

NO MATTER WHAT!

[Acts 2: 42-47]

Acts 2:42-47 (KJV)

“42 And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers.

43 And fear came upon every soul: and many wonders and signs were done by the apostles.

44 And all that believed were together, and had all things common;

45 And sold their possessions and goods, and parted them to all men, as every man had need.

46 And they, continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, did eat their meat with gladness and singleness of heart,

47 Praising God, and having favour with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved”

The early believers were a people who continued steadfastly

1. Continued steadfastly: to continue, persevere, endure, stick, and persist

- * A person does not quit, back off, fade away, or slip back
- * Those who know the Lord are those who continue on steadfastly
- * **Acts 2** tells us that they continued steadfastly!
- * Oh, the storms of life may blow but the anchor holds!,

Everyone experiences times of suffering in their lives

* However, how we handle these sufferings and trials in our life will indicate our spiritual maturity

* As Christians, we must realize that God intentionally will use trials (testing) in our lives so that we might ultimately become spiritually mature

* God can and will take the trials and testing's in our life and turn them around for His Glory and Purpose – His Will Shall be done!

* If a believer is in doubt as to how they should respond/react to these trials, then they should ask God believing that He will give them the wisdom necessary to endure through their trials.

* If ever there was a time to be know as steadfast it is now – I have decided to follow Jesus – no **MATTER WHAT!**

The early believers were a people who continued steadfastly

Acts 2:42-47 (KJV)

“42 And they continued *steadfastly* in the apostles' *doctrine* and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers.

* ***Steadfast in Doctrine***: A stated principle

Latin Word: ‘doctrina’ – Teaching / Learning

From Word: ‘doctor’ – Teacher / Teach

Matthew 16:12 Then they understood that He did not tell them to beware of the leaven of bread, *but of the doctrine* of the Pharisees and Sadducees

Mark 1:27 Then they were all amazed, so that they questioned among themselves, saying, “What is this? What *new doctrine is this*? For *with authority* He commands even the *unclean spirits*, and *they obey Him*.”

John 7:16 Jesus answered them and said, “*My doctrine* is not Mine, but His who sent Me

John 18:19 [*Jesus Questioned by the High Priest*] The high priest then asked Jesus about His disciples and *His doctrine*

Ephesians 4:14 - that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with *every wind of doctrine*, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting,

Romans 16:17 [*Avoid Divisive Persons*] Now I urge you, brethren, note those who cause divisions and offenses, *contrary to the doctrine* which *you learned*, and avoid them.

1 Timothy 4:1 [*The Great Apostasy*] Now the Spirit expressly says that in latter times some will depart from the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits and *doctrines of demons*,

1 Timothy 4:6 [*A Good Servant of Jesus Christ*] If you instruct the brethren in these things, you will be a good minister of Jesus Christ, nourished in the words of faith and of the good doctrine which you have carefully followed.

1 Timothy 4:13 Till I come, give attention to reading, to exhortation, to doctrine

1 Timothy 4:16 Take heed to yourself and to the doctrine. Continue in them, for in doing this you will save both yourself and those who hear you.

1 Timothy 5:17 [*Honor the Elders*]

Let the elders who rule well be counted worthy of double honor, especially those who labor in the word and doctrine.

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 4:3

For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, because they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers;

2 John 1:9

Whoever transgresses and does not abide in the doctrine of Christ does not have God. He who abides in the doctrine of Christ has both the Father and the Son.

They were steadfast in the apostles doctrine

- * The teaching, the instruction of the apostles
- * This would include both what Christ taught and His death and resurrection and ascension or exaltation.

The teaching would be no different

- * There is only one message, only one Word that saves and roots and grounds people in the Lord—the Word of God Himself

On the day of Pentecost, the persons who were saved needed to be grounded in the faith

* And the only message that could ground them was the message found in the New Testament

* It was that message, that doctrine they were taught

Matthew 28:19-20

"Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen"

Luke 24:45-48

"Then opened he their understanding, that they might understand the scriptures, and said unto them, Thus it is written, and thus it behooved Christ to suffer, and to rise from the dead the third day: and that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. And ye are witnesses of these things"

God has given us the very same doctrines and instructions to root and ground us.

* We can have a true, dynamic apostolic experience and maturity in the Lord

* We can grow and know the Lord as intimately as the early believers knew the Lord

* In fact, we come short if we do not, for we have the very same doctrine, teachings, and instructions that they had

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The fellowship birthed by the Spirit of God means more than the association existing in secular groups such as civic clubs and community bodies and functions, or a bible study group – not the clique or the clubbers

* There is a vast difference between community participation and spiritual participation

Community participation is based upon neighborly association

Spiritual participation is based upon a spiritual union by the Spirit of God

The distinctiveness is this: the Holy Spirit is within the Christian believer

* The Holy Spirit creates a spiritual union by melting and molding the heart of the Christian believer to the hearts of other believers

* He attaches the life of one believer to the lives of other believers

Through the Spirit of God, believers become one in life and purpose

* They have a joint life sharing their blessings and needs and gifts together with common vision purpose of ministry

1. Fellowship is being experienced by the new believers because they join other Christians in learning the Scriptures (apostles' teachings) and in worship (prayers and celebrating the Lord's Supper, Acts 2:41-42)

2. Fellowship forbids an unattached Christian life

Their fellowship is maintained because they "continue steadfastly" in the Scriptures and in worship

An unattached Christian life is just impossible

* Christianity is first an individual matter, but then it becomes a social matter. The Christian is attached to Christ individually, but he is also attached to other believers. He walks with other believers in the Scriptures and in worship.

