

THE BIRTHDAY OF THE CHURCH & ITS INITIAL GROWTH **(Acts 2:41-47)**

I. THE CHURCH'S WITNESS FOR CHRIST IN JERUSALEM (1-7)

A. The BIRTH of the CHURCH in JERUSALEM (1-2)

1. The *Preparation* for the Birth of the Church (1:1-26)

2. The *Beginning* of the Church on the Day of Pentecost (2:1-47)

a) The Baptism and Filling of the Holy Spirit on Pentecost (2:1-4a)

b) The Sign of Speaking in Tongues on Pentecost (2:4b-21)

c) The Evangelistic Message of Peter on Pentecost (2:22-40)

d) The Initial Growth of the Church following Pentecost (2:41-47)

1) There was POWERFUL EVANGELISM as many “gladly _____ [Peter’s] word.”
(2:41a)

2) There was PUBLIC IDENTIFICATION with Christ via _____. (2:41b)

3) There was NUMERICAL GROWTH as “that day about _____ souls were added to them.” (2:41c)

4) There was CONTINUAL DEVOTION among these new, _____ believers. (2:42a)

5) There was LEADERSHIP & TEACHING available through the _____. (2:42a)

6) There were CORPORATE GATHERINGS of believers with a focus on:

➤ _____ - the priority of systematic scriptural instruction.

➤ _____ - *koinōnia* is derived from a developing like-mindedness around the truth of the gospel of Jesus Christ and the Word of God, resulting in spiritual conversation and participation.

➤ Celebration of the _____ - this was reflective of the gospel and was to be done “in remembrance” of their Savior and Lord, with thanksgiving for His finished work.

➤ _____ - this included praise, supplication, and intercession, and it reflected their dependence upon the Lord.

7) There was a HEALTHY _____ (reverential awe and trust) of the Lord that impacted every soul, along with many _____ and miraculous _____ occurring through the apostles. (2:43)

8) There was UNITY among the church as believers assembled _____ with _____ . (2:44, 46)

9) There was a GENUINE LOVE for OTHERS that caused them to be an _____, _____ church in meeting both physical & spiritual needs and in fulfilling various “one anothers.” (2:44-46)

10) There were believers PRAISING GOD as He was being _____ through what the Holy Spirit had done for, in, and through these believers. (2:47a)

- *What was the result of all this?* (2:47b; Matt. 16:18)

- *What can we learn from all this as a church?*

Local churches that are effective and cooperate with the Holy Spirit:

1. Are active in _____ & preach the _____ clearly.
2. Are not afraid to _____ with Jesus Christ.
3. Have a _____ & responsive congregation.
4. Have _____ & godly spiritual leaders.
5. Are _____ to learning the Word of God.
6. Are willing to _____ for corporate _____ and _____.
7. Focus on _____ and take God _____.
8. Engage in ongoing _____.
9. Are motivated by _____ to _____ to others in need.
10. Don't emphasize a building but the _____.