

Worship and Fellowship

Acts 2:42-47

What would you do if you believed the Rapture was coming in the next year and you would soon go home to be with God, not only you, but call Christians the world over? How would you spend your time and resources? For the past two weeks our scriptures has taught how the Holy Spirit empowered Peter to preach the first Gospel sermon, and how the other apostles supported the ministry and connected with Jews visiting from all over the Roman world. Last week we saw how 3,000 persons were added to their fellowship.

The believers continued to use the temple for their place of assembly and ministry, but they also met in various homes. The 3,000 new converts needed instruction in the Word and fellowship with God's people if they were to grow and become effective witnesses. The early church did more than make converts; they also made disciples (Matt. 28:19–20) for they understood their commission and ministry of making disciples.

Acts 2:42 says they “broke bread” referring to their regular meals, but at the close of each meal, they would have paused to remember the Lord by observing “the Lord’s Supper.” Bread and wine were the common fare at a Jewish table, and were part of common meal they shared, and were available whenever they ate and as they remembered Jesus’ sacrifice was at every meal. They were also in fellowship meaning much more than “being together.” It means “having in common” and in their case it refers to the sharing of material goods that was practiced in the early church. This was not a form of modern communism, what they did was totally voluntary, and motivated by love.

The church was unified (Acts 2:44), magnified (Acts 2:47a), and multiplied (Acts 2:47b). It had a powerful testimony among the unsaved Jews, not only

because of the miracles done by the Apostles (Acts 2:43), but also because of the way the members of the fellowship loved each other and served the Lord. The risen Lord continued to work with them (Mark 16:20) and people continued to be saved. What a church!

The Christians we meet in the Book of Acts were not content to meet once a week for “services as usual.” They met daily (Acts 2:46), cared daily (Acts 6:1), won souls daily (Acts 2:47), searched the Scriptures daily (Acts 17:11), and increased in number daily (Acts 16:5). Their Christian faith was a day-to-day reality, not a once-a-week routine. For them the risen Christ was a living reality to them, and His resurrection power was at work in their lives through the Spirit.

The Bible Knowledge Commentary explains it this way: The activity of this early church was twofold. The believers first continued steadfastly (*proskarterountes*, “persisting in or continuing in”; 1:14; 2:46; 6:4; 8:13; 10:7; Rom. 12:12; 13:6; Col. 4:2) in the apostles’ teaching or doctrine. The second was fellowship, which included the breaking of bread and . . . prayer to God for one another and the ministry of the Gospel. As a result of their ministry and love the Holy Spirit worked wonders. The Greek work translated wonders means “miracles evoking awe.” The Holy Spirit also did miraculous signs. This Greek word means “miracles pointing to a divine truth.” These authenticated that the apostles were doing the work of God (cf. 2 Cor. 12:12; Heb. 2:3-4). The apostles performed many such “signs and wonders” (Acts 4:30; 5:12; 6:8; 8:6, 13; 14:3; 15:12), in the same way that Jesus too had performed many “wonders” and “signs”—and also “miracles” during his earthly ministry (*dynameis*, “works of power”).

These early Christians, believing that Jesus would return for his church any day, sold their property and shared with all who had need. After all they were expecting the Lord to return soon and establishment of His kingdom.

Did you notice that one of the subthemes of Acts is joy, because a victorious church is a joyful one? This is seen in verses 46-47 and numerous other times (5:41; 8:8, 39; 11:23; 12:14; 13:48, 52; 14:17; 15:3, 31; 16:34; 21:17). In their fellowship they broke bread in their homes and ate together (cf. 2:42) with joy. And God added to the church daily others who were being saved. The church grew rapidly right from the start!

I know we worry about our church, the fact that it does not seem to grow. First we have to do our part. We must live like the members of the first church of Jerusalem:

1. They were diligent and constant in their attendance because they wanted to hear the teaching and preaching of the Word of God. They needed to understand the doctrine of the apostles. We have been baptized and identified with Christ must be conscience of hearing God's Word. Even if you totally understand, it is an opportunity to give witness and support the ministry and honor God.

2. They kept up the communion of the saints. They continued in fellowship. They not only had a mutual affection for each other, but a great deal of mutual conversation with each other. They took advantage of all occasions to meet; whenever you saw one disciple, you would see more. They loved one another, they supported one another, they sympathized with one another, and they took care of each other's needs and interests.

3. They frequently observed the Lord's Supper. They celebrated the memorial of Jesus' death, as those who were not ashamed to admit their relation to, and their dependence upon Christ and His crucifixion. They broke bread from house to house, since they did not think it fit to celebrate in the temple because the Lord's Supper was peculiar to Christians, and was therefore administered in private homes.

4. They continued in prayer. After the Spirit was poured out, as well as before, they continued instant in prayer. Prayer will be superseded until it comes to be swallowed up in everlasting praise.

The promise is still good: “Whosoever shall call on the name of the Lord shall be saved” (Acts 2:21; Rom. 10:13). Have you called? Have you trusted Jesus Christ to save you? ¹

¹Walvoord, John F. ; Zuck, Roy B. ; Dallas Theological Seminary: *The Bible Knowledge Commentary : An Exposition of the Scriptures*. Wheaton, IL : Victor Books, 1983-c1985, S. 2:360