



“What is Church?”
Messages from the Heart
Acts 2:42-47

THEME: Your sanctification will influence a sinner’s salvation!

Acts 2:42-47 - ⁴²They were continually devoting themselves to the apostles’ teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. ⁴³Everyone kept feeling a sense of awe; and many wonders and signs were taking place through the apostles. ⁴⁴And all those who had believed were together and had all things in common; ⁴⁵and they *began* selling their property and possessions and were sharing them with all, as anyone might have need. ⁴⁶Day 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, ⁴⁷praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord was adding to their number day by day those who were being saved.

I. INTERNAL DEVOTIONS (vs. 42)

- A. “continually devoting themselves” - no part-time Christianity; self-motivated
- B. “apostles’ teaching” - (c.f. 1 Pet 2:2; 1 Tim 4:13; 2 Tim 4:1-14; Tit 1:9; Jn 8:31)
- C. “fellowship” - (*koinonia* - lit. “partnership” or “sharing”; c.f. Hebrews 10:24-25)
- D. “breaking of bread” - Communion - (c.f. 1 Cor 11:27-30; calls for self-examination)
- E. “prayer” - genuine revival will always be followed by a love of prayer

II. EXTERNAL MINISTRIES (vs. 43 - 47a)

- F. “Everyone kept feeling a sense of awe”
 - They weren’t awed by the church because of its buildings, programs, or anything reflecting human ability, but by the supernatural character of its life.
 - “awe” (GREEK: *phobos*; ENGLISH: *phobia*) - refers to fear or holy terror due to being in the vicinity of divine presence
- G. “all those who believed were together” - Constantly in one another’s company
- H. “selling ... sharing them with all” - “Us” mentality rather than “Us versus Them”
- I. “as anyone might have need” - (c.f. 1 Peter 4:9)
- J. “Day by day” - Not just on Sunday’s or during a mid-week Bible study; daily
- K. “continuing with one mind in the temple” - They were out in public

L. “breaking bread from house to house” - sharing food and meals with one another

M. “gladness and sincerity of heart”

- “gladness” from Greek word meaning “to rejoice”
- “sincerity” from Greek word meaning “free from rocks” or “smooth”

N. “praising God and having favor with all the people” - (c.f. John 13:35; Acts 6:7)

III. OMNIPOTENT RESULTS (vs. 47b)

O. “The Lord was adding” - Salvation is always God’s work (c.f. Psalm 127:1)

- Effective evangelism is the result of personal devotions & public ministry.

P. “to their number” - They kept track of the believers - (c.f. Acts 2:41; 4:4; 5:14)

Q. “day by day” - c.f. Acts 2:46 (“Day by day”) - ESSENTIAL TO UNDERSTAND!

R. “those who were being saved” - QUESTION: Are you saved? Are you 100% sure?

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CONCLUSION:

Don’t allow the difficult circumstances in your life to diminish your godly influence on the unsaved people around you!

Discussion Questions:

1. Grade yourself and discuss how you’re doing in the areas of Internal Devotions (i.e. Studying the Bible, Fellowship with believers, Partaking of Communion, and Prayer).
2. Do you still feel a “sense of awe” in your relationship with God? Why or why not?
3. How can believers better fellowship and serve one another during this difficult time of COVID-19 restrictions and sheltering in place?
4. Describe and discuss what you believe the unsaved community around us thinks about Christianity as a whole, our local church in general, and your faith specifically.
5. Discuss why [so many of] our local churches today aren’t seeing many unbelievers getting saved and added to the church? What can we do to change this trend?