**THE APOSTLES DOCTRINE**

WRITTEN BY GREGG LEE

**COLOSIANS 1:27**

**To whom God would make known**

**what is the riches of the glory**

**of this mystery among the Gentiles;**

**which is Christ in you, the hope of glory:**

PICKUPGODSWORD@GMAIL.COM

PICKUPGODSWORD.COM

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In order to build anything, whether it is a physical structure, or a philosophical, theological, or any other way of thought for people to follow, you need to go through ordered steps to build it.

You first need to start with a foundation that everything else rests upon. This would be the supporting foundation that the rest of the structure reaches out from. The walls are attached to the ground floor which rests upon the foundation. The ceilings and roof rest upon the walls. With this build plan in mind, you can build any size structure.

For a new way of living, this premise is still true. The new church that is described in acts is build upon the life of Jesus Christ, as the savior of Israel. This idea was first mentioned in **Genesis 3:15 And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel.** Jesus Christ is also mentioned in every book of the old testament. This is a promise that was kept in the memory of Israel; throughout Israel’s history they waited for this promised savior.

Here is an example of how embedded this thought was in the mind of Israel. They knew of the prophesy from **Isiah 61: 1 ¶ The Spirit of the Lord GOD *is* upon me; because the LORD hath anointed me to preach good tidings unto the meek; he hath sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to *them that are* bound;**

**2 To proclaim the acceptable year of the LORD, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all that mourn;** These are the two verses that Jesus quoted from when He read in the temple.

**3 To appoint unto them that mourn in Zion, to give unto them beauty for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning, the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness; that they might be called trees of righteousness, the planting of the LORD, that he might be glorified.**

**4 ¶ And they shall build the old wastes, they shall raise up the former desolations, and they shall repair the waste cities, the desolations of many generations.**

**5 And strangers shall stand and feed your flocks, and the sons of the alien *shall be* your plowmen and your vinedressers.**

**6 But ye shall be named the Priests of the LORD: *men* shall call you the Ministers of our God: ye shall eat the riches of the Gentiles, and in their glory shall ye boast yourselves.**

**7 For your shame *ye shall have* double; and *for* confusion they shall rejoice in their portion: therefore in their land they shall possess the double: everlasting joy shall be unto them.**

**8 For I the LORD love judgment, I hate robbery for burnt offering; and I will direct their work in truth, and I will make an everlasting covenant with them.**

**9 And their seed shall be known among the Gentiles, and their offspring among the people: all that see them shall acknowledge them, that they *are* the seed *which* the LORD hath blessed.**

**10 ¶ I will greatly rejoice in the LORD, my soul shall be joyful in my God; for he hath clothed me with the garments of salvation, he hath covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decketh *himself* with ornaments, and as a bride adorneth *herself* with her jewels.**

**11 For as the earth bringeth forth her bud, and as the garden causeth the things that are sown in it to spring forth; so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise to spring forth before all the nations.**  These verses are very nice to hear. Israel Had high expectations of what was going to happen when Jesus their Messiah would show up. They expected an immediate overthrow of the gentiles that had constantly been holding them down; these verses promised that they would be in charge. These 11 verses sound like the garden of Eden is back. While all of these things will happen, this was not the time table that God had in mind. Instead God took that coma between “Lord,” and “the day of vengeance” in the second verse of Isiah 61, and built an entire time period that He had been keeping secret since before the world began.

The day of vengeance will be later. These verses in Isiah 61 sound like what will happen during the 1000 years of peace when satan will be locked up in the pit.

There have been many prophesies about the gentiles receiving God’s blessings. This is that time, right now, when those prophesies are coming true. Jesus came to reconcile the world back to God. He is doing that through the Sons and Daughters of the most-high God. We are part of what Jesus said in **Acts 1:8 But ye shall receive power <2983>** lambano**, after that the Holy** <40>hagios **Ghost** <4151>pneuma/spirit **is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.** The 12 Apostles started a movement where they reached one, who reached one more, and so on, and so on……repeat; this is still continuing today. The same rules apply today. We receive power <2983> lambano, followed by signs, miracles, and wonders; this is witnessed by others who then believe, and receive power <2983> lambano, followed by signs, miracles, and wonders. This was the pattern of the first century church. They prayed daily, followed by teaching, fellowship, praise, and having favor with the people, and each other.

**Acts 1: 6 ¶ When they therefore were come together, they asked of him, saying, Lord, wilt thou at this time restore again the kingdom to Israel?**

God promised a seed born from a woman as a solution to Adam’s sin in the Garden of Eden. In the relationship between a man and a woman, the woman has no seed, the seed is supplied by the man. This promised Seed, is a special seed promised by God for redemption of Adam’s sin.
. When this promised seed, Jesus finally arrived in person, He chose 12 to train and teach a new way for Israel to live. These 12 would then train others, who would also teach and train still others. This new way was promised to reach the whole world.

