

## The Fellowship of Believers – April 21, 2021

**Acts 2. Jesus gone. Pentecost happens. Peter responds by preaching.**

**People were “cut to the heart,” what shall we do? Repent & be baptized.**

**About 3,000 added that day. Then ... Read Acts 2:42-47:**

42 They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. 43 Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles. 44 All the believers were together and had everything in common. 45 They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need. 46 Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, 47 praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.

**Why did God bless that Fellowship of Believers? (Break down 5 verses)**

**1. Vs. 42 - Devoted themselves to the teaching & to fellowship & to prayer**

- **Devoted** - dedicating oneself to a cause, enterprise, or activity; being ardently dedicated and loyal.
  - How devoted are we to learning about Jesus? Hit/miss. Fit it in.
  - They met together **daily** in the temple. Could we? Would?
- Devoted to **Fellowship**.
  - Need more than just read Bible. Need to **read people** – see faith on display. See praise in action. Mature walks (don’t give up).
  - Feel power of fellowship. Better in person. Energy. (can’t wait!)
  - Fellowship is more than meeting together; more than “Hi.” Need to get to know others. Eat together. Talk to each other.
  - “Membership” isn’t enough. Be Active. Church is a **Living Body**; not just a building.
- Devoted to **Prayer**;
  - Taking time to listen to God. 2-way communication. (wireless)
  - And they were praying for each other.

## 2. Vs. 44 - Believers were Together & Had Everything in common

- **Together** – but not just present in one place. There were **Connected**. United. Unified. In Harmony.
  - Do better about this. No judging. No degrees of sin.
  - Church is a hospital for souls. We're all sick & need healing.
  - **In Common** – desire for love, acceptance. "By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another" (John 13:35). **This is love that leads to faith in Jesus.**

## 3. Vs. 46 - "Broke bread in homes & ate together w/glad & sincere hearts"

- Church is place **to find friends**. Prayer warriors. Common allies.
  - **Glad & sincere hearts** – Grateful for acceptance & wanting happiness for others; not jealous of other connections.
  - God calls us to be **social, not solitary**.
    - Social** – having companionship; interaction. Social "relates to human society; concern for the welfare of human beings"

## 4. Vs. 45 - they sold property & possessions to give to anyone in need.

- Church is the place **to be a friend**. To give to others. Do for...
- Realize: we're blessed so we can be a blessing.

## 5. Vs. 47 – Praising God – Favor – God added Daily. Blessings

- Our most **basic act of worship** – love & praise. After accepting Jesus as Messiah, they accepted one other. All sinned.
- First believers formed a community. A **Fellowship – God blessed it**.
- They came together w/ **one another** to practice what Jesus taught:
  - "Love one another as I have loved you" (John 15:12)
  - Serve. (Jn. 13:14 - "Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another's feet.")
  - "Have salt among yourselves, and be at peace with each other" (Mark 9:50) Salt brings out flavor. Bring out the best in others.
- Cross restored **vertical** relationship between God & humanity, but it also restored the **horizontal** relationship of us with **one another**.

♥ God blessed that Fellowship b/c came together to know Him, praise Him & love each other. We can do the same... now.

Song of the week – "We Are So Blessed" by TaRanda Greene