

Acts 2.42-47

Doctor's Orders for Discipleship

Acts 2 > PENTECOST - Historical Event of Baptism of Holy Spirit

ONCE FOR ALL Event – Exalted Jesus pours out Holy Spirit on Church

3000 Repented and Believed > Made an INDIVIDUAL DECISION

Evangelical: Jesus Lord & Savior, Individuals Chose to Follow by FAITH

IMPORTANT > God has NO Grandkids – Every Person must Receive Jesus

The Lord "didn't add them to the church without saving them, and he didn't save them without adding them to the church" John Stott

Result > Into Local Church / Individualism & Isolation NOT Biblical

Every Xtian in NT – except thief on cross – Part of Local Church

Xtian Faith is TEAM Sport > Xtians NOT Called to be LONE Rangers

MONKS and HERMITS Very SPIRITUAL > NOT very BIBLICAL

Pentecost NEW DAY for God's Covenant People

NOT B'Day of Church > Community of Faith formed @ CALL Abe

2000 yrs of Corporate Worship – Tabernacle – Temple – Synagogues

2 NEW: Clearer Revelation of Presence of Triune God: Father, Son, Spirit

Membership Multicultural – every tongue, tribe, people, nation > Tongues

Luke > SNAPSHOT of 1st Church > Normal Pattern of Early Church

KEY Elements > Apostolic Letters to Churches around Mediterranean

Dr. Luke: Physician of Soul > Diagnosis and Prescription

Picture Healthy Condition of New Church in Jerusalem

1. Prescription 2. Side Effects 3. Prognosis

1. Prescription – Diet and Exercise

Many American Docs NOT Ask Patients @ Diet and Exercise

Know too Stubborn to change our Routines and Pleasures

More Money in Selling Pills and Expensive Tests and Scans

Dr. Luke knew Healthy Church begins with Healthy DIET

“you ARE WHAT you EAT” – Truly! Physically and Spiritually!

EAT? v. 42 "they devoted themselves to the apostles teaching"

Church formed Around Apostolic SERMON - BIBLICAL MESSAGE

Devoted = Addicted to Gospel > = Theology = Application to all of Life

1.1,2 all that Jesus *began to do and teach*, until the day when he was taken up, after he had given commands through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen > *40 Day Crash Course with Subject/Author Bible*

STRANGE, UNUSUAL Phenomenon in City of JERUSALEM

Sound Mighty Wind / Sight Flaming Tongues / Speech of Many Lands

WHAT DOES it MEAN? > Peter gives ANSWER in SCRIPTURE....

2. 16 *This is what was uttered through the prophet Joel:*

Peter's Sermon > 13 Vss of Quotes from 3 OT Texts

2.32 this Jesus God raised up, and of that *we are all witnesses*

4.33 with great power the apostles were giving their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all

v. 42 they devoted themselves to the apostles teaching

The Holy Spirit opened a school in Jerusalem that day; its teachers were the apostles whom Jesus had appointed; and there were 3000 pupils in the kindergarten. John Stott

PATTERN OF WORSHIP BASED ON JEWISH SYNAGOGUE

"Synagogue = a place of assembly" LOCAL CENTER OF WORSHIP

EMPHASIZED: Confession of Faith, Prayer, Word of God

Jesus: "The words I have spoken to you are spirit and life" John 6.63

Want be Filled w/ Spirit of God? Read Word of God!

Want to Understand Word of God? Must be filled w Spirit of God!

"If your Bible is Falling Apart you Won't Be!" Charles Spurgeon

Diet of Word of God gives Health, Life, Maturity, Wisdom, Knowledge

What kind of Spiritual DIET are you On?