**Acts 1:8 But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy** <40>hagios **Ghost** <4151>pneuma/spirit **is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.** The doctrine of these 12 Apostles , which was taught to them by Jesus, will be witnessed be the entire world. Jesus proclaimed His ministry in the temple when he read out of the book of Isiah 61 these words. **Luke 4:18 The Spirit of the Lord *is* upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised, 19 To preach the acceptable year of the Lord. 20 And he closed the book, and he gave *it* again to the minister, and sat down. And the eyes of all them that were in the synagogue were fastened on him.**

**21 And he began to say unto them, This day is this scripture fulfilled in your ears.** Jesus stopped reading at this point in the middle of a prophesy. Jesus did not proclaim the day of vengeance of our Lord. At this point (right at this coma) there is a secret that God is now starting to reveal; this is what Jesus is proclaiming. This secret will include the gentiles, which is the rest of the world.

These 12 Apostles are the ground floor of the church that Jesus Built. The ministry that Jesus had while he was on earth is continued with the 12 Apostles. The Doctrine of these 12 Apostles is mentioned in the book of Acts, chapter 2. **Acts 2:42-46. 42 ¶ And they continued stedfastly in the apostles’ doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers.**

God introduced publicly, His favor in these 12 Apostles while they were in the House of God. This was on the day of Pentecost, during an hour of prayer. A sign appeared on the heads of each of the 12 Apostles, and they were energized by God. These 12 Apostles acted upon this sign, and there was evidenced a miracle which had never been seen in history before this.

**Acts 2:1-4 And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. 2 And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. 3 And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them. 4 And they were all filled with the Holy** <40>hagios **Ghost** <4151>pneuma/spirit, **and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit** <4151> **gave them utterance.**

They spoke in the tongues of all of the people that were listening at that moment. It teaches us here that while the 12 Apostles did the speaking, it was God who gave them utterance via the spirit, who gave them the words they spoke. This could be put another way; It was the Apostles choice to speak, but it was God’s choice what they spoke. The Apostles acted upon the words that Jesus taught them.

As the 12 Apostles spoke each person that was there heard them speak in their own language. **Acts 2: 4 And they were all filled with the Holy** <40>hagios **Ghost** <4151>pneuma/spirit**, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance. 5 ¶ And there were dwelling at Jerusalem Jews, devout men, out of every nation under heaven. 6 Now when this was noised abroad, the multitude came together, and were confounded, because that every man heard them speak in his own language. 7 And they were all amazed and marvelled, saying one to another, Behold, are not all these which speak Galilaeans? 8 And how hear we every man in our own tongue, wherein we were born? 9 Parthians, and Medes, and Elamites, and the dwellers in Mesopotamia, and in Judaea, and Cappadocia, in Pontus, and Asia, 10 Phrygia, and Pamphylia, in Egypt, and in the parts of Libya about Cyrene, and strangers of Rome, Jews and proselytes, 11 Cretes and Arabians, we do hear them speak in our tongues the wonderful works of God.** All of these different people heard and understood what was being spoken in their own language. 12 people speaking, but maybe 17 different languages or more. This was God’s hand at work here, and it was recognized by the people there, as the wonderful works of God.

Speaking in tongues is part of a group of spiritual abilities that members of the Church of God have. More is spoken of these 9 spiritual abilities; **1 Corinthians 12:1 ¶ Now concerning spiritual** <4152> ***gifts*, brethren, I would not have you ignorant.** This word spiritual is the Greek word “pneumatikos” it means things that are spiritual in nature, things of the spirit.

God does not want us to be ignorant of spiritual matters. In this chapter we learn a lot. Let’s take a look at some more of these verses. **1 Corinthians 12:2 Ye know that ye were Gentiles, carried away unto these dumb idols, even as ye were led.** God says here that in time past, this means before we were born again, we all worshiped other gods. **3 Wherefore I give you to understand, that no man speaking by the Spirit** <4151>pneuma **of God calleth Jesus accursed: and *that* no man can say that Jesus is the Lord, but by the** **Holy** <40>hagios **Ghost** <4151>pneuma/spirit**.** God will never curse Jesus. If you want to truly call Jesus your Lord, then do what the Word says, and speak by the Holy Ghost/Spirit/Pneuma Hagion. To speak by the Holy Spirit is to speak in tongues. **4 Now there are diversities** <1243> **of gifts, but the same Spirit** <4151> pneuma**.** This word diversities, is the Greek word “diairesis” it means different or separate. There are different or separate gifts from God, but all gifts from God are from the same spirit. **5 And there are differences** <1243> **of administrations, but the same Lord.** This word differences, is again the same word“diairesis”, and it still means different or separate. Not all people in the bible are being ruled the same way, they are not all following the same rules; and an example would be that Israel followed after the law of Moses, but the Church of God follows the two laws that Jesus Christ set down. Still it is the same Lord who rules. **6 And there are diversities** <1243> **of operations** <1755>**, but it is the same God which worketh** <1754> **all in all.** This word diversities, is the Greek word “diairesis” it still means different or separate. And the word operations is the Greek word <1744> “energeo”, this word means kind of, or way of work; it is a noun, which is a naming word. There are different kinds, or ways of work-different jobs. Later in the same verse we see the verb form of this same word, energema. <1755>. Here the word energema <1755>means to work, to energize. It is still the same God which energizes these operations-or jobs. This is how I see these three verses 4-6 *There are different kinds of gifts, but the same spirit that gives them to us. There are different ways of ruling through history, but the same Lord is still in charge. There are differences of how things work, but it is the same God that energizes all of the spiritual functions-or jobs of the Church.* My words.

