



— *Week Seven* —

**Date:** June 07, 2020

**Message Title:** *Devoted*

**This weeks primary Biblical text:** Acts 2:42-47

**Supporting scriptures:** Philemon 1:6, Luke 24:35

**This weeks memory challenge:** Acts 2:42 *They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.*

**Reading for next week:** Acts 3:1-10

— *Reflection and Discussion Notes* —

The four key activities of this new community of faith:

- The APOSTLES TEACHING
- The FELLOWSHIP
- The BREAKING OF BREAD
- The PRAYERS

The disciples were DEVOTED to these activities. These weren't just high priorities, but the very heartbeat of community life. Why is this so important?

Another word for the "Apostles Teaching" is DOCTRINE. What is our source of Christian doctrine today? Why is it so important that we also are devoted to God's Word?

The Greek word 'Koinonia' describes the unique and Spirit enabled FELLOWSHIP among believers. What are characteristics of this Christian Fellowship?

What is the connection between the phrase 'Breaking of Bread', and the observance of Communion? Why was the simple concept of sharing a meal together so central to this first community of faith?

These first believers weren't just people who prayed. They were a COMMUNITY of PRAYER.

In verse 43, Luke tells us that people were filled with AWE at what was happening in this new Christian community. Why?

Verses 44-45 have been controversial at times. What does this passage NOT say?

The essential work of the Spirit described here is how the believers:

- KNEW each other.
- LOVED and CARED for each other.
- Were SACRIFICALLY generous toward each other.

How had the importance of the Temple changed since the resurrection of Jesus? If God had left the Temple, where is His new dwelling place?

How does Luke describe the gatherings that took place in the believer's homes?

How did the people of Jerusalem respond to this new community of faith?

Who was responsible for the daily growth of people coming to faith in Christ?

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***Big takeaway's from today's message***

- Everything we see in Acts 2:42-47 is a work of the HOLY SPIRIT. This is GOD at work!
- Our hope is not in the best that MAN can do, it is in what GOD can do. These first disciples believed this, and they devoted themselves accordingly.
- The life experience of these first followers of Christ existed wholly in the context of COMMUNITY. There is no New Testament concept of being a Spirit filled follower of Christ apart from participation in the community of faith- whatever that community may look like.
- The devotion, radical generosity, and overflowing gladness permeating this community was a sight to behold, and it DREW PEOPLE TO GOD.
- As a consequence of all that was happening, the LORD added to their numbers daily. The Kingdom grew!
- This is still how God will grow His Kingdom TODAY!

***What's your biggest question from today's message?***