

Deeper Applications: We Value Series 2
“Called to Community: A Spirit Filled Church”

Acts 2:42-47

Cross Community Church, Savannah, Ga.

October 25, 2026

*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.***

- **Main Idea: God's Holy Spirit calls us to be devoted to Christian Community**
- **Key Question: What role did resurrection witness play in the early church community?**

Summary

What does it truly mean to be part of a community built on something greater than shared interests or geography? In this message drawn from Acts 2:42-47, we are invited to look at the early church not as a distant historical curiosity but as a living blueprint for what Spirit-filled community can look like today. The believers described in this passage were not simply people who happened to gather in the same place. They were devoted -- a word that carries the weight of perseverance, steadfast attention, and unremitting care -- to the apostles' teaching, to fellowship, to breaking bread, and to prayer. These four devotions were not programs or bullet points on a church calendar. They were the natural overflow of hearts filled with the Holy Spirit. The resurrection of Jesus was not just a theological statement for these early believers. It was the common ground on which they all stood, the shared identity that made genuine community possible. When we understand that the foot of the cross is level ground for

every one of us, regardless of background or history, we begin to see that Christian community is not something we manufacture. It is something the Spirit of God produces in us when we are surrendered to Him. The question this message leaves us with is both personal and corporate: are we devoted, truly devoted, to one another in the same way?

Discussion Questions

The sermon describes the early church as devoted to four things: the apostles' teaching, fellowship, breaking of bread, and prayer -- which of these four devotions do you find most challenging to maintain consistently in your own life, and why?

Small Group Guide: Called to Community -- A Spirit-Filled Church

Based on Acts 2:42-47

Overview

This week's sermon explored what it looks like when the Holy Spirit fills a community of believers. Drawing from Acts 2:42-47, Pastor Kevin examined the early church as a model for what God-empowered community can look like today. The central idea: God's Holy Spirit calls us to be devoted to Christian community. The sermon identified four marks of a spirit-filled church -- a learning church, a loving church, a praising church, and a blessed church.

Key Takeaways

- The four devotions of the early church were the apostles' teaching, fellowship (koinonia), the breaking of bread, and prayer. These four devotions form the foundation of Cross Community Church's core values.
- The word "devoted" carries the meaning of steadfast, unrelenting, persevering commitment -- not casual attendance.
- Resurrection witness was the common ground that held the early church together and fueled its outreach.
- There is a direct difference between visiting a community and doing life together in a community.

- Revival starts on the inside and spills over to the outside -- it begins with believers being filled with the Holy Spirit.
 - The Lord added to their number. The church plants and waters, but God gives the increase.
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Scripture References for Further Study

- Acts 2:42-47 -- The devoted community of the early church
 - Acts 1:8 -- The promise of the Holy Spirit and the call to be witnesses
 - Acts 1:22 -- The qualification for Matthias: a witness to the resurrection
 - Acts 4:24-31 -- The early church praying with boldness while under pressure
 - Genesis 1:26 -- The Trinity as a picture of community from the beginning
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Discussion Questions

Opening (Choose one to get the conversation started)

1. When you hear the word "community," what is the first thing that comes to mind? What has shaped that association for you?
 2. Can you think of a time in your life when you experienced the difference between visiting a group and truly doing life with them? What made the difference?
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Going Deeper

3. Pastor Kevin asked the guiding question: "What role did resurrection witness play in the early church community?" How would you answer that question based on what you heard in the sermon and what you read in Acts 2:42-47? What does that mean for how we think about our own community here?
4. The early church was described as "devoted" -- a word that means steadfast, persevering, and giving unrelenting care. On a practical level, what does that kind of devotion look like in a local church today? Where do you find it easiest or hardest to be devoted?
5. Pastor Kevin described the four things the early church was devoted to: the apostles' teaching, fellowship, the breaking of bread, and prayer. Which of these four feels most alive in your own spiritual life right now? Which one feels most underdeveloped?
6. Acts 2:44-45 describes believers knowing one another's needs and meeting them generously. Pastor Kevin pointed out that this kind of awareness requires closeness -- doing life together rather than simply attending. How well do the people in this group know one another's actual needs? What would it take to grow in that kind of closeness?

