

Acts 2:41–47

41 Then those who gladly received his word were baptized; and that day about three thousand souls were added to them.

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

43 Then fear came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were done through the apostles.

44 Now all who believed were together, and had all things in common,

45 and sold their possessions and goods, and divided them among all, as anyone had need.

46 So continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they ate their food with gladness and simplicity of heart,

47 praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved.

The Priorities of the Infant Church Acts 2:41-47

INTRO:

What do you do if your church is suddenly overwhelmed with three thousand new converts? The infant church in Jerusalem shifted into survival mode. They identified the priorities and focused on doing them in their lives. As we join them in Acts 2 we will discover these priorities and the results of living these priorities in their lives.

I. Their Priorities (verse 42)

II. The Result (verses 43-47)

I. Their Priorities (verse 42)

Acts 2:42 *“And they continued steadfastly in the apostles’ doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers.”*

A. What do you do when you have 3,000 new converts in your church? You begin focusing on the priorities. This is survival mode and so you set the absolute requirements. Here is the key phrase: ***“They devoted themselves to.”*** The verb means *“to be intently*

engaged in, “*to devoted to,*” or “*committed to.*” They did not take these things lightly.

B. They were committed to “*the Apostles’ teaching.*” The first of the priorities was the learning the Word of God. The New Testament was not written yet, but God did not leave the church without revelation. They had the Old Testament Scriptures and the Apostles whom God had equipped to reveal the Word of God to His church. The Lord Jesus Himself promised

John 16:12-13 *“I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come.”*

The central focus of the church is the Word of God. We do not worship the Bible, we worship the God of the Bible and we worship Him through His book.

C. The second priority was “*the fellowship.*” They did not devote themselves to coffee and donuts between Sunday school and church. The word *koinonia* means to “*share together in common.*” I was surprised that virtually every commentary I consulted pointed out that the fellowship here was a sharing of their goods and family caring. They cared for one another. This is what we try to do. We seek to minister to one another as family.

1 John 1:3-4 *“That which we have seen and heard we declare to you, that you also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship is with the Father and with His Son Jesus Christ. And these things we write to you that your joy may be full.”*

D. The third priority they were devoted to was, “*The breaking of Bread.*” They kept the Lord’s Table to rehearse the Death of the Lord Jesus Christ. We read earlier in Acts 2 about baptism to celebrate Christ’s resurrection.

E. Finally, they gave themselves unreservedly to “*the prayers.*” This was the kind of praying the Jesus talked about in John’s Gospel. This is praying in Jesus’ name. This kind of prayer is offered in the Son’s authority and with the desire that the Son might be glorified in the Father.

John 14:13 *“And whatever you ask in My name, that I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son.”*

II. The Result (verses 43-47)

Acts 2:43–47 *“Then fear came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were done through the apostles. Now all who believed were together, and had*

all things in common, and sold their possessions and goods, and divided them among all, as anyone had need. So continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they ate their food with gladness and simplicity of heart, praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved.”

A. Because the early church exercised these four priorities, it produced the three results in the rest of chapter two. The first result was toward God. ***“Then fear came upon every soul.”*** While Luke noted the miraculous things the Apostles did, he did not detail them. The Apostles message needed vindication and so God gave that vindication. The important thing for us today is that this was a church marked by its awe of God. Awe includes fear and recognition how great and powerful God is. In **Romans 3**, Paul described those under the condemnation of God and they are marked by the fact that there is no fear of God before their eyes. Fear comes from seeing God in the pages of His book.

B. The Second Result was seen in their relationship to one another.

Acts 2:44-47a *“Now all who believed were together, and had all things in common, and sold their possessions and goods, and divided them among all, as anyone had need. So continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they ate their food with gladness and simplicity of heart, praising God.”*

Their desire to please the Lord Jesus Christ in His church showed itself in family spirit. They put Christ ahead of a lot of things. A living vibrant relationship with Jesus Christ shows in how we treat others in His church.

2. Finally, their priority showed in their relationship to those who did not know Christ.

v.47 *“having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved.”*

Sound teaching produces healthy lives. Living the reality of our relationship with Jesus Christ will cause those outside to recognize something special has happened in our lives. Do you remember Paul’s admonition to Titus?

Titus 2:1 *“But as for you, speak the things which are proper for sound doctrine.”*

The summation of the exhortations is in **verse 10** speaking specifically of slaves,

Titus 2:10 *“Not pilfering, but showing all good fidelity, that they may adorn the doctrine of God our Savior in all things”*

The very next verse in **Titus** is the famous one that tells us what grace teaches us.

Titus 2:11-13 *“For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men, teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in the present age, looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ”*

What do we learn?

We learn there are priorities in the church to which we must be committed and devoted. We must make the Word of God the priority. We must make our fellowship with God and with the family here at church a priority. We must give ourselves to the ordinances to remind us of what Christ has done. Finally, we need to be devoted to prayer. Prayer is more than just getting things from God. It is fellowshiping with God.