

Acts 2.42-47

When we remember that this text follows on the heels of the coming of the Spirit on Pentecost, and is actually the direct result of it, we realize something really important: the evidence of the Spirit's work in the church is not just the miraculous (2:1-13), and bold preaching (2:14-41), but is also a shared life of devotion in the church (2:42-47).

1. Pastor Mike explained that the word for "devotion" has two connotations in the Scriptures. First, it is characterized by perseverance. Second, it is sacrificial, trusting God with the result.
 - a. What do you believe devotion to the apostle's teaching, the fellowship, breaking of bread, and prayer look like in today's world? How can we live lives devoted to these in the midst of the busyness of life in the South Bay?
 - b. When and where have you seen or experienced this kind of devotion?
 - c. Is there a particular area that God has been teaching you to be more devoted in? How has he been doing that?
2. In vv. 45-46 we see some examples of how they were living this out. Which of these examples do you find the most striking and why?
3. Have you ever witnessed or received radical generosity and camaraderie like we see in vv. 45-46? If so, how did it affect you? What did it teach you?
 - a. Are there any specific ways that you believe God is calling you to pursue this kind of generosity and fellowship right now?
4. When you read this passage and see all that God does through the church, and the way that He adds to their numbers, do you find yourself believing that we could follow their example and see God work similarly today? Or instead do you find yourself feeling skeptical? If the latter, why?
 - a. What do you believe is our largest barrier to being devoted the way they were, and what should we do about it?
 - b. What do you believe is *your* most significant barrier right now, and what is God calling you to do about?
 - c. On the flip side, where have you seen the most growth in your own life (or the church) in terms of devotion?
 - d. Where have you seen God working and in what ways have you seen Him expanding His kingdom?