

God's church, Jesus body came to life when the Holy Spirit of God filled the 120 who were waiting in unity for this gift. Immediately following the infilling of the Holy Spirit, Peter stands up, connects the Jewish listeners to the narrative of God's word, to the prophetic timeline of Joel and the Psalms and 3000 people were cut to the heart by the sword of God's word, repented and were baptized.

Acts 2:40-47 And with many other words he testified and exhorted them, saying, "Be saved from this perverse generation." ⁴¹ Then those who gladly received his word were baptized; and that day about three thousand souls were added to them. ⁴² And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers. ⁴³ Then fear came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were done through the apostles. ⁴⁴ Now all who believed were **together**, and had all things in common, ⁴⁵ and sold their possessions and goods, and divided them among all, as anyone had need.

⁴⁶ So continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread **from house to house**, they ate their food with gladness and simplicity of heart, ⁴⁷ praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved.

Hebrews 10:25 (NKJV) not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as [is] the manner of some, but exhorting [one another,] and so much the more as you see the Day approaching.

What do you do with 3000 new converts-You must disciple them. It does not end with encounter, or conversion, that is the beginning! Jesus did not say go and make converts, He said "Go and make disciples of nations". They experienced power, the fire of the living God but how would they sustain the constant burning? They would need to apply themselves to a lifestyle of practices that would enable them to keep their heart burning for God and for one another.

The church was about power and practice. Stewarding a fire is much different than a power encounter. One is in a moment "and suddenly" and the other is over a lifetime.

The church grew from 120 to 3000 in a day and scripture points out that every day (2:47) more were being saved and added to the number. The church was not an institution, they did not know yet about church government, leadership structures etc. These new believers had been shaped by their Jewish tradition and culture and

would need to be taught the ways of the Master, Jesus Christ. **This was a Holy Spirit filled, Jesus people who needed Apostolic guidance.**

This was all new territory that they would have to learn to fully depend on the “teacher” the Holy Spirit who would teach them all things (John 14:26). What we call revival was the daily lives of the early church.

There were 4 devotions that the early church continued steadfastly in, practices that they were fully committed to. We have to move from a way of thinking that church is something we go to and move into God’s vision. Church is a spiritual family that we belong to, willingly submit to, are fully committed to, love wholeheartedly, suffer with, give generously to and are yoked together.

Acts 2:42 and they continued steadfastly in the apostles’ doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers.

1. devoted to The Apostles doctrine

The Apostolic leadership that Jesus had put in place were His disciples, they knew Him, had walked with Him, They were all witnesses of the resurrection, were all walking in power and authority. They did the same healings, miracles, destroying the works of the enemy, teachings etc. **This was a movement, that would need to be led and directed. The New Testament Church did not change the subject. They were taught the word of God in the power of God.** As Paul told young Timothy “Preach the word **2 Timothy 4:2-** Preach the word! Be ready in season and out of season. Convince, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and teaching.

If your going to be a disciple of Jesus preach the word handed down by Jesus Christ in the word of God. Hold to the apostolic doctrine , not your thoughts, feelings, mans wisdom.

The foundation of Jesus church is laid upon the foundation of the Apostles first and foremost. 1 Corinthians 12:28 (NKJV) And God has appointed these in the church: first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, after that miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, administrations, varieties of tongues.