7. Pastor Kevin said, "There is a difference between going to church and being the church." What does that distinction mean to you personally? How does it challenge or encourage you?
 8. The sermon described revival as something that starts on the inside and spills out into the surrounding community -- affecting crime rates, families, and neighborhoods. Do you believe that kind of community-wide impact is possible today? What would need to change in us for that to happen?
 9. Acts 2:47 says the Lord added to their number day by day. Pastor Kevin connected the frequency of their witness and prayer to the frequency of conversions. How does that challenge the way you think about your own witness in daily life?
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Personal Reflection

10. Pastor Kevin shared two practical applications at the end of the sermon:

- Daily ask God to fill you with his Spirit.
- Pray and believe that God wants to do this kind of community again, right here and right now.

Which of these two feels more challenging for you personally, and why? What would it look like to put both of these into practice this week?

Practical Applications

This Week, As Individuals:

- Begin each morning with a simple prayer asking God to fill you with his Holy Spirit and to open your eyes to where he is already at work around you.
- Identify one person in your life -- inside or outside the church -- whose needs you have not taken the time to truly know. Take a step toward knowing them better this week.
- Reflect honestly on whether you are visiting your church community or doing life with it. Write down one specific thing you could do differently.

As a Group:

- Take a few minutes to share real, specific needs with one another -- not just prayer requests in general terms, but actual things going on in your life. Practice the kind of closeness that Acts 2 describes.
- Pray together out loud, specifically asking God to pour out his Spirit on Cross Community Church and on Savannah. Ask him to make this a church where the Spirit reigns.

- Consider whether your group could invite one person from outside the church to join you in the coming weeks. Talk about who that might be.
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Closing Prayer Focus

Close your time together by praying specifically for:

- A spirit of bold faith to grow in each group member
 - The growth of community groups throughout the Savannah area
 - Those in your circles of influence who do not yet know Jesus
 - The upcoming three-year anniversary celebration and the ministry of the church
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"And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved." -- Acts 2:47

Pastor Kevin asks the key question: what role did the resurrection witness play in the early church community? How does your personal testimony of what Christ has done in your life serve as a unifying force in your relationships with other believers?

The sermon draws a distinction between visiting and doing life together, suggesting that true community means knowing one another's needs even before they are voiced -- what practical steps could you take this week to move from merely attending church to genuinely doing life with others?

Acts 2 describes a community where the Holy Spirit led people to sell possessions and distribute to those in need, not by compulsion but by love - in what ways does your relationship with your material possessions reflect or resist the kind of Spirit-filled generosity seen in the early church?

The pastor describes revival as something that begins on the inside and spills outward, eventually affecting crime rates and community wellbeing -- do you truly believe that the Holy Spirit working through your local church could transform the surrounding community, and what might be holding you back from that belief?

Francis Schaeffer is quoted as saying that Christian community is the final apologetic, meaning the world judges the truth of the gospel by how believers treat one another -- how does the quality of relationships within your church either strengthen or undermine the witness of the gospel to those outside it?

The sermon highlights that the Lord added to the early church's number day by day, and draws a direct correlation between the frequency of witness and the frequency of converts -- how might a more intentional and persistent sharing of the gospel change what you expect to see God doing around you?

Pastor Kevin identifies three states a church can occupy: mission-focused, maintenance-focused, or a museum -- honestly assess where you believe your church currently stands, and what role you personally play in either advancing or hindering its mission?

The sermon points to Acts 4 where believers in prison prayed not for release but for boldness, and the place where they gathered was shaken -- what would it look like for your prayer life, both private and corporate, to reflect that same kind of fearless, Spirit-filled boldness?

The pastor shares that community groups are a vital expression of the early church's rhythm of gathering in homes, yet attendance has been low -- what barriers, whether practical, spiritual, or relational, prevent you from

investing in smaller community gatherings, and how might overcoming those barriers deepen your faith?

5-Day Bible Reading Plan and Devotional Guide

**Based on "Called to Community: A Spirit-Filled Church"
— Acts 2:42-47**

Day 1: The Common Ground of the Cross

Reading: Acts 2:42-47 — The early church devoted itself to teaching, fellowship, breaking of bread, and prayer, resulting in a community marked by generosity, unity, and daily growth.

