

ACTS of GOD #8: Devoting Ourselves (Part 1)

Acts 2:42 2/24/2019

The Realities of Devotion

- A Special Opportunity for Devotion
 - An Illustration for Today
 - The sinful tendency of serving self
 - The pull of personal comfort, your own agenda, & self-indulgence
 - Idolization of self-identification & the demand for acknowledgement
- ²⁴ "No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to one & despise the other. You cannot serve God and wealth."*
- Matthew 6:24**
- This principle that Christ applied to God & wealth also applies to God & self
 - Asking the Lord to reveal the realities & inconsistencies of our devotion

Reviewing the Situation

- Disciples received understanding of the Scriptures & their role in fulfillment
 - The Spirit's Power comes on Pentecost & a crowd is gathered in Jerusalem
 - Peter preaches repentance & faith in Christ's name for forgiveness of sin
 - About 3000 souls respond in faith & are baptized & added to their number
- ⁴¹ So then, those who had received his word were baptized; and that day there were added about three thousand souls. ⁴² They were continually devoting themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.*
- Acts 2:41-42**

-The Fruit of Faithful Devotion

⁴² They were continually devoting themselves...

- Transformative faith produces dying to self & submission to the Lord
 - New Creations in Christ serve a new Master by the Holy Spirit
 - These new believers shifted their devotion
 - continuing steadfastly, constantly attending in spite of difficulties
 - consistently showing strength to continue in a fixed direction
- Have we dismissed, diminished, or drifted from devotion?
- Are we attempting to maintain multiple masters?

-The Focus of Faithful Devotion

...to the apostles' teaching

- teaching that explained the Old Testament in light of Jesus Christ
- teaching expressing the gospel & recounting Jesus' life & teaching
- teaching that established & encouraged the Church as the Spirit led
- The Scripture provides the apostles' teaching for us today

...and to fellowship,

- partnership & participation in the community of faith
- serving God & His Kingdom together
- Expressed through the "One Anothers"
- The call to devote ourselves to the fellowship of love

...to the breaking of bread

- shared meal received with thanksgiving
- celebrating our community and sharing our lives
- the remembrance of Christ's sacrifice & anticipation of His return
- celebrating communion & surrendering lives

...and to prayer.

- Faithfully exercising the right to approach the throne with confidence
- individual, corporate, and public prayer