Exercise? v. 42 "the fellowship - the breaking of bread - the prayers"

"The Fellowship" KOINONIA fav word of PAUL > Only here by Luke

Greek Koinonia = joint participation, partnership, share, contributing

CHURCH Life is MORE Than LISTENING to SERMONS

Trinitarian: "May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and *the fellowship of the Holy Spirit* be with you all" 2 Corinthians 13.14

Heavenly Koinonia > “so that you also may have fellowship with us. And *our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son, Jesus Christ*”
1 John 1.3

Fellowship incl TALKING about God & Relation with Him

Koinonia of their Cash! vs. 44,45 all who believed were together and had all things in common. And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need

Church built on SACRIFICE > CROSS < CALLED TO FOLLOW HIM

NOT Communism – Willing, Spirit-led display of the LOVE of GOD

Still had PERSONAL Property – Homes, Families, Choices

Karl Marx quoted Vss but DENIED God who is Power to Change Heart

IF BELIEVE John 3.16 > Should BEHAVE like FIRST John 3.16

This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers. If anyone has material possessions and sees his brother in need but has no pity on him, how can the love of God be in him? Dear children, let us not love with words or tongue but with actions and in truth. 1 John 3.16-18

The higher we value our personal privacy & freedom from commitments, the shallower our grasp of fellowship will be. Dennis Johnson

IN TEMPLE & HOMES / SPONTANEOUS & STRUCTURED

Unity in X – Now Jews/Palestinians who Follow Jesus as LORD

Way Forward? – Bomb e/other to Dust / Forgive like Jesus teaches

Neither ISLAM or Modern JUDAISM Forgives > ONLY Jesus

v. 42 “The Prayers” > 3.1 Now Peter and John were going up to the temple at the hour of prayer, the ninth hour.

Devoted PRAYER – HARD WORK > Engaged, Attention, Concentration

Guidance: 1.24,25 "You, Lord, who know the hearts of all, show which 1 of these 2 you have chosen to take the place in this ministry & apostleship"

Challenged: 4.24-30 They raised their voices together in prayer to God. "Sovereign Lord, you made the heaven and the earth and the sea, and everything in them...Now, Lord, consider their threats and enable your servants to speak your word with great boldness. Stretch out your hand to heal and perform miraculous signs and wonders through the name of your holy servant Jesus." Acts 4.24-30

WORSHIP IS TO BE DIGNIFIED - BUT NEVER DULL

v 46 day by day, attending the temple together & breaking bread their homes

PRACTICAL Need > 3000+ Believers needed LARGE MEETING AREA

TEMPLE > No Longer Offered Sacrifices > FINISHED Work of JESUS

Think Need Rebuild Temple/Sacrifices?? 6 mos in Hebrews Once for All?

SOMETHING Powerful Happens to Believers > THEY SING!

vs. 46,47 ...with glad and generous hearts, praising God...

Redeemed Cultures> Native Styles, Sounds, Structure of Song > Praise

In Tune / Out of Tune / Grunts / Snorts > Joyful Noises unto the LORD

Only Xtians REALLY SING > From HEARTS Made NEW by GRACE

Visited Many Cultures , Diverse CHURCHES > Sing with ONE VOICE!

Singing is as much the language of holy joy as praying is of holy desire. John Wesley

v. 42 "the breaking of bread" > LORD'S SUPPER // Apostles of JESUS

He took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to them, saying, "This is my body given for you; do this in remembrance of me." Luke 22.19

Church Attendance most OBVIOUS Outward Sign of Faith

NOT to Say Every Attendee is Saved / Hypocrites in House of God

If 'Jesus is Lord' called Obey Most Basic Requirement of Discipleship

You CAN STAY HOME > Great Time w/ God > IT IS NOT CHURCH!

Sacraments, Scripture, Service, Sharing, Suffering TOGETHER

Faithful Commitment to a Local Church > Bible Standard / Jesus is Head

One Pastor brags Church has Biggest Easter Egg Hunt in Hawaii

Best Music / Videos / Stages / Smoke Machines / Pretty Girls doing Hula

Dr. Luke's Prescription: **Diet** – Apostolic Teaching

Exercise – THE Fellowship, Breaking of Bread, Prayers

2. Side Effects

Fine PRINT about Pills we Never Read – Print too small / too Scared!

FAST Part of Commercial --- Scarry things the Medicine MIGHT Do!

v 43 **Reality** many wonders & miraculous signs were done by the apostles

Ch 3 > NEXT THING THEY DO IS HELP A CRIPPLED BEGGAR

AMAZING TEACHING > "SIGNS" Validated their Authority

PAUL'S HUMBLE Testimony to PROUD CORINTHIAN CHURCH...