Devotional: The cross levels every distinction we carry into the room. Background, background, preference, and personal history fade when we stand together beneath what Christ accomplished. The early church did not gather around shared tastes or similar upbringings. They gathered around a risen Savior. Their community was not manufactured through programming but produced by the Holy Spirit working through surrendered lives. Ask yourself honestly what you are building your sense of belonging on. If it is anything other than Christ and his resurrection, it will eventually fracture. The cross is not merely a starting point. It is the permanent and daily foundation of genuine Christian community.

Practical Application: Identify one relationship in your church community that has grown distant. Reach out today with no agenda other than to reconnect around your shared faith in Christ.

Day 2: Devoted to Learning Together

Reading: Psalm 119:97-105 — The psalmist describes a deep, persistent love for God's instruction, finding in it wisdom, guidance, and light for every step of life.

Devotional: The word translated "devoted" in Acts 2:42 carries the idea of steadfast, unrelenting attention — not occasional interest but persevering commitment. The early church was devoted first to the apostles' teaching. They were a learning church because they understood that the Holy Spirit works powerfully through God's word. Where the Spirit reigns, a love for Scripture reigns. Many believers today consume entertainment with the devotion the early church gave to doctrine. The question is not whether you have access to God's word but whether you are giving it the kind of persistent, attentive care that transforms a life from the inside out.

Practical Application: Set aside a specific, uninterrupted time this week to read a passage of Scripture slowly, asking the Holy Spirit to teach you something you have not yet seen in it.

Day 3: The Spirit-Filled Generosity of a Loving Church

Reading: 1 John 3:16-18 — John draws a direct connection between Christ laying down his life and believers meeting the practical needs of one another, insisting that love must be expressed in action.

Devotional: The early believers sold possessions and distributed to those in need not because a program required it but because the Holy Spirit had filled them with a love that could not remain passive. They were close enough to one another to know what was needed. That kind of awareness does not come from attending a service once a week and slipping out the back. It comes from doing life together — from the difference between visiting and dwelling. When the Spirit fills a community, generosity becomes natural because selfishness becomes uncomfortable. Real Christian love is not a feeling reserved for Sunday morning. It is a daily, practical, Spirit-empowered choice to see and meet the needs of those around you.

Practical Application: Ask the Lord to show you a specific, tangible need in your church community this week and take one concrete step to meet it.

Day 4: The Praising Church and the Witness It Produces

Reading: Psalm 96:1-9 — The psalmist calls all the earth to declare God's glory among the nations, proclaiming that his majesty and salvation are worthy of continual, public praise.

Devotional: The early church praised God with glad and generous hearts, and the result was that they had favor with all the people around them. Their worship was not contained within walls. It spilled out into the community as a witness. Revival, as the sermon noted, starts on the inside and spills outward. When a community is genuinely filled with the Holy Spirit, the surrounding culture begins to notice that something is different. Praise is not merely an emotional experience on a Sunday morning. It is a declaration of resurrection truth that has the power to draw outsiders in. A praising church is, by its very nature, a witnessing church.

Practical Application: Throughout this day, practice spoken praise — out loud, even if only to yourself — thanking God specifically for what he has done in your life. Let gratitude become a habit that others can observe.

Day 5: The Blessed Church That Writes New History

Reading: Acts 4:29-31 — The early believers prayed boldly for God to stretch out his hand with signs and wonders, and the place where they gathered was shaken as they were filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the word with boldness.

Devotional: The Lord added to the early church's number day by day. Not monthly. Not annually. Daily. That frequency was directly connected to the frequency of their witness, their prayers, and their praise. They were not waiting for a revival to schedule itself. They were living in the overflow of the Holy Spirit's filling, and God was writing new history through them. The same Spirit that shook that room lives in every believer today. The question is not whether God is willing to do it again. The question is whether his people are willing to be filled, to pray bold prayers, to speak with boldness, and to believe that the same God who moved then is moving now.

Practical Application: Write down one specific, bold prayer request for your church community — something only God could accomplish. Commit to praying it daily for the next thirty days, trusting that the Holy Spirit who moved in Acts 2 is still at work today.