

THE KINGS ROYAL SUBJECTS
"The Priority of the Church" - Part 3
Acts 2:42-47

INTRODUCTION:

1. **Discipleship is the Process of the Local Church that seeks to bring believers from Spiritual Infancy to Spiritual Maturity.**

2. The **LOCAL CHURCH** that supplies the FIVE VITAL EXPERIENCES the Church is purposed to do, will lead believers in becoming FAITHFUL FOLLOWERS OF CHRIST (Disciples).

- a) A Dynamic Witness
- b) Knowledge of the Word - A hunger for the Word!!
- c) Devoted Fellowship
- d) God Honoring Praise and Worship
- e) Serving Others

III. The THIRD VITAL CHURCH EXPERIENCE - DEVOTED FELLOWSHIP

- **Acts 2:42**

- a) **"and they devoted themselves"**

- 1) **"devoted"** - means to stay close, endure, or to persist.
It means to pursue intently

- b) **"they devoted themselves to the apostles teaching and the fellowship,"**

- 1) Gk. **"Koinonia"** - means have something in common.
 - 2) It means to mutually share the life of Christ within the family of God

A. HELPING TO MEET NEEDS

1. **John 15:12**

- a) We are called to **"love one another"**

2. **Galatians 6:2**

- a) We are called - **"to carry one another's burdens"**

3. **Ephesians 4:32**

- a) We are called - **"to forgive one another"**

4. A disconnected Christian is a disobedient and unfruitful Christian.

5. **FELLOWSHIP** - is the sharing of our lives with other believers.

6. **Acts 2:44-45**

a) These believers were sharing possessions and meeting needs.

B. PARTICIPATION NECESSARY

1. True discipleship can happen only by being an active participant in community with other believers.

a) **Ephesians 4:16**

b) **1 Corinthians 12**

2. Notice what the writer of Hebrews has to say - **Hebrews 10:24-25**

3. Therefore an "**Unchurched**" believer is a disobedient believer.

a) When a believer is willfully disobedient, their spiritual growth (maturity) is hindered.

4. **Jeremiah 20:9**

5. **VERY IMPORTANT:** We need each other because (**Matthew 26:41**).

6. **1 Corinthians 10:12**

C. RELATIONSHIPS ARE DIFFICULT

1. Entertainment is easy....

a) All you have to do is sit in a chair with a remote and lean back.

b) Far too many individuals and families are camping out in front of Social Media platforms.

1) You Tube videos.

2) Podcasts.

3) TV programs.

c) Cellphones are relationship killers.

2. **FELLOWSHIP doesn't just happen!!!**

a) It takes hard work and effort.

b) Sometimes you have to set some time aside to cultivate friendships.

D. JESUS IS PART OF THE CONVERSATION

1. Christian Fellowship isn't happening if Jesus isn't part of the conversation.
2. **BIBLICAL FELLOWSHIP is ALWAYS DESIGNED** to spur one another on to spirituality.
3. **TRUE BIBLICAL FELLOWSHIP ALWAYS HAS A SPIRITUAL GOAL:**
 - a) The mutual sharing of Christ!!!
4. **Acts 2:46**
 - a) *"breaking bread in their homes"*
 - 1) Sometimes food is involved.
5. **Revelation 19:9**
 - a) One Day we will be seated @ The Marriage Supper of the Lamb and celebrate and enjoy fellowship in Heaven.
6. When we have true biblical fellowship....
 - a) we should leave feeling encouraged and refreshed in the faith.

E. FELLOWSHIP INCLUDES ACCOUNTABILITY

1. **Ephesians 4:11-16**
 - a) *"Builds itself up"*
2. **Romans 12:4-6**
3. A body can only function properly when all parts are connected and mutually supporting and serving each other.
4. The absence Accountability to mature believers in the church means true discipleship is not occurring.

IV. PRAISE AND WORSHIP

- **Acts 2:42**
 - a) *"breaking of bread and the prayers"*
 - 1) That would be WORSHIP
- **Acts 2:46**
 - a) *"day by day attending the temple."*
- **Acts 2:47**

a) *"praising God"*

- AND their selfishness began to fall by the wayside.

a) Vs 44-45

A. THE FURNACE OF SPIRITUAL LIFE

1. Worship is acknowledging God for who He is and what He has done and will do.

a) GOD IS THE FOCUS OF WORSHIP

2. **WORSHIP IS NOT ABOUT** - *"What you can get out of it!!"*

3. God responds to our worship!!!

a) *Psalm 22:3*

1) Praising God's name ushers God's presence into even the darkest of moments.

b) And with His presence comes His character:

1) His love; peace; kindness; joy; truth; security; faithfulness.

c) *Hebrews 4:14-15*

B. ALWAYS A REASON TO WORSHIP

1. *Philippians 4:6*

2. If we want God's power in our lives, then WORSHIP must be part of our daily routine.

C. IT'S A GUARANTEE

1. **When we Experience:** A Dynamic Witness; Biblical Teaching; Fellowship and WORSHIP, it is a guaranteed that we are moving forward in our DISCIPLESHIP.

2. Be mindful of Christians who ignore one or more of these experiences.

3. BUT WHEN WE SUBMIT TO THE HOLY SPIRIT and participate in all these EXPERIENCES.....SOMETHING EXCITING IS ABOUT TO HAPPEN.

a) That's a GUARANTEE

4. *Acts 2:43*

a) *"awe"* - that's a healthy dose of reverential FEAR

b) **Webster:** It's an overwhelming sense of reverence and respect.

5. Vs 43

a) *"and many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles.*

6. Vs 47

a) *"and the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved."*

CONCLUSION:

1. THE HOLY SPIRIT IS THE MOST UNDERUTILIZED power source in HISTORY.
2. THE HOLY SPIRIT WANTS TO EMPOWER US THE ALL THE PURPOSES OF THE CHURCH:
 - a) To be a Dynamic Witness
 - b) To be Taught the Word
 - c) To experience Loving Fellowship
 - d) To Worship King Jesus