

As we've been "basking" in Acts Ch 2

First - we saw Luke DESCRIBE what happened

Then - he EXPLAINED what happened - thru Peter's Sermon

Now - he's going to show us the EFFECTS of what happened

Today - we're going to see a Summary

of what the N.T. church "Looked Like"

that was BIRTHED on the Day of Pentecost

This Text is a continuation of the TRUE EVIDENCE
of the pouring out of the Holy Spirit on the church

TODAY'S - TRUE EVIDENCE
of the pouring out of the Holy Spirit on the church

Is the SUPERNATURAL KOINONIA that we're about to see

Guys - to BE the church - that Christ Made us to be

Is the most incredible, miraculous testimony there is
to the lost & dying world around us

To BE the church - that Christ Made us to be
would draw more people to salvation around the earth
than ALL the Evangelistic Crusades ever held - - All Put together

If we want to Truly be part of what God is doing on this earth

We must be TRANSFORMED enough (*by the Power of the Holy Spirit*)
to BE the Church

Let's Pray

What **an incredible day** the birth of the **N.T. Church** was
Here's what we've seen **SO FAR . . .**

From **120** in the upper room

To the **Pouring Out** of the Holy Spirit
with the sound of **Rushing Wind** & **Tongues of Fire**

To **Supernaturally Speaking** in other languages

To the **huge crowd** gathering for Peter's **Spirit-Filled sermon**

To the **pools** of Jerusalem being **clogged** with **New Believers**
all waiting to be **baptized** - *3,000 of them !!*

& **THIS** Baptism - was a radical **Profession of Faith**
for which **many** of the **new believers** - would suffer **persecution**

Many of these **3,000** would've been **Jews**
& **this Baptism** for the **Jew** - would be a **very traumatic** step

In the **Jewish Culture** - Baptism was **reserved** for **Gentile Converts**
to **symbolize a break** with their **Gentile Past**
& a **washing away** of their **Gentile Defilement**

& so - **especially** for the **Jewish** Believer's on *The Day of Pentecost*
this was a **Radical** Public Commitment - to **BECOME the church**

The **Holy Spirit** had **drawn** them - - & **saved** them

& **now** He would **LAY** the **FOUNDATION**
for them to **BE** - the **Spirit-Filled, N.T. Church**

& **the foundation** we're about to see - is **STILL** the **FOUNDATION**
for the Spirit-Filled, **N.T. church**, that **WE** are part of !!

THIS - is what it looks like - to **BE the Church**

Acts 2:42–47 (ESV)

42 And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.

43 And awe came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles.

44 And all who believed were together and had all things in common.

45 And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need.

46 And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts,

47 praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved.

What a **Wonderful, Incredible** Picture of the Church

But this isn't a "**That was Then**" picture

this isn't a **Hypothetical, Theoretical, Scenario**

This is **what** Jesus Christ **MADE** His Church to **BE**

THIS is what it looks like - when **the Holy Spirit**
is **TRULY EMPOWERING** the Church

THIS is what a **Spirit-Filled** church **looks like !!**

THIS is what it Looks like - when **WE** are **BEING the Church**

Most Scholars boil this text down to **FOUR** Major **Pillars**
& so let me **GIVE** you **THOSE**

God's Teaching
Fellowship
Worship
Evangelism

But "**Wrapped Up**" in those **4 Major Pillars**
we **see** a **bit m**ore when we look at it **Verse-By-Verse**

Here are the TEN Character Traits I see in these Verses

(w/ some redundancy)

God's Word
Fellowship
Worship
Awe
Commonality
Giving
Gathering
Praising God
Favor with the people
Evangelism

This is **the FRUIT** - of the Spirit-Filled Church
& **This** is what we are **called** to **BE**

By the **Power** of the **Holy Spirit**,
These are the Character Traits of **BEING** the Church

[REPEAT]

So . . . *Let's break the Vs's down*

V.42 says - they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching

This Vs **LITERALLY** says - **they were continually devoting themselves to the apostles' teaching**

The **Apostles' Teaching**, for us, refers to **The Word of God**

& **this Pillar** is **THE FIRST** for a reason

Because Being **Continually Devoted** to God's Word
GOVERNS the other Characteristics (Fruit) of **BEING the Church**

We don't get to **decide** what a Spirit-Filled church **"Looks Like"**
God's Word tells us **EXACTLY** what it looks like

As the **first N.T. church** was coming into **Being**
they were **Continually Devoted** to the Apostles Teaching

to Guide & Direct them - in **HOW** to **BE the Church**
& **we can** still do the **same thing** today - with **God's Word**

Colossians 3:16 (esv)

16 Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom . . .

God's Word **MUST** Dwell in us **RICHLY**
It Must be our **GUIDE** to **"BEING the Church"**

& **everything** we **do** - **AS** the Church
Must be in **Alignment** with **God's Word**

Next - V.42 says; they devoted themselves to . . . the fellowship

This kind of "**Fellowship**" **did not exist** before the Day of Pentecost

The **GK word** here is **KOINONIA**

the word is **NOT** even **found** in the **Gospels**
this is the **1st occurrence** of the word in **the N.T.**

The word **KOINONIA** Couldn't occur BEFORE here . . .

because it **REQUIRES** the Filling of **the Holy Spirit**
for us to Experience **KOINONIA** with one another

KOINONIA - is **BASED ON** - & is the **FRUIT** of - **The Holy Spirit**

The root idea of the word is

"ONENESS" or **"TO HAVE IN COMMON"**

Every time this word is used in **the N.T.** it **refers** to some type of
SHARING in One Another's Lives - **& CARING** for one another

It can mean Sharing **PHYSICALLY** (as in Giving),
& it **can mean** Sharing of **LIVES** - *Being One*

THIS Fellowship - This **KOINONIA** - is a **MIRACLE**

Lloyd Olgilvie makes a **statement** right here

that more than **25 yrs** of **Church Leadership** in **my own life**
SUBSTANTIATES without a shadow of a doubt

Lloyd Olgilvie - *Next to the transformation of persons, the
second greatest miracle is oneness with others who have been
transformed.*

Next to the miracle of **Salvation**
the **Second** Greatest **Miracle** we **see** in the Church

is True **ONENESS** - **among** those who **have been Saved**

IN fact I can promise you - from **many years** of **experience**

It's **Way Easier** to get someone **SAVED**
than it is to get Christians to live in **ONENESS** (Koinonia)

BOTH take the Miraculous **POWER** of **the Holy Spirit**

& a **Spirit-Filled Church** - **Should** Experience - **BOTH**

So Far - The New Testament Church is **DEVOTED** to:

GOD'S WORD as their Guide

SHARING Life in Common (Koinonia)

Next - V.42 says - *they devoted themselves to . . . the breaking of bread and the prayers . . .*

This is a **Reference** (most probably) - to **Corporate WORSHIP**

The **definite article** here

"THE" Breaking of Bread - & **"THE"** Prayers

points (most probably) to **CORPORATE Worship** (NKJ no "THE" prayer)

The **APOSTLE'S TEACHING** - was their **Guide**

KOINONIA (Sharing & Caring for one another) - was their **Lifestyle**

WORSHIPPING together - was their **ACTIVITY**

The **Breaking of Bread** here
almost certainly **refers** to the **Lord's Supper**

& remember - it is LITERALLY - ***They were continually devoting themselves to the Lord's Supper***

They **ALWAYS** Kept in front them - as the **Forefront** of their **Worship**
The **ATONING work** of **Jesus Christ**

Always **Remembering** His **Sacrifice** - & the **Shedding** of His Blood
BY WHICH they had **entered** into the **New Covenant**

& guys - we (as the N.T. Church) are **called** to the **same thing**

We are called to **WORSHIP together** - in Koinonia (Oneness)

Always keeping **His Sacrifice** before us - &
Always remembering the **New Covenant** in His **blood**

His **Sacrifice** on the Cross - - & the **New Covenant** in His blood
is the **ONLY** way we can **enter into** His presence

& so - **THIS Levels the Playing Field** in the Church
which **SHOULD** Bring - **KOINONIA**

Because it Constantly **Reminds** us
that we are **ALL Equally Saved** By Grace

The **other** form of **Worship**
that **creates** the **ONENESS** of **Koinonia** - is **PRAYER**

V.42 says - **THE** Prayers (esv)

again **Probably** referring to **Corporate Prayer**
& **Possibly** even to **Specific Prayers** they prayed together

REAL Prayer with one another - **Brings Koinonia**

NOT - **Superficial**, **Pray to Impress**, **Me Centered Prayers**

But **Honest** - **Open** - **SEEKING** God Together in Prayer
brings - **KOINONIA** - **Oneness** - in the Body of Christ

& **WHAT** does **ALL this** lead to ??

WHAT does - **Being Devoted to**
GOD'S WORD

The **ONENESS** of Koinonia

WORSHIPPING together . . . **ALL LEAD TO . . . ??**

Acts 2:43 (ESV)

43 And awe came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles.

The word **AWE** means - **Profound Reverence**

& so - **The EFFECT** - of **ALL** God was **doing** in the new Church
was to **bring upon** every **soul** - a sense of **AWE**

A **Profound Reverence** - **FELL** upon the Church
as they witnessed the **Wonders** & **Miracles** of God

This sense of **AWE** - of **WHO** God is
is a **huge part** of our **True Koinonia**

The **LESS we look** at each other
& the **MORE we look** together in **AWE** at the Wonders of God

The more we find ourselves
in the **ONENESS** of **Koinonia** - - Try it sometime

God is **GOOD** - Let's Be "**In AWE**" of Him - together
. . . **instead** of being at **ODDS** with one another

Next - comes **two** more Vs's - on **KOINONIA** (*sharing together*)

Acts 2:44–45 (ESV)

44 And all who believed were together and had all things in common.

45 And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need.

Here - the emphasis of **Koinonia** - is on **GIVING** to one another

In **2COR Ch 8** - Paul describes the **KOINONIA**
of the **Macedonia Churches** (Philippi & Thessalonica)

The **Macedonia churches** had been going thru
a "***Great Trial of Affliction***" - Paul says in **2Cor 8:2**

But STILL - He says in 2Cor 8:4

4 [they were] begging us earnestly for the favor of taking part in the relief of the saints

That Phrase "**TAKING PART**" - is **KOINONIA**

The New Churches **BEGGED Earnestly**
that they could "**Take Part**" - *Be One with*
the **RELIEF** of the Saints - **BY GIVING** to them

& that is a **classic picture** of N.T. **KOINONIA**
that we "**Take Part**" in **meeting** the needs of **One Another**

Now **some** have **said** that **SELLING ALL** Possessions & Belongings
is **the Requirement** of the N.T. Church

But we **don't actually** see that carried out **thru the N.T.**

In fact - right here - in **the NEXT VERSE (V.46)** we read
they were "***Breaking Bread***" in their **HOMES**

Meaning - they **STILL had** Homes to **break bread** in

What we **DO SEE** as we continue thru the **N.T.**
is that **SOME** ARE called - to **sell ALL** they have, *for the Lord*

& **SOME** are called - to USE (as good stewards)
what God has **given them**, *for the Lord*

But **here** is the **BIG POINT** of **True KOINONIA** . . .

Koinonia - Always **COSTS** us something !!

True Fellowship comes - From us **GIVING** to One Another

Giving OF **OURSELVES** - & Giving OF our **STUFF**

If we are **Not REACHING OUT**
& **Becoming Part** of One Another's Lives

Then we **CANNOT say** - that we having **TRUE KOINONIA**

Lastly - On this Critical Need for **KOINONIA** - We need to **KNOW**
True Koinonia - is a **Supernatural Work** of the **Holy Spirit**

To close his **2nd Letter** to the **Corinthians** - Paul's last Vs is

2 Corinthians 13:14 (esv)

14 The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship (Koinonia) of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

Our **Koinonia** (Oneness) - is a **Miracle** of the **Holy Spirit**
- - It comes **FROM** the Holy Spirit, & is **POURED OUT** to us

We experience it by **CRUCIFYING** our **SELF-Focus**
& **ALLOWING** the Holy Spirit - to Make Us **ONE** - **In CHRIST**

Continuing - More **N.T. Church Character Traits** follow in

Acts 2:46 (ESV)

46 And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts,

DAY-BY-DAY - the people of the Church **GATHERED** together

They **ATTENDED** The **Temple** (the Jewish Temple) *together*
& then "**Broke Bread**" in their **homes** *together*

It's **interesting to note** that the Jewish Christians **CONTINUED**
to **Go** to the **Temple** for over **30 years** after the **Day of Pentecost**

