

Acts Chapter 2

Focus on Jesus

Introduction: Manifestation of Holy Spirit: Two Equal/Opposite Beliefs

- Tend to swing pendulum one way or the other
 - 1. Do not embrace or accept anything as supernatural**
 - Gifts of Holy Spirit ceased [Cessationism]
 - Canon of Scripture or Death of last Apostle
 - Spiritually Dead Church [Sardis]
 - 2. Embrace and Accept everything as supernatural**
 - All about me. Attention to self
 - Carnal Church [Corinth]
 - Abuse of gifts
 - Slain spirit [Goliath and those who came to crucify Jesus]
 - Flipping around like fish?
- **Focus:** What is God's Purpose in sending His Spirit
 - 1. Gifts of the Spirit
 - 2. Manifestations of Spirit

To empower and equip saints for ministry for the purpose of saving souls!

"You will receive power to be My witnesses!"

I. Promised Holy Spirit

- Interaction of God's Holy Spirit us: He will...
 - 1. Be **With you:** Before Salvation [Sin, righteousness, judgment] para [beside]
 - 2. Be **In you:** Salvation
 - 3. **Flow from you:** Overflowing of Holy Spirit

Pitcher of fresh water beside the vessel, poured into vessel, overflowing vessel

John 7:37 On the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried out, saying, "If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink. 38 He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water." 39 But this He spoke concerning the **Spirit**

1 When the Day of Pentecost had fully come, they were all with one accord in one place.

- **Day of Pentecost:**
 - 1. Jewish feast fifty days after Feast of Passover

2. **Pentecost:** Time to celebrate the first Fruits of Harvest

- OT Day of Pentecost Law given to Israel: Ex. 19 Mt. Sinai
 - Thunder
 - Lightning
 - Thick Clouds
 - 1st Covenant: The Law
- NT Day of Pentecost Spirit given to Church
 - Signs, Wonders
 - 2nd Covenant: Grace: Calling people out of the World
- Feast of Pentecost fully come: Feast celebrated by Israel foreshadowing of this day
- **Lev 23:** Feast of Pentecost after Feast of Firstfruits [Resurrection]
 1. Jews presented Two Leavened loaves of bread to Lord [leaven is sin]
 2. We offer our sinful body's to Lord
 3. God send His cleansing Spirit: Day of Pentecost fulfilled
- Beginning of the Church
- One accord/One place: **Waiting**

2 And suddenly there came a sound from heaven, as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting.

- Sound **from heaven**
 - Sounded **like hurricane**
 - Filled **whole house**
1. Both Heb. and Gr. "Spirit" same word as "**wind**" or "**breath**"
- First sign of Spirit is a **Sound...next a Sight**

3 Then there appeared to them divided tongues, as of fire, and one sat upon each of them. 4 And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.

- Split tongue flickering like fire

Matthew 3:11 [J the B] I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance, but He who is coming after me is mightier than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with the **Holy Spirit and fire**. 12 His winnowing fan is in His hand, and He will thoroughly clean out His threshing floor, and gather His wheat into the barn; but He will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire."

Purpose: Purification... not Exaltation

- **Fire:** Burning off the impurities:
 1. **Judgment:** Begins Acts 5 Ananias and Sapphire
 2. **Purify the Church with His HS empowered Word:**

- **God wants a pure Bride:**

Ephesians 5:25 Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her, 26 that [Jesus] might sanctify and cleanse [His Bride] with the washing of water by the word, 27 that [Jesus] might present [His Bride] to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish.

- One tongue sat upon each of 120 disciples
- **ALL filled with Holy Spirit:**
 1. Spoke with other tongues: Not their language but other *known* languages
 2. As Spirit of God gave them utterance [Sound]

SUMMARY: Promise of Holy Spirit: Waited, heard sound, saw what looked like tongues, began to speak another language...**why? God's purpose...**

“You will receive power to be My witnesses!”

II. Tongues

5 And there were dwelling in Jerusalem Jews, devout men, from every nation under heaven.

- **Feast of Pentecost:** “Seekers”
- **Devout:** Devoted men and woman many genuinely seeking God
- Flood into the City of God...Jerusalem
- Many there when Jesus Crucified

6 And when this sound occurred, the multitude came together, and were confused, because everyone heard them speak in his own language.

