



Sermon Text: Acts 2:42-47

Sermon Date: September 10, 2017

In our passage, Luke summarizes the lifestyle of the early church at Jerusalem. It is a model of a Spirit-filled congregation. Pastor Justin emphasized four enduring commitments of a Spirit-filled church.

DEVOTED TO LEARNING

The Jerusalem church “devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching.” In the same way, a Spirit-filled church is devoted to God’s Word. Like newborn babies desperate for milk, we too should long for the pure spiritual milk of the Scriptures. An enduring devotion to God’s Word is always the first mark of a Spirit-filled church and the first mark of a Spirit-filled Christian.

DEVOTED TO LOVING

The church was also committed to living out God’s Word by loving one another. Luke describes them as being devoted to “the fellowship.” The term “fellowship” comes from the Greek work *koinonia*. It means to hold something together in common. This biblical fellowship has two senses to it:

1. **What Christians share in together.** As Christians we all share in God together—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit (1 Jn 1:3; 2 Cor 13:14). This is the substance of our unity.
2. **What Christians share out together.** These Christians gave of their homes, possessions, and lives to meet the needs of one another.

True fellowship comes through giving: it costs something. R. Kent Hughes says, “The truth is, we will have fellowship only when we make it a practice to reach out to others and give something of ourselves.” It comes from taking our eyes off our individual needs and meeting the needs of those around us.

DEVOTED TO WORSHIPING

The church was committed to worshiping God. Their worship was both **formal**—daily in the temple—and **informal**—meeting from house to house. In addition, it was both **joyful** and **reverent**. John Stott says, “It is right in public worship to be dignified; it is unforgivable to be dull.” Most importantly, their worship was daily.

DEVOTED TO GROWING

Lastly, we saw that the church was also devoted to growing. Verse 42 and verse 47 cannot be isolated from one another. A Spirit-filled church is committed to praise and proclamation, worship and witness, learning and leading others to Christ.

1. **A humble witness.** The early church recognized that God accomplished the task of evangelism—“the LORD added to their number.” Thus, they depended upon him continually.
2. **A continual witness.** Day by day the church grew as they continually shared their faith and introduced others to the gospel of Jesus Christ. Evangelism was not an occasional, sporadic activity. It was their way of life.
3. **An attractive witness.** They enjoyed “favor with all the people.” The beauty of life within the church was attractive to those outside it. Their joy, fellowship, and love for one another amplified their witness.

John Polhill says, “Luke’s summaries present an ideal for the Christian community which it must always strive for, constantly return to, and discover anew, if it is to have the unity of the Spirit and purpose essential for an effective witness.”

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What stood out to you from the sermon and the biblical text from this Sunday?
2. What do you usually mean by the word “fellowship”? How is that different than the picture of Acts 2?
3. What are some ways that we can be devoted to growing here at BBC?
4. Why is it so challenging to prioritize both life inside the church and a witness outside it?