**7 But the manifestation of the Spirit** <4151>pneuma **is given to every man to profit withal.** Something has changed here, we are no longer talking about gifts. God uses the word manifestation, which means evidence’s of, or things seen.These manifestations of the spirit are given for the profit for every man and woman. Is this saying every person on the planet, or every person that is born again. (when you see any of the uses of the word all, you have to be careful. Is it a cart blanch, just everything, or is it just all of what is related to the conversation) In this case I would say the later, since spiritual things are foolish to the natural man. **1Co 2:14 But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit** <4151>pneuma **of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know *them*, because they are spiritually discerned.**

**1 Corinthians 12:8 For to one is given by the Spirit** <4151>pneuma **the word of wisdom; to another the word of knowledge by the same Spirit**<4151>pneuma**; 9 To another faith by the same Spirit**<4151>pneuma**; to another the gifts of healing by the same Spirit** <4151>pneuma**; 10 To another the working of miracles; to another prophecy; to another discerning of spirits**<4151>pneuma**; to another *divers* kinds of tongues; to another the interpretation of tongues:** Here we have a list of 9 spiritual abilities, 7 which can be traced throughout the old testament. Two are brand new, Speaking in Tongues, and the interpretation of speaking in tongues. Remember in verse 7 where it says that the manifestation of the spirit is profitable for all. Let’s look at verse 11.

**11 But all these worketh** <1754> **that one and the selfsame Spirit**<4151>pneuma**,** **dividing** <1244> **to every man severally** <2398> **as he will.**

Worketh is the Greek word <1744> “energeo”, This word worketh means kind, or way of work; it is a noun which is a naming word. Still it is the same spirit <4151>pneumathat we saw in verses 4-6 that are separating these spiritual manifestations to every man. Here is where this verse confuses many people. This word severally is the word <2398> “idios” used as an adjective here. It is used 113 times in the New Testament. It is translated as his own, their own, your own, his, own, privately, and apart 92 times in all. The other 21 are singular translations. The bible’s usage of this word is “pertaining to one’s self, one’s own, belonging to one’s self”

An adjective always modifies a noun. Here this translation should be “**dividing** <1244> **to every man** *his own* <2398> **as he will.”** This verse is very simple once the word severally is understood. The man chooses which of the 9 manifestations they want to operate. The ability is inside of each born again believer, but as in all spiritual things, believing is the key to receiving anything from God. God has empowered each and every believer that is born again. As we (the individual believer) choose which of the nine manifestations to operate, we operate them. So, you ask which are the best out of all nine of them. The simple answer is, whichever is needed at the moment, this is the most important. In the book of Colossians, we see this also. **Colossians 1:27 To whom God would make known what *is* the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles; which is Christ in you,** (Christ in you, what is in Christ is in you. This is not powerless, but empowered**) (the hope of glory)**

 **Colossians** 2: 8 **Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ. 9 For in him** (this is in Christ) **dwelleth** (dwelleth means live) **all the fulness of the Godhead bodily.** (all of the fullness of God lives in Jesus Christ) **10 And ye are complete in him**, (Complete means that nothing is missing, we all have the fullness of Christ in us.)  **which is the head of all principality and power:**

Jesus lived as the second Adam; all that God gave Adam, God gave to Jesus **Romans 5:14 Nevertheless death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over them that had not sinned after the similitude of Adam’s transgression, who is the figure of him that was to come.** Adam was giving a chance to fulfill God’s desire for people to worship Him in spirit and in truth. All he had to do was to obey two rules. Obey what God said, and not eat of the fruit of the tree of knowledge of good and evil. Adam was Lord of the whole world. When he sinned, he died spiritually; Adam could no longer worship God in spirit and in truth.

Jesus Was born of a woman and lived as a man without sin. (Jesus was born without the sin of Adam that passes from father to child. Being born as the child of the woman only (Jesus was a gift from God-be it unto me according to thy word was what Mary told the Angel, she knew not a man to get pregnant) When Jesus was baptized by John the Baptist, He received the spiritual birth, He fully became the only begotten Son of God. Jesus was born Body and Soul from His mother. Jesus was born of Spirit from God. Jesus at this point was Body, soul, and spirit. **Mathew 4:16 And Jesus, when he was baptized, went up straightway out of the water: and, lo, the heavens were opened unto him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove, and lighting upon him:**

**17 And lo a voice from heaven, saying, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.**  God called Jesus His Son after the spirit was on Him. **Mark 1:9 ¶ And it came to pass in those days, that Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee, and was baptized of John in Jordan.**

**10 And straightway coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens opened, and the Spirit like a dove descending upon him:**

**11 And there came a voice from heaven, *saying*, Thou art my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.** God called Jesus His Son after the spirit was on Him.  **Luke 3:21 ¶ Now when all the people were baptized, it came to pass, that Jesus also being baptized, and praying, the heaven was opened,**

**22 And the Holy Ghost descended in a bodily shape like a dove upon him, and a voice came from heaven, which said, Thou art my beloved Son; in thee I am well pleased.** God called Jesus His Son after the spirit was on Him.