- **Multitude at the Feast hear the sound ...**
 1. Gathers together with each other...
 2. Gather to the disciples! [God's plan]
 3. **Why:** Heard them speaking in their own language! Confused

7 Then they were all amazed and marveled, saying to one another, “Look, are not all these who speak Galileans? 8 And how is it that we hear, each in our own language in which we were born? 9 Parthians and Medes and Elamites, those dwelling in Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, 10 Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya adjoining Cyrene, visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, 11 Cretans and Arabs—

- **Galileans:** They don't know our language? Anything good Nazareth [In Galilee]
- **NOTE:** Disciples are NOT speaking to the crowd
 1. Directing praise to God in various languages of onlookers!

11b ...we hear them speaking in our own tongues the **wonderful works of God.**" 12 So they were all amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, "Whatever could this mean?"

- We hear them praising God in our language!
- **God provoking response! ...Whatever could this mean!**

13 Others mocking said, "**They are full of new wine.**"

- **Great Work of God:** Always mocker...they are drunk? What?

Tongues?

Acts 2: Recognized foreign language

1 Corinthians: Language unintelligible to those present except with a divinely granted gift of interpretation. [Same word for "tongues" used for both]

1. **Recognized language or heavenly language...A. Yes**
2. Know for sure: **Tongues is Communication directed to God...not others**

1 Corinthians 14:1 Pursue love, and desire spiritual gifts, but especially that you may prophesy. 2 For he who speaks in a tongue **does not speak to men but to God**, for no one understands him; however, in the spirit he speaks mysteries.

- Love is King
- Gifts are for today
- Proof text for those who say the ceased: **Cessationist**

1 Corinthians 13:8 Love never fails. But whether there are prophecies, they will fail; whether there are tongues, they will cease; whether there is knowledge, it will vanish away. 9 For we know in part and we prophesy in part. 10 But when that which is perfect has come, then that which is in part will be done away.[not Cannon Scripture but Jesus return]

III. Spirit Powered Witness: Sin, Righteousness and Judgment

"You will receive power to be My witnesses!"

- First, crowd hears praise to God in their own language [Different Tongues]
- Next, Peter begins to speak/preach in common language of the day...**Greek**

14 But Peter, standing up with the eleven, raised his voice and said to them, "Men of Judea and all who dwell in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and heed my words. 15 For these are not drunk, as you suppose, since it is only the third hour of the day.

- Peter stood up and raised his voice: **Spirit Empowered!**

- Addresses Crowd: "Those speaking in other tongues are not drunk. It's 9am"

"[New Wine...cannot mean that it looked...] like intoxication, [that] they had lost control of their normal mental and physical functions. No, the fruit of the Spirit is 'self-control,' not the loss of it." [Stott]

Intoxicated: Under the control of...submitting your will too...the Spirit:

- Tongues stopped. Preaching begins. Not at same time. Order.

1 Corinthians 14:39 ... brethren, desire earnestly to prophesy, and do not forbid to speak with tongues. 40 **Let all things be done decently and in order.**

- Holy Spirit empowered Bible Study from Joel 2:28-32
- Let this be known to you...heed my words; i.e. Listen up!

16 But this is what was spoken by the prophet Joel: 17 ☐☐And it shall come to pass in the **last days**, says God,☐☐That I will pour out of My Spirit on all flesh;☐☐Your sons and your daughters shall prophesy,☐☐Your young men shall see visions,☐☐Your old men shall dream dreams.

- This is what Joel spoke about: **This will happen in the Last Days!**
- **Last Days:** 2000 years so far!

The idea of the last days is that they are the times of the Messiah, encompassing both His humble coming and His return in glory. Because Jesus had already come in humility, they were aware that His return in glory could be any time. Lit...Season of last days [Guzic]

1. Pour out My Spirit on ALL flesh

Before, the Holy Spirit was given in drops, now He would be poured forth. [Guzic]

2. Sons/Daughters Prophecy
3. Young men see visions
4. Old men dream dreams

- **Prophecy, Visions, Dreams** Why?

"To be drawn to Jesus and to Draw others to Jesus"

18 And on My menservants and on My maidservants I will pour out My Spirit in those days; And they shall prophesy. 19 I will show wonders in heaven above And signs in the earth beneath: Blood and fire and vapor of smoke. 20 The sun shall be turned into darkness, And the moon into blood, Before the coming of the great and awesome day of the LORD. 21 And it shall come to pass... That whoever calls on the name of the LORD Shall be saved.'