* *Christianity is a spiritual organism*, but then it becomes a spiritual organization.

The Christian has an inward life, but he also takes on an outward form of life.

He becomes a living organization with other Christian believers.

He sits at the feet of the apostles' teaching and joins right in with other Christians as they worship together.

* Christianity is Christianity because *the saints study* the Scriptures *together* and *worship together*.

* Christianity demands that a believer personally live out such virtues as kindness, longsuffering, and love; but *the believer can do this only in association with others*.

* Christianity means that the Spirit of God has entered the believer's life, but it also means that the Spirit of God has placed the bell
The Spirit of God indwells the corporate body of believers as well as the individual - Steadfastly in doctrine AND FELLOWSHIP

3. **Spiritual fellowship faces two dangers**

* Fellowship and Society can be over-emphasized—to the point that individual salvation is missed. An individual must "receive His word"

Acts 2:41 (KJV)

"41 Then they that *gladly received* his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls"

* Individual salvation and individual worship

* Thus pointing the believer to the reality that doctrine attracts fellowship

Acts 2:42 "And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers"

Romans 12:5 "So we, being many, are one body in Christ, and every one members one of another"

7.

Hebrews 10:25

"Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching"

Malachi 3:16

"Then they that feared the LORD spake often one to another: and the LORD hearkened, and heard it, and a book of remembrance was written before him for them that feared the LORD, and that thought upon his name"

* Holy Ghost birthed fellowship

* Book of Acts fellowship

* A Holy gathering - Not a group of folks – a time of steadfastness in doctrine and fellowship – What meetings should be taking place when we get from the social to the spiritual!

Acts 2:42 (KJV)

"42 And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers"

* Some folks like to acquaint the words "*breaking of bread*" to chicken dinners and carry-ins – they like a restaurant setting

* Oh, we must remember that Acts context and subject is HOLY GHOST

* It is on the spiritual plain – nothing wrong with social events and meetings but Acts 2 is on the Spiritual Teaching – the Apostles teachings [Doctrine] the Apostles way of fellowship – the Apostles way of breaking bread and their ways in prayer!

Oh, lets thank the Lord for Godly Steadfastness!

* Oh, lets take a moment together and thank Him for His Word, Fellowship, The Holy Meal, and that we can communicate through prayer to move mountains, birth Gods Atmosphere into manifested presence by the power of Holy Ghost unity in prayer!

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Lord's Supper

The phrase "breaking of bread" means the early believers observed and remembered the Lord's death

* They set aside some time to observe what churches call communion, or the Lord's Supper, or the Eucharist

* Note they observed the Lord's Supper daily

Acts 2:46-47 (KJV)

“46 And they, continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, did eat their meat with gladness and singleness of heart,

47 Praising God, and having favour with all the people.

And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved”

Why did they observe it so often?

1. The Lord's Supper was the one ordinance Christ had given to symbolize His death.

And it was His death that had Saved them.

Because of His death, they were now...

- * Reconciled to God
- * In fellowship with God
- * Made new creatures in God
- * In-filled with the Spirit of God
- * Bearing all the fruit of God

Galatians 5:22-26 (KJV)

“22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith,

23 Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.

24 And they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts.

25 If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit.

26 Let us not be desirous of vain glory, provoking one another, envying one another”

*** All they now were and had was due to the death of Christ**

*** They wanted to remember and thank God for His great love demonstrated in the death of His Son, and to do it often**

2. The Lord had commanded His followers to observe the Lord's Supper often

*** Christ gave us the ordinance and commanded that we use it as the primary symbol to show His death until He comes**

"This do in remembrance of me" (Luke 22:19; 1 Cor. 11:24-25)

"For as often as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup, ye do show the Lord's death till he comes" (1 Cor. 11:26)

"And as they did eat, Jesus took bread, and blessed, and brake it, and gave to them, and said, Take, eat: this is my body. And he took the cup, and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them: and they all drank of it. And he said unto them, This is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for many" (Mark 14:22-24)

*** The breaking of bread was Gods Meal - The Meal of Remembrance**

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Prayer

The early believers were a people who persevered in prayer—the idea is church prayer, united prayer with the whole body of believers

- * Oh, if ever a time to push 9 am corporate prayer time its now
- * A time to come pray with your brothers and sisters
- * A time to allow Pentecost anointing to settle in the house!

Through prayer they were brought into the most intimate fellowship and presence of God

* They could get no closer to God than when they were drawing nigh to God through prayer

Psalm 145:18

"The LORD is nigh unto all them that call upon him, to all that call upon him in truth"

Psalm 73:28

"But it is good for me to draw near to God: I have put my trust in the Lord GOD, that I may declare all thy works"

Hebrews 7:19

"For the law made nothing perfect, but the bringing in of a better hope did; by the which we draw nigh unto God"

Matthew 18:20

"For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them"

Through prayer they received things from God. They received His provision for both their souls and lives

Matthew 21:22

"And all things, whatsoever ye shall ask in prayer, believing, ye shall receive"

Glory – Glory - Hallelujah since I laid my burdens down! Saved, Fellowship, the Lords Supper, Prayer