**John 1:32 And John bare record, saying, I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and it abode upon him.**

**33 And I knew him not: but he that sent me to baptize with water, the same said unto me, Upon whom thou shalt see the Spirit descending, and remaining on him, the same is he which baptizeth with the Holy Ghost.**

The spirit descended form heaven, and remained on Jesus. Now Jesus was a complete man as God designed Adam to be. Body, soul, and spirit.

**Corinthians 15:21 For since by man *came* death, by man *came* also the resurrection of the dead.** Here, in this section, we have a comparison of Adam and Jesus Christ. Where Adam failed, Jesus succeeded. Adam died in sin, Jesus went to the cross sinless as a sin sacrifice for all of mankind on Passover. That year Jesus took the place spiritually as the Passover Lamb.

**22 For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive. 42 So also *is* the resurrection of the dead. It is sown in corruption; it is raised in incorruption:**

**43 It is sown in dishonour; it is raised in glory: it is sown in weakness; it is raised in power:**

**44 It is sown a natural body; it is raised a spiritual body. There is a natural body, and there is a spiritual body.**

**45 And so it is written, The first man Adam was made a living soul; the last Adam *was made* a quickening spirit.**

Both Adam and Jesus are called Adam (man)

**46 Howbeit that *was* not first which is spiritual, but that which is natural; and afterward that which is spiritual. 47 The first man *is* of the earth, earthy: the second man *is* the Lord from heaven.** Adams desires were of the earth, Jesus’s desires to from heaven.

These 12 Apostles were the first act of outreach of God’s new Church to Israel. **Acts 1:8 But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy** <40>hagios **Ghost** <4151>pneuma/spirit **is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.**

Remember this verse. This was the first example of the new power that was theirs after the Holy Ghost/Pneuma Hagion/Holy Spirit came upon them. They were now born again, Sons of God. The rest of this promised outreach is in the book of acts.

There is a pattern to the outreach that God promised they would achieve. The building of God’s Church is structured and repeatable, called the Apostles Doctrine. The Book of Acts is a biography of the growth of the early Church, divided into eight sections. It shows examples, people, troubles, and decisions all of real life. There are eight summaries that show stepping stones in this biography.

The Apostles Doctrine is shown on the first day of the new Church of God. Before we get to this day, I would like to go back a few days. In Acts 1:4 Jesus was talking to the Apostles whom He had chosen (verse 2,) He commanded them not to leave Jerusalem, and they obeyed.

**Acts 1:4 And, being assembled together with *them*, commanded them that they should not depart from Jerusalem, but wait for the promise of the Father, which, *saith he*, ye have heard of me.** Wait for the promise of the father, something is coming in Jerusalem, listen to my words.

**5 For John truly baptized with water; but ye shall be baptized with the Holy** <40> hagios **Ghost** <4151>pneuma/spirit **not many days hence.** This is new, baptized with Holy <40> hagios Spirit <4151> pneuma. Jesus talked about this before. The same instance but a different record.

**Luke 24: 44 And he said unto them, These *are* the words which I spake unto you, while I was yet with you, that all things must be fulfilled, which were written in the law of Moses, and *in* the prophets, and *in* the psalms, concerning me.**

**45 Then opened he their understanding, that they might understand the scriptures, 46 And said unto them, Thus it is written, and thus it behoved Christ to suffer, and to rise from the dead the third day:** Now after the resurrection of Jesus they get to know why their Lord went through the suffering, and death. **47 And that repentance and remission of signs should be preached in his name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem.** God’s Word should be preached to the whole world starting in Jerusalem. **48 And ye are witnesses of these things.** Jesus told them the future, and is holding them accountable to His words. **49 And, behold, I send the promise of my Father upon you: but tarry ye in the city of Jerusalem, until ye be endued with power from on high**. The promise of my father, you will be endued with power from on high. Endued with power is the same instance of baptized with the Holy Ghost. See Acts 1:8. **50 ¶ And he led them out as far as to Bethany, and he lifted up his hands, and blessed them. 51 And it came to pass, while he blessed them, he was parted from them, and carried up into heaven. 52 And they worshipped him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy: 53 And were continually in the temple, praising and blessing God. Amen.**

Look closely at this, where were they- vs 53, in the temple, praising and blessing God. This record is repeated in Acts 1.

**1:6 ¶ When they therefore were come together, they asked of him, saying, Lord, wilt thou at this time restore again the kingdom to Israel?**

There head is not on what Jesus is saying, but on biblical prophecies of the future from **Isiah 61:1-2**

**7 And he said unto them, It is not for you to know the times or the seasons, which the Father hath put in his own power. 8 But ye shall receive <**2983> lambano **power <**1411>dunamis (this is spiritual power)**, after that the Holy** <40>hagios **Ghost** <4151>pneuma/spirit **is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.** Listen dudes, you get power, and you will be witnesses unto me upon the entire earth.What does power have to do with being witnesses of God? They are to be fishers of men, and their bait will be signs, miracles, and wonders.These signs, miracles, and wonders get people’s attention, and the spoken word delivers them to God’s Word reconciles us all the way back to God. **9 And when he had spoken these things, while they beheld, he was taken up; and a cloud received him out of their sight.** Talk about an attention getter. **12 ¶ Then returned they unto Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is from Jerusalem a sabbath day’s journey.** They Obeyed Jesus **13 And when they were come in, they went up into an upper room, where abode both Peter, and James, and John, and Andrew, Philip, and Thomas, Bartholomew, and Matthew, James *the son* of Alphaeus, and Simon Zelotes, and Judas *the brother* of James.** Only men, (11 apostles lived here) lived in the upper room. According to the law of the day, unmarried men and woman could not be in the same sleeping quarters. **14 These all continued with one accord in prayer and supplication,** (where, in the temple- Luke 24) **with the women, and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with his brethren.** Everybody, all of Jesus disciples, continued together with one purpose, in prayer and supplication, and they were in temple daily praising and blessing God. Remember this same record is in Luke 24 also. They prayed daily in the Temple at the hours of prayer, and possibly went there other times as well. The Apostles had just talked to Jesus and watched Him leave. The Apostle’s now had to go back and tell everybody what had happened; about a hundred and twenty disciples were part of the team. They responded to what Jesus said by continuing with one accord in prayer and supplication, and they were in temple daily praising and blessing God.

 Now back to the first day of the New Church. Everybody around the temple heard the commotion that this public display of God’s New Church had caused. People like to talk and this was something to talk about. This moved into the city, and Peter described what was happening that day. He told them to repent and be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. **Acts 2: 38 Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy** <40>hagios **Ghost** <4151>pneuma/spirit**. 39 For the promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, *even* as many as the Lord our God shall call.**

The people responded, and that day there were about 3000 people who believed, and acted upon the spoken Word of God. **Acts 2:41 Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added *unto them* about three thousand souls. 42 ¶ And they continued stedfastly in the apostles’ doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers.**

This is Apostles Doctrine I mentioned, upon how the early Church of God was built. They were daily in the temple, hearing God’s Word, taking the time to pray, and sharing each other’s lives. It says here they spent time in fellowship (time with each other), in breaking of bread (they ate together, a very personal time), and in prayers (this was all through the day, not just at the temple).

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

**1st summary: Acts 2:46 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.**

This is the second time in a few verses that this doctrine is mentioned, Verse 42 and verse 46. Again, they were in the Temple daily: they had the same thoughts and purpose, they ate at a different house every night (they got to know the people, like family), they prayed together.

These four steps are the foundation of the building of the church. The Apostles Doctrine

 Doctrine: the way of right believing. Jesus taught the Apostles how to believe God’s Word, and sent them out to teach others. This sums up as prayer, teach the word, share the word; understand and practice God’s Word.

1. You put God first. Go to church and pray, sing, fellowship, and praise.
2. Get to know the people; fellowship. Go house to house, eat with them in gladness ness and singleness of heart, spend personal time with them like family. Do things with them. This brings people close together.
3. Pray together, in expectation of answered prayers. You see they started and finished their day with God. They spent time together in the presence of God, they thanked God for their lives, and their day, they prayed for each other.
4. Praise God and have favor with each other

**Acts 2:47 Praising God, and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved.**

This is the first summation, God added new members as they believed. Then the Apostles continued this pattern with new disciples becoming leaders (taking responsibility). They continued using the power given to them by God. Signs, miracles, and wonders followed them. The people saw them and listened to them teaching Jesus and the resurrection from the dead. Some believed and desired to know more. Peter healed a man at the gate of the temple called beautiful, Acts 3. People saw and listened to what they said, the priests were upset and put them in jail, Acts 4. Still many believed and the number of men that were added were about 5000, Acts 4:4. Peter and John were publicly tried the next day, yet looking at the man nothing could be said against them, other than to quit speaking about Jesus. Peters and Johns response was **Acts 4:19 But Peter and John answered and said unto them, Whether it be right in the sight of God to hearken unto you more than unto God, judge ye. 20 For we cannot but speak the things which we have seen and heard.**

This pattern continued over and over, with the people of the church continued to be faithful to God. Look at their response to the attacks upon the people of the church. **Acts 4:29 And now, Lord, behold their threatenings: and grant unto thy servants, that with all boldness they may speak thy word, 30 By stretching forth thine hand to heal; and that signs and wonders may be done by the name of thy holy child Jesus. 31 And when they had prayed, the place was shaken where they were assembled together; and they were all filled with the Holy** <40>hagios **Ghost** <4151>pneuma/spirit**, and they spake the word of God with boldness.**

This still continued, with more signs, and wonders among the people Acts 5. More people believed and were added to the church. Great healing throughout the city. Again the apostles are put in prison, but this time they are released by an angel of the Lord. The angel commands them to speak in the temple all the words of this life.

**Acts 5:18 And laid their hands on the apostles, and put them in the common prison. 19 But the angel of the Lord by night opened the prison doors, and brought them forth, and said, 20 Go, stand and speak in the temple to the people all the words of this life. 21 And when they heard *that*, they entered into the temple early in the morning, and taught.**

**Acts 5:25 Then came one and told them, saying, Behold, the men whom ye put in prison are standing in the temple, and teaching the people.**

**26 ¶ Then went the captain with the officers, and brought them without violence: for they feared the people, lest they should have been stoned.**

**27 And when they had brought them, they set *them* before the council: and the high priest asked them, 28 Saying, Did not we straitly command you that ye should not teach in this name? and, behold, ye have filled Jerusalem with your doctrine, and intend to bring this man’s blood upon us. 29 Then Peter and the *other* apostles answered and said, We ought to obey God rather than men. 30 The God of our fathers raised up Jesus, whom ye slew and hanged on a tree. 31 Him hath God exalted with his right hand *to be* a Prince and a Saviour, for to give repentance to Israel, and forgiveness of sins. 32 And we are his witnesses of these things; and *so is* also the Holy** <40>hagios **Ghost** <4151>pneuma/spirit**, whom God hath given to them that obey him. 33 When they heard *that*, they were cut *to the heart*, and took counsel to slay them.**

**Acts 5:38 And now I say unto you, Refrain from these men, and let them alone: for if this counsel or this work be of men, it will come to nought: 39 But if it be of God, ye cannot overthrow it; lest haply ye be found even to fight against God. 40 And to him they agreed: and when they had called the apostles, and beaten *them*, they commanded that they should not speak in the name of Jesus, and let them go. 41 And they departed from the presence of the council, rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer shame for his name. 42 And daily in the temple, and in every house, they ceased not to teach and preach Jesus Christ.**

While this pattern of prayer, teaching, fellowship, praise and favor continued the church grew. The twelve Apostles ordained new help for the daily ministration of the New Church. They chose seven, so they could continue to pray, teach, fellowship, praise and favor. They followed the pattern, and started and ended their day with God.

**2nd Summary: Acts 6:7 And the word of God increased; and the number of the disciples multiplied in Jerusalem greatly; and a great company of the priests were obedient to the faith.**

The New church is no longer just adding new members who believe, they are being multiplied by the thousands. At this point persecution against the New Church has increased. One of the seven named Steven who was chosen for service by the 12 Apostles, was stoned while he was speaking of the history of Israel, for God, to the Pharisees who accused him, Acts 6 & 7. Saul, whom we know as Paul, agreed with his death, and was part of a great persecution against the New Church, Acts 8. The pattern of prayer, teaching, fellowship, praise and favor continued everywhere.

Philip came to Samaria, and cast out spirits, and healed all who would believe. **Acts 8:8 And there was great joy in that city.** A sorcerer who had risen up, of whom people said he was the great power of god. In spite of this sorcery in this town, the healed people believed and were baptized. The sorcerer saw all of the signs, miracles, and wonders done, and believed also. **Acts 8:14 ¶ Now when the apostles which were at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received<1209>the word of God, they sent unto them Peter and John.**  This is an interesting usage of receive that also got the Apostles attention. There are two words in the New Testament which are used for receive that deal with the Holy Spirit. One is Dechomai<1209>, and the other is Lambano<2983>. Dechomai is a passive form of receive. You take it but do nothing with is. On the other hand, Lambano is a active form of receive. You grab hold and do something with it. The concern here was the people received the Holy Spirit, it was inside of them, but they did not act upon it. Because of this the apostles which were at Jerusalem sent Peter and John to minister to this town. The results are seen after. **Acts 8:14 ¶ Now when the apostles which were at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received<1209> the word of God, they sent unto them Peter and John: 15 Who, when they were come down, prayed for them, that they might receive <2983>** lambano **the Holy** <40>hagios **Ghost** <4151>pneuma/spirit**: 16 (For as yet he was fallen upon none of them: only they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.)** They were baptized in the holy spirit. They had all of the inherent ability that comes with this baptism, (being born from above) but gave no evidence that they had this spiritual birth inside of them. **17 Then laid they *their* hands on them, and they received<1983> the Holy** <40>hagios **Ghost** <4151>pneuma/spirit**.**

Now something visible happened, you could see the evidence of the spirit. All signs, miracles, and wonders are signs, along with speaking in tongues, interpretation of tongues, and prophesy. Simon saw something that impressed him. He was used to doing miracles among the people, he knew what power was. But this impressed him.

**Acts 8:18 And when Simon saw that through laying on of the apostles’ hands the Holy** <40>hagios **Ghost** <4151>pneuma/spirit **was given, he offered them money, 19 Saying, Give me also this power, that on whomsoever I lay hands, he may receive the Holy** <40>hagios **Ghost** <4151>pneuma/spirit**.**

Simon says, I want this, let me buy it. He had no understanding of what this power was. **20 But Peter said unto him, Thy money perish with thee, because thou hast thought that the gift of God may be purchased with money. 21 Thou hast neither part nor lot in this matter: for thy heart is not right in the sight of God.**

Intense persecution of the church continues. Saul, whom we know as Paul, goes to the High Priest to obtain letters to increase his persecution against this New Church. On his way He meats Jesus in the road, and believes; he even calls him Lord. He is given instructions to go to the city for more information. Even though Saul, whom we know as Paul, is left blind, he obeys and goes to Damascus, and fasts for 3 days and nights,

Acts 9. God talks to Ananias to minister to Saul

**Acts 9:17 And Ananias went his way, and entered into the house; and putting his hands on him said, Brother Saul, the Lord, *even* Jesus, that appeared unto thee in the way as thou camest, hath sent me, that thou mightest receive thy sight, and be filled<4130>** pletho **with the Holy** <40>hagios **Ghost** <4151>pneuma/spirit**.**

Another interesting word. Filled is used two different ways when dealing with the Holy Spirit. This one which is Pletho <4130> filled to overflowing, and Pleroo <4137> filled to capacity.

Filled <4137> pleroo with the spirit, you received<1209> dechomai the spirit but there is no evidence of it. You are full but there is no evidence of it, have you seen this before. The Apostles of the early Church were alarmed by this, it was considered unusual. They sent their two biggest hotshots to solve the problem. This does not sound like the churches today.

You are filled <4130> pletho with the spirit, you received<2983> lambano and there are signs, miracles, and wonders, speaking in tongues, interpretation, and prophesy. Manifesting spirit and power was normal in the book of acts, until Samaria; when the Apostles heard about Samaria, they took immediate action, and sent Peter and John to deal with it. The evidence of the Holy Spirit is fleeting and seemingly lost in the churches today. What has changed.

The rules to receive anything from God start with believing His Word. Every time you see an example in the bible of a promise or a message from God, those who received <2983> lambano the benefits from the words of God, acted on those words first.

**Acts 9:18 And immediately there fell from his eyes as it had been scales: and he received sight forthwith, and arose, and was baptized.** Saul, whom we know as Paul, acted on the words from Jesus, he went to the city and waited. God sent somebody to minister to Saul. Saul received strength, while spending time with the disciples at Damascus. **20 And straightway he preached Christ in the synagogues, that he is the Son of God.**

Saul, whom we know as Paul, was convinced that Jesus was Lord, the Son of God. This is what he taught to all who would listen.

**22 But Saul increased the more in strength, and confounded the Jews which dwelt at Damascus, proving that this is very Christ. 23 ¶ And after that many days were fulfilled, the Jews took counsel to kill him** The Jews are now looking to kill Saul, whom we know as Paul. He was very powerful in teaching God’s Word, Proving Jesus as the very Christ. The Jewish Church’s biggest hitter, Saul, is now working for the New Church. What a blow to Satan. His number one soldier is now a Christian. This is two strikes in a row for satan, first Samaria, and now Saul.

The result, the churches got a break from persecution, and the membership multiplied. This is a result from following the plan laid out by the Apostles, who were taught by Jesus. Through all of this persecution they continued to pray, teach, fellowship, praise and favor.

**3rd summary: Acts 9:31 Then had the churches rest throughout all Judaea and Galilee and Samaria, and were edified; and walking in the fear of the Lord, and in the comfort of the Holy** <40>hagios **Ghost** <4151>pneuma/spirit**, were multiplied.**

The pattern of pattern of prayer, teaching, fellowship, praise and favor still continues everywhere. Signs, Miracles, and Wonders still follow the Apostles. People still listen and believe. Now God does something new.

Acts 10, God gives Peter a vision about what He-God has cleansed call not uncommon. While Peter considers this vision, Men who are gentiles are at the gate calling for Peter. God talks to Peter and says to go with them, doubting nothing. Peter has never associated with gentiles because it was against the law. Now God says go, talking about a letter of introduction!

Peter takes some witnesses and goes with the gentiles. He takes these witnesses not for himself, but for the leadership of the church. He is introduced to Cornelius, the head of the house who has had an encounter with an angel. It was the angel who had told Cornelius who to talk to, and what to do. At the house Peter finds Cornelius family. Peter begins teaching about Jesus, he teaches about Jesus crucified, and resurrected. Then he talks about whosoever believeth on Him shall receive remission of sins. **Acts 10:43 To him give all the prophets witness, that through his name whosoever believeth in him shall receive<2983>** Lambano **remission of sins. 44 ¶ While Peter yet spake these words, the Holy** <40>hagios **Ghost** <4151>pneuma/spirit **fell on all them which heard the word. 45 And they of the circumcision which believed were astonished, as many as came with Peter, because that on the Gentiles also was poured out the gift of the Holy** <40>hagios **Ghost** <4151>pneuma/spirit**. 46 For they heard them speak with tongues, and magnify God.** Nothing else would had convinced the Jews. It was not until they saw, and heard the gentiles speak in tongues (2983-lambano the manifestation of the Holy Spirit), saw that the gentiles also received the same gift of holy spirit. Speaking in tongues was the only proof they understood. This was what they considered normal.

God has now allowed the rest of the world to believe on Jesus and be saved. **Acts 11:18 When they heard these things, they held their peace, and glorified God, saying, Then hath God also to the Gentiles granted repentance unto life.**

**4th summary: Acts 11:20 And some of them were men of Cyprus and Cyrene, which, when they were come to Antioch, spake unto the Grecians, preaching the Lord Jesus. 21 And the hand of the Lord was with them: and a great number believed, and turned unto the Lord.** The gentiles are still being multipled to the New Church of God.The Apostles spent a year in Antioch teaching about Jesus Christ being in them, and all that Christ in you the hope of glory represented. It was in Antioch that the disciples were first called Christians.

It was during this time that Herod killed James the brother of John with a sword, and arrested Peter. An angel released Peter during the night and he walked home to the disciples. He got there and found them praying for his release; prayer works. Harod displayed himself, while the people were declaring him god.  **Acts 12:22 And the people gave a shout, *saying, It is* the voice of a god, and not of a man. 23 And immediately the angel of the Lord smote him, he gave not God the glory: and he was eaten of worms, and gave up the ghost.**

**5th** **summary: Acts 12: 24 But the word of God grew and multiplied**

The growth of the Church of God is still being described by multiplication, not addition, or subtraction. If you think about all of the persecution of the people of the Church, you would think that people would be running away, not running towards this new Church. What caught peoples attention was the signs, miracles, and wonders. They got the proof inside of themselves when they believed on Jesus, and received the holy spirit.

They saw the signs, miracles, and wonders; and they heard the Word of God, and they believed. Paul went by commandment of God to Cyprus, and made there way around the isle preaching Jesus, and performing signs, miracles, and wonders. Acts 13. They followed the pattern of the Apostles doctrine, Praying, teaching, and spending time with the disciples, along with praise and favor.

When they got back to Antioch, Paul stood up in the temple and expounded the history of God and Israel. The gentiles asked to hear this also on the next sabbath. On that day, almost the whole city came together to hear God’s Word; the Jews were filled with envy and spoke against the things spoken by Paul. **Acts 13:45 But when the Jews saw the multitudes, they were filled with envy, and spake against those things which were spoken by Paul, contradicting and blaspheming. 46 Then Paul and Barnabas waxed bold, and said, It was necessary that the word of God should first have been spoken to you: but seeing ye put it from you, and judge yourselves unworthy of everlasting life, lo, we turn to the Gentiles.**

Paul and Barnabas prophesied that the Ministers of God are now turning their eyes towards the gentiles to teach God’s Word.

**6th summary: Acts 16: 5 And so were the churches established in the faith, and increased in number daily.**

Paul and Barnabas continued traveling and teaching; following the Apostles Doctrine, and the commandment of Jesus to be witnesses unto the uttermost parts of the earth. During this time they dealt with many doctrines that were rising up against the new Church, dealt with a woman with the spirit of divination, and got arrested again. Spends more time teaching the Jews, only to get a bad response. Paul declares he to is turning to the gentiles to teach God’s Word.

Paul gets to Ephesus and finds disciples, **Acts 19:1 ¶ And it came to pass, that, while Apollos was at Corinth, Paul having passed through the upper coasts came to Ephesus: and finding certain disciples,**

**2 He said unto them, Have ye received** <2983-Lambano> (remember, this means to take and do something with it) **the Holy** <40>hagios **Ghost** <4151>pneuma/spirit **since ye believed? And they said unto him, We have not so much as heard whether there be any Holy** <40>hagios **Ghost** <4151>pneuma/spirit**.** (they knew nothing about the spirit of Christ in them.This sounds like todays churches)

 **Acts 20:3 And he said unto them, Unto what then were ye baptized? And they said, Unto John’s baptism. 4 Then said Paul, John verily baptized with the baptism of repentance,** (this is a baptism with water) **saying unto the people, that they should believe on him which should come after him, that is, on Christ Jesus. When they heard *this*, they were baptized.** (this is a baptism of in the name of the Lord Jesus, it is a baptism in holy spirit) **6 And when Paul had laid *his* hands upon them, the Holy Ghost came on them; and they spake with tongues, and prophesied.** (this is the sign of <2983>Lambano) **7 And all the men were about twelve.**

Paul spent two years and three months in Ephesus, teaching the Word of the Lord, and preforming special miracles. Many in the town believed and many in the town burned their books from the curious arts (worth about 50,000 pieces of silver)

**7th summary: Acts 19: 20 So mightily grew the word of God and prevailed.** Nothing could stand against the Word of God. This is power the church today does not use.

**Paul continues his travels, and the teaching of God’s Word. He continues what he knows works. He still gets arrested, beating, threatened, yet he continues on.**

**8th summary: Acts 28:30 ¶ And Paul dwelt two whole years in his own hired house, and received all that came in unto him, 31 Preaching the of God, and teaching those things which concern the Lord Jesus Christ, with all confidence, no man forbidding him.**

Paul continued of the building of the Church. The written book of Acts ends here, but the living book of Acts is being written in the history of the Church of God today. It is written by you, your brother, your sister, and I. Believe God; take God at His Word. Get back to the roots of the Apostles Doctrine, and teach the Lord Jesus Christ.

Today in our fellowships, whether it is a small home church, or a big mega church, or anywhere in-between, the Apostles Doctrine will still work today if we follow it, while building our churches. continue to pray, teach, fellowship, praise and favor.

This pattern of pattern of prayer, teaching, fellowship, praise and favor continued everywhere; this was the way Jesus taught the 12 apostles, and they taught the church the same way, to build the church.

Bibliography

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