2. devoted to fellowship

Fellowship-(Koinonia)Sharing unity, partnership, brotherhood). **Koinonia is a unity not man made but a work of the Holy Spirit.** Each individual shared in the common, intimate bond of fellowship with others within the body of Christ. Christian fellowship binds believers to Jesus Christ and each other making everyone equal, purposeful and needed within the body of Christ. **The body of Christ is interdependent not independent. You won't fulfill your calling in isolation. The church is Spiritual Family and your a part of making the family healthy.**

Koinonia means you die to independent ideology and willingly yoke yourself to others. We see that fellowship is what created the one accord unity that the Holy Spirit not only fell on but rested on. **They had become the dwelling place of God and were responsible to love one another, the same way Jesus had loved them.** The main way that we grieve the Holy Spirit is by the ways we treat each other. (Eph. 4:29-31)

Unity has to be worked for and the goal of every believer: to walk without offense and move towards one another even in difficulty. To stay unified in Jesus Christ we must remove all unforgiveness, bitterness and comparison. Like a marriage we must never enter into the divine fellowship of the family of God with the idea if it doesn't work out I'll just leave. God operates from covenant and so should we. We must be steadfast and long-suffering in love.

This divine fellowship of the Holy Spirit, the presence of God must be stewarded in private, so it can be stewarded together in unity. Koinonia happens in the church building but is accelerated in homes, missions and living life together. We have to be intentional or it will not happen.

3. devoted to the breaking of bread

This is most likely participation in the actual body of Jesus Christ in Communion in conjunction with a full meal. Often times we get so used to our tradition that we can miss something that is beautiful and powerful. **The first communion was at the Passover meal.**

Matthew 26:26-28 And as they were eating, Jesus took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to the disciples and said, "Take, eat; this is My body."²⁷ Then He took the cup, and gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you."²⁸ For this is My blood of the new covenant, which is shed for many for the remission of sins.

They were a Jesus centered community, and everyone around the table of the Lord were there by Jesus grace and His power. The actual presence of Jesus is represented in the elements. The power of the Holy Spirit makes Jesus known. There is more power and mystery in this blessed, holy meal than many would like to admit.

This is a meal of covenant and grace that has power not just religious purposes and is more than a symbol, it is a holy sacrament. The Holy Sacrament is to be taken together in worship in a church, and it can also be received together as families, around dinner tables. Christ is the center of all things and we discover His sacrifice, His promises and graces through this sacred event. We honor the body and blood of Jesus, it is our primary purpose and longing to be a community centered around the person of Jesus Christ and the power of His death, resurrection and coming.

Luke 22:19- And He took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to them, saying, "This is My body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of Me."

Luke 24:35- ³⁵ And they told about the things that had happened on the road, and how He was ⁱknown to them in the breaking of bread. (If we will give Him the time and priority Jesus will make Himself known in the breaking of bread with one another. He will manifest Himself to those who love Him and turn our hearts and affections to Him! (John 14:21)

4 They were devoted to prayer

They entered into one accord when they prayed in the upper room in Acts 1. They were devoted to prayer in one accord when the Holy Spirit came and baptized them in Acts 2. They ended Acts 2 in one accord. How do you keep a diverse people engaged with the divine purposes of God, focused on first love and sacrifice. They becoming a praying people, cultivating houses of prayer, because they were stewarding the Presence. They recognized without the power of the Holy Spirit they could not move forward. Devotion to prayer is how you keep the fire burning. True Biblical fellowship is not possible outside of prayer! The people that were coming to Jesus need to be discipled in these 4 activities in order for them to encounter God and keep the fire burning. This was not a private devotional Prayer, this was the community commitment to prayer.

Are we as committed as the early church? If we want the power they experienced and walked in we will share with increased understanding and

experience these four commitments. I want to suggest that we must have a supernatural mindset when we look at the New Testament church and their commitment to one another. True anointed fellowship is possible only through the power of the Holy Spirit.

We need to view the church as the family of God. We belong to this spiritual family through Christ. We don't just go to church, we belong and are committed to a spiritual family.

- **Commitment doesn't mean you just come to attend and receive, but are personally involved in serving your spiritual family.** Family is a huge deal to God because family bring identity. Everyone is important in a healthy family. There are mothers and fathers, sons and daughters.

- 1. The early church was built around homes**
- 2. The house made the church relational rather than merely institutional**
- 3. Houses made Christianity resilient under persecution**
- 4. The household became a place of discipleship**