

Acts: The Church's Devotion

Acts 2:42-47

The Church's Devotion (v. 42)

- As the Church grew, they were devoted to 4 things:
 1. The Apostle's teaching: Scripturally rooted, Spirit-led instruction
 2. Fellowship: Spending time with one another for mutual encouragement and support
 3. The Breaking of Bread: Three possible meanings
 - Communion
 - Sharing meals together
 - Both
 4. Prayer: Seeking the Lord together

The Spirit's Power on Display (v. 43)

- The Spirit's work continued through the Apostles in the form of signs and wonders
 - Which resulted in a God-centered awe/fear from those who witnessed them

Devotion Lived Out (v. 44-47)

- As a result of the Spirit's transformative work in the lives of believers, they lived differently than the world around them
 - They shared what they had
 - So that everyone's needs were met
 - They gathered together daily
 - Both publicly and in homes
 - They were joyful
 - Praising God
 - Which acted as a witness to the public
- As they did so, the result was a constant growth of the Church
 - Led by the Lord's movement in His people

Prescription vs. Description?

- The practices of the early Church were not just a one-time event
- These things have been the universal practices of the Church ever since
 - The heart of being the Church is found in these
 - When we add to them, we often take away from what and whom we are called to be
- But when we focus on:
 - Biblical, Spirit-led teaching
 - Fellowship
 - Living life together
 - Prayer

- Christ is glorified
 - And He grows the Church

So What?

- Are we devoted to the things the early Church was?
- How do we grow in this devotion?
- What gets in the way of it?

Meditation Verse: Acts 2:42