The things that mark an apostle - signs, wonders and miracles - were done among you with great perseverance.
2 Corinthians 12.12

NOW Office of Apostle is CLOSED > Greatest Sign THEIR BOOK
LIFE-GIVING Words of SPIRIT-INSPIRED NEW TESTAMENT

Does God Heal Today? Absolutely: Mediatly, Immediately, Ultimately

BIG Difference from HEALING Today & Miracles of Jesus & Apostles

1. Immediately
2. Perfectly
3. Confirmation

Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were uneducated, common men, they were astonished. And they recognized that they had been with Jesus.
Acts 4.13

v. 47 **Integrity**: praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people.

LORD JESUS told them > LOVE GOD and LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR

v. 47 // Luke 2.52 Jesus "grew in favor with God and man"

BODY had MORE than BIG MOUTH > Hands, Hearts, Feet

CONSISTENCY – Lives gave Flesh & Blood Expression to GOSPEL

SIDE EFFECTS can be POSITIVE OR NEGATIVE.....

3. Prognosis

v. 47 the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved

Faithful Discipleship leads to Effective Evangelism

Jonah > from Belly of Great Fish: "Salvation comes from the Lord" 2.9

2.21 "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved"

TRUE in FIRST Century and TRUE in TWENTY-FIRST Century

HAVE YOU CALLED ON HIS NAME AND BEEN SAVED??

they were all *filled with the Holy Spirit* and *spoke the word of God boldly* Acts 4.31

Risen Jesus sent Church into Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, Ends of Earth

LUKE Marks GOSPEL-PROGRESS thru EACH STEP of ADVANCE

6.7 the word of God continued to increase, and the number of the disciples multiplied greatly in Jerusalem, and a great many of the priests became obedient to the faith

8.25 they...testified and spoken the word of the Lord, they returned to Jerusalem, preaching the gospel to many villages of the Samaritans

11.1 Now the apostles and the brothers who were throughout Judea heard that the Gentiles also had received the word of God.

19.10,20 all the residents of Asia heard the word of the Lord, both Jews and Greeks/ the word of the Lord continued to increase & prevail mightily

God uses PEOPLE v. 46 "worship daily" // v. 47 "witness daily"

WE Co-Labor with God in BRINGING People to CHRIST

v. 47 The Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved
MUST ADD TO THE CHURCH ONLY THOSE WHO ARE SAVED
IF YOU ARE SAVED YOU MUST BE ADDED TO THE CHURCH
SALVATION AND CHURCH MEMBERSHIP BELONG TOGETHER

D.L. MOODY - Famous Evangelist - Met DRUNK on Chicago Street

"Hello, Mr. Moody" / "Excuse me sir, do I know you?"

"Don't you remember me, I am one of your converts"

MAY BE ONE of MY CONVERTS, BUT you are NOT ONE OF GOD'S

21st C church looking for Key to Save America > Christian Gimmicks

Keys of Kingdom right in Our Pocket > Word, Prayer, Worship, Integrity

SPIRIT of God leads the PEOPLE of God to the WORD of God

4.32 All the believers were one in heart and mind.

A GREAT CHURCH > Each MEMBER has SENSE of OWNERSHIP

Pastor ICF KZ – Winter Sunday AM Heavy Snow > Church still FULL Bright & SUNNY >

Blowing SNOW > Battling SNIFFLES: There!

Care what goes on? > Enough SS Teachers? Worship? Ushers? Sermon?

Strong Bond of Fellowship w/ God & Man

Pentecostal Church - SPIRIT-FILLED IN ALL RELATIONSHIPS

- To the Apostles / Submission to their Word
- To One Another / Love, Sharing, Caring, Fellowship
- To God / Worship, formal and informal, joyful and reverent
- To the World / Outreach in word and deed, continuous evangelism

Young African > Selling Mangos > Busy Taxi Park in City

Stood with Crowds in Hot Sun shouting, "Mangos, Mangos, Mangos!"

No One paid him any attention > Decided to Soothe his Sore, Hoarse Throat ATE Ripe, Juicy
Mango > Whole Face covered with Sweet Juice > to Elbows! DELIGHT was CONTAGIOUS >

Many Lined up to Buy a Delicious Mango

People need to SEE Jesus in Us before they'll HEAR about Jesus from US

Acts 2:42-47

⁴²And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. ⁴³And awe came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. ⁴⁴And all who believed were together and had all things in common. ⁴⁵And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need. ⁴⁶And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts, ⁴⁷praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved.