

ACTS of GOD #9: Devoting Ourselves (Part 2)

Acts 2:42-47 3/03/2019

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
- 3000 souls are added in response to Peter's message & the Spirit's power

Expressing a Process for Devoting Ourselves... (v. 42)

⁴² They were continually devoting themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.

- devoting: continuing steadfastly, constantly attending to in spite of difficulty
 - We die daily to self, devoting ourselves instead to the Lord our Master
 - To Know Christ through Word, Worship, & Prayer
 - Individually as a Child of God & corporately in the Family of Faith
 - To Grow Together through intentional fellowship & discipleship
 - Individually as a Child of God & corporately in the Family of Faith
 - To Show the World by serving in love & sharing the Gospel
 - Individually as a Child of God & corporately in the Family of Faith

Expecting a Product from Devoting Ourselves... (v. 43-47)

⁴³ Everyone kept feeling a sense of awe;

- There was coming to every soul fear...
 - Believing souls respond with Holy reverence & awe
 - Unbelieving souls are confronted w/ the reality of Lord to be feared
 - The reality of the Awesome God was evidenced by devotion

and many wonders and signs were taking place through the apostles.

- There was taking place signs & wonders through the apostles
 - God was displaying His power through His witnesses to affirm truth
 - The power of God crossed barriers alongside His Message
 - The Signs & Wonders were verification of the Apostolic message
 - God still verifies His message in us individually & corporately
 - Do our lives & relationships reflect the miraculous power of God?

⁴⁴ And all those who had believed were together and had all things in common; ⁴⁵ and they began selling their property and possessions and were sharing them with all, as anyone might have need.

- There was a unity of concern & care among the believers
 - Together like a family holding all things in common
 - nothing was held sacred for personal use
 - compelled by love for brethren not forced by power
 - Selling or sharing personal property & discretionary possessions
 - Divided & Distributed to all in proportion to NEED

⁴⁶ Day by day continuing with one mind in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they were taking their meals together with gladness and sincerity of heart, ⁴⁷ praising God...

There was a continued devotion to worship, fellowship, hospitality, & love

- Shared the same passion publicly (their daily worship together)
- Sharing meals house to house (their daily bread taken together)
- Sharing exuberant joy (Like a shared feast)
- Sharing sincerity of heart (smoothness, no stony ground)
- Recognizing God as worthy of praise

...and having favor with all the people. And the Lord was adding to their number day by day those who were being saved.

-There was a positive impact among the people of the community

- There were people added day by day who were being saved
 - The Lord does the adding