9, Matthew 18: 19-20, Exodus 17: 8-13, Psalm 133: 1-3, Acts 4:23, Hebrews 10: 24-25)
 - **Prayer of Praise & Thanksgiving** = This brings us into the presence of God and builds faith and confidence in the Greatness of God. Probably the most powerful and least used.
(Psalm 100, Acts 16:16-34, Psalm 149:4-9, 1Thessalonians 5:15-19)

Act 2:43 Everyone kept feeling a sense of awe; and many wonders and signs were taking place through the apostles.

- It is important to see that the Scripture shows us that signs and wonders were done through the Apostles.
 - To give the Church a Unified Direction

- To Establish the Authority of the Apostles Doctrine
- To Have the Church Realize the Divine Approval
- Signs and Wonders Today?
 - Jesus sent out the 72 (Luke 10) with much instruction. When they returned they were excited that "even the devils obeyed them through His name. Jesus basically said Sure I give you wonder working power but so what. Rejoice that your names are written in heaven.
 - Acts 6:8 Stephen did wonders and miracles;
 - Acts 15:12 Barnabus and Paul both wrought miracles and wonders before the Gentiles
 - 1 Cor 12:7-11 *"But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to every man to profit withal. For to one is given by the Spirit the word of wisdom; to another the word of knowledge by the same Spirit; To another faith by the same Spirit; to another the gifts of healing by the same Spirit; To another the working of miracles; to another prophecy; to another discerning of spirits; to another [divers] kinds of tongues; to another the interpretation of tongues: But all these worketh that one and the selfsame Spirit, dividing to every man severally as he will."*
 - 1 Cor 12:27-31 *"Now ye are the body of Christ, and members in particular. And God hath set some in the church, first apostles, secondarily prophets, thirdly teachers, after that miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, governments, diversities of tongues. [Are] all apostles? [are] all prophets? [are] all teachers? [are] all workers of miracles? Have all the gifts of healing? do all speak with tongues? do all interpret? But covet earnestly the best gifts: and yet shew I unto you a more excellent way."*

Scripture points out that Jesus sent out more than the 12 and in the book of Acts more than the 12 were bless by the Holy Spirit's work in miracles and Paul's understanding in 1 Cor 12 the entire body of Christ can and will experience signs and wonders.

- "THROUGH" notice it does not say "BY". This points to the operation of the Holy Spirit being performed through the Holy Spirit. The important thing to remember is that it is God that does these wonderful things not the vessel (man).

Act 2:44
Act 2:45

And all those who had believed were together and had all things in common; and they {began} selling their property and possessions and were sharing them with all, as anyone might have need.

- The time here was Pentecost. One of the mandatory pilgrimage festivals. Jerusalem was filled with foreigners. We had seen the 120 speaking in many languages to the foreigners and native people of Jerusalem alike. After Peter's sermon, 3000 were saved. These new believers lingered in Jerusalem to learn more. Without jobs and means for an extended stay the early church showed them great hospitality.
- Hospitality was a Jewish value that was instilled from ancient times. We have seen Abram hosting 3 strangers that came for a visit. Lot was willing to risk his life and the honor of his daughters : Laban & Jethro showing kindness to Jacob, Eliezer & Moses; Rahab was rewarded for protecting the stranger spies; We see Gideon punishing Succoth and Penuel for breaking hospitality.
- Deut 10:18+19 *"He doth execute the judgment of the fatherless and widow, and loveth the stranger, in giving him food and raiment. Love ye therefore the stranger: for ye were strangers in the land of Egypt."*
- Some have mistakenly supposed that this was talking about communal living or early communism. This is a mistake because we will see later that not all the believers sold everything, it was voluntary and that because it was flawed that it didn't last very long.
- Some have said
 - Communism is "What is yours is mine"
 - Capitalism is "What is mine is mine"
 - Christianity is "What is mine is yours"

Hospitality is to be practiced by Christians. Romans 12:13; 1 Timothy 3:2; Titus 1:8; 1 Peter 4:9

Act 2:46

Day by day continuing with one mind in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they were taking their meals together with gladness and sincerity of heart,

- "Day by Day" not once a week. How often do you continue to be devoted? Every Day? Every Moment?
- "One Mind" again, just as we had seen in verse 1 of this chapter Togetherness or Unity is quality of all that is done. (All for One and One for All) (Not One Left Behind) (One Goes, We All Go)
- "Sincerity" (KJV = Singleness) The Greek word is *aphelotas* which means plain, smooth, without rock The thought continues as to nothing that one could stub his foot/toe on. The believers gathering and

their walk and their heart had simplicity to it. The believers were not pressured or encumbered with legalistic rules or behavior. They had a new heart that was singularly devoted to Jesus.

Act 2:47 praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord was adding to their number day by day those who were being saved.

- It was the Lord who added the numbers to the church. It was the Lord who saved those who were lost.
- The Early church, with simplicity devoted themselves to the Apostles Teaching, Fellowship, the Breaking of Bread and to Prayer. Church Growth is the Lord's work.

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