

Keys Elements of the Early Church Acts 2:42-47

I. Intro

- A. One of the greatest stories in the Bible is the story of the early Church
- B. Acts is that story.
- C. Chapter 2 of Acts sees the power of the Holy Spirit descend upon the church and empower believers.
- D. Many respond to the gospel, and lives are changed by the power of the gospel.
- E. Today we will look at the keys to success in the early church:
 - 1. Look at this as a prescription rather than a promise
 - 2. We have a responsibility to do some things, and God will draw near to us.
 - 3. We will find success when we find obedience.

II. Text

- A. Read through the entire passage, teach only verse 42 this week.
- B. Verse 42
 - 1. Devoted to the teaching
 - 2. Devoted to the fellowship!
 - 3. Devoted to breaking of Bread
 - 4. Devoted to Prayers
- C. Verse 43: Awe: also fear.
- D. Verses 44-45: See a need, meet a need.
- E. Verse 46
 - 1. Attending Temple together: Jewish people worshipping as they do
 - 2. Glad and generous hearts
- F. Verse 47
 - 1. "The Lord was adding to their number"
 - 2. "Those who were being saved"

III. Points

- A. Devotion to Discipleship
 - 1. Devoted:
 - a) Give all or a large part of one's time or resources to (a person, activity, or cause) Oxford English Dictionary
 - b) to commit by a solemn act, : to give over or direct (time, money, effort, etc.) to a cause, enterprise, or activity, Webster
 - c) Literal: dedicate formerly, consecrate
 - d) Practical: To be devoted to something, actions will prove
 - 2. Be teachable, Devote yourself to being a learner
 - a) Grow in your knowledge and understanding each and every day.
 - b) Say this:
 - (1) I've not learned that yet.
 - (2) I would like to understand, could you explain?
 - (3) What am I missing here?
 - c) Don't say this:
 - (1) We've never done it that way before
 - (a) The Christmas Ham:
 - i) Family cuts off either end of the ham before baking.
 - ii) One of the younger ones asks mom, why?
 - iii) Mom explains that that is the way Grandmother taught her to do it.
 - iv) Younger one goes to ask Grandma why she cuts the ends off the ham before it goes into the oven...
 - v) Grandma explains, The oven in that old house was too narrow for the whole ham, so I had to cut the ends off so it would fit.

- (b) Just because you've always done it that way, doesn't mean there is good reason.
 - (2) You think different from me, therefore you are wrong.
 - d) Take everything you can gather in regards to information, and compare it to the truth of scripture
- B. Devoted to Fellowship
1. Fellowship and Discipleship go hand in hand
 2. Why is fellowship so important?
 - a) You were not meant to walk this path alone.
 - b) You were created to be in community with other believers
 3. The BODY of CHRIST is a connected body that is dependent upon the other parts of the body to be working in coordination with one another:
 - a) This is fellowship
 - b) Fellowship is like the brain sending messages to the body regarding how/what to do
 4. Fellowship was not intended to be a passive activity, but one that requires devotion.
 5. Fellowship: koinonia: This word implies intimacy, connectedness through the power of God.
 6. CHALLENGE: North Park, we need to do better at Fellowship!
 - a) We must allow people into our lives
 - b) We must put ourselves in connection with others
 - c) We need to do life together!
 - d) How?
 - (1) Small groups: SS classes, Wednesday groups, Precept groups
 - (2) Serve together: Share Ministry, Hospitality, First Impressions.
- C. Devoted to Breaking Bread
1. This is like fellowship, but specifically mentioned a little different.
 2. Many of us are devoted to the breaking of bread! This is an easy one!
 3. But it does come with a purpose:
 - a) Share a meal for the purpose of growing in fellowship
 - b) DO LIFE TOGETHER: walk in fellowship, share a meal, serve Jesus.
 4. This is where you have to overcome the world/fears/societal norms:
 - a) Invite someone to lunch
 - b) Share time with them
 - c) SPEND TIME.
 - (1) You will never go broke spending time.**
 - (2) You invest time in that which matters, you find the blessing of the return on investment.
 5. Fellowship is taken to a more intimate level when bread is broken and shared.
 - a) What will you find when you invest in this level of fellowship?
 - b) You will find people that are trying to figure it all out.
 - c) You will find people who like to laugh.
 - d) You will find people who like to talk about their family.
 - e) You will find people who disagree with you on certain topics, yet still love Christ.
- D. Devoted to Prayers
1. Devoted to Prayer
 2. We pray without ceasing, we pray corporately, we pray privately.
 3. We are to be in an attitude of prayer, and we are to voice our prayers.
 4. We pray for healing, we pray for the nations, we pray for revival, we pray for souls.
 5. We should be sold out to prayer!
 6. We are going to install a prayer board in the auditorium.
 - a) Names and requests that we are giving to God

- b) We will celebrate the answered prayers, only when we remember the requested prayer.

IV. Close