They **finally stopped** - when the **Jewish Leaders**
Required each person entering the **Temple** . . .
to actually **CURSE** the Name of Jesus before entering

Interestingly - the historians say that occurred in **70AD**
the **same year** the Temple was **TORN DOWN** to the ground

But at **First** - they would go to the **Temple** to **Worship God**
Then **FINISH** their Worship in **their homes** - with the **Lord's Supper**

ALtho - This "***Breaking of Bread***" **Could refer** to **Eating** together

since the next statement is:

they received their food with glad and generous hearts

The word translated **GLAD** here - is **LITERALLY**:
Exultation or Extreme Joy

they received their food with Extreme JOY and generous hearts . .
& then the first part of **V.47** adds - ***PRAISING GOD***

So - the church is;

LIVING according to **God's Teaching**
SHARING in each other's lives (Koinonia)
WORSHIPPING together
GATHERING together
with **EXTREME JOY** & **GENEROUS HEARTS**
& they're **PRAISING GOD**

Do you think - **THAT** would make **an impression**
on **the people** around them ??

& so we read Acts 2:47 (ESV)

47 praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved.

Look carefully at what came - **LAST**

This came **LAST** in all that God was doing in **the birth** of the **church**

The **LAST Two Things** that happened

Because they were a **NATURAL OUTCOME** of everything else

The last Two Things were:

- 1) They had **FAVOR** with all the people
- 2) The Lord **ADDED** to their number, day-by-day

Here's the Picture - of the **N.T. Church**

The World SAW the church:

LIVING according to **God's Teaching**

SHARING in each other's lives

Truly **WORSHIPPING** together

GATHERING together

with **EXTREME JOY & GENEROUS HEARTS**

& all the time - **PRAISING GOD**

& **Unbelievers** - were **ATTRACTED** to that

& they are **STILL** Attracted to it **TODAY**

Do you **think the Enemy** would work **HARD**

to **Keep** this **KOINONIA** from **happening**

so people would **NOT** be **Attracted** to the church ??

Jesus Christ **HAS** already **WON** the Final **VICTORY**

But **the enemy** is working very hard

to keep the church from **BEING** - What we were created to **BE**

Let's **NOT** make it quite so **EASY** for the enemy - **OK ?**

Let's **COMMIT** - to Living in **KOINONIA** (Oneness) w/ each other

Let's **CRUCIFY** our Flesh - & **SURRENDER** our Wills

Let's **ALLOW** the Holy Spirit

to make us into the **Spirit-Filled Church** we were meant to **BE**

One more thing - Before we **CLOSE**

John Stott points out

*All the Character Traits of the N.T. Church - were **RELATIONAL***

FIRST - They were **RELATED** to the *Apostles Teaching*

- In **SUBMISSION** - *As we are to be to the Word of God*

SECOND - They were **RELATED** to *Each Other*

- In **LOVE** - *They **Cared For**, **Carried**, & **Supported** One Another*

THIRD - They were **RELATED** to *God*

- In **WORSHIP** - *They worshipped Him with Joy & Reverence*

FOURTH - They were **RELATED** to *The World*

- In **OUTREACH** - *They were engaged in continuous evangelism*

Isn't it **interesting** - that **ALL** the **Character Traits**

of the Spirit-Filled **N.T. Church** - Are **RELATIONAL**

As part of the N.T. Church - **How** are **YOU** & **I** **doing today**,

personally, **individually** - **Carrying** on these **TRAITS**

How are you RELATING - To The Word of God

How are you RELATING - To Each Other

How are you RELATING - To God

How are you RELATING - To The World

I'm going to ask Louis - to play a soft, quiet song

& I'm going to ask EVERY PERSON in this room
to consider their RELATIONSHIPS - & to RESPOND to God

There may VERY WELL be someone in THIS ROOM
that YOU Need to GO TO - & Make a Relationship RIGHT

Don't SQUIRM out of it - Don't pretend to Ignore it

To BE the Church - Our Relationships have to be - RIGHT

& If you have a Relationship in THIS room that's NOT Right
Go to that person, (during this song)
& make that relationship - RIGHT

Maybe your Relationship with GOD is NOT RIGHT
MAKE it RIGHT - During this Song

Pray to Him - Confess your Sin - Ask Him to Forgive you
& then REPENT - Turn from that Sin, & Commit to Follow God

Let's Pray