- Men and woman will prophesy: Speak Word of God
- Wonders in Heaven and Earth: **Blood Moons 2014/15 and Feast Days**

Genesis 1:14 Then God said, "Let there be lights in the firmament of the heavens to divide the day from the night; and let them be for signs and seasons [balance/focus/emphasis]

- WHY, WHY, WHY????????????????

“...whoever calls on the name of the LORD Shall be saved.”

- Right emphasis in Acts: **Salvation.**

1 Timothy 2:4 [God] desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.

Signs pointing to the Word of God [LISTEN] for purpose of Salvation:

- **Holy Spirit poured out on ALL flesh:**

John 16:7 ... I tell you the truth. It is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you; but if I depart, I will send Him to you. 8 And when He has come, He will **convict the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment**

- Peter starts his evangelistic message led by the Holy Spirit...with conviction...

22 “Men of Israel, hear these words: Jesus of Nazareth, a Man attested by God to you by miracles, wonders, and signs which God did through Him in your midst, as you yourselves also know— 23 Him, being delivered by the determined purpose and foreknowledge of God, you have taken by lawless hands, have crucified, and put to death; 24 whom God raised up, having loosed the pains of death, because it was not possible that He should be held by it.

- Jesus Demonstrated **Miracles, Wonders, Signs**
 1. **In front of you**
 2. **You yourselves know**
- Ultimately for God’s Purpose/Plan Jesus was Delivered to you:
 1. **Received by Your Lawless hands:** Personal Choice/Responsibility
 2. **Within the Foreknowledge of God:** Predestination...Not surprise
- Crucified/Resurrected
- **Death could not hold him:** Sin brings forth death and Jesus was “without sin”

25 For David [Psalm 16] says concerning [Jesus]:

I foresaw the LORD always before my face,
 For He is at my right hand, that I may not be shaken.
 26 Therefore my heart rejoiced, and my tongue was glad;
 Moreover my flesh also will rest in hope.
 27 For You will not leave my soul in Hades,
 Nor will You allow Your Holy One to see corruption.
 28 You have made known to me the ways of life;

You will make me full of joy in Your presence.'

29 "Men and brethren, let me speak freely to you of the patriarch David, that he is both dead and buried, and his tomb is with us to this day. 30 Therefore, [David] being a prophet, and knowing that God had sworn with an oath to him that of the fruit of his body, according to the flesh, He would raise up the Christ to sit on his throne, 31 he, foreseeing this, spoke concerning the resurrection of the Christ, that His soul was not left in Hades, nor did His flesh see corruption.

Paraphrase: King David was not speaking of himself as the Holy One that would not rot in the grave...David's body did rot in the grave...**prophecy spoke of Jesus who rose bodily from the grave because sin could not hold Him...**

32 This Jesus God has raised up, of which we are all witnesses. 33 Therefore being exalted to the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, He poured out this which you now see and hear.

- Those you heard speaking in your tongues:
 1. We are witnesses of His resurrection
 2. It is his Spirit in us that you see and hear
 3. Jesus is here: We are His body: Hands, Feet, Mouth

We are beginning Jesus "ongoing work" till He comes again!

34 "For David did not ascend into the heavens, but he says himself [Psalm 110]

□'□The LORD said to my Lord,

□□"Sit at My right hand,

35 □□Till I make Your enemies Your footstool."

- **David calls Jesus his Lord and so should you!**

36 "Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly that God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ."

- **The NEW Peter: New Creation in Christ**
- Jesus is Lord and Christ: **God and Messiah**

"Resurrection validates Jesus position in the Godhead"

This is the gospel message! That Jesus took our punishment for sin on the cross and remained a perfect Savior through the whole ordeal - proved by His resurrection. Apart from the resurrection, we would have no proof that Jesus successfully, perfectly, paid for our sins. [Guzic]

- God became man and paid for our sins on Cross...validated/vindicated by the HS

1 Timothy 3:16 ...without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifested in the flesh, Justified in the Spirit, Seen by angels, Preached among the Gentiles, Believed on in the world, Received up in glory.

- **Paraphrase vv.25-36**

"David prophesied 1000 BC the Messiah would die and rise again. You were part of fulfillment by crucifying Jesus who now sits at right hand of Father Heaven"

37 Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, **"Men and brethren, what shall we do?"**

- Cut to the heart: Peter no longer cutting off ears but filleting the heart
- Conviction of Sin: Holy Spirit work through God's Word!

The exercise of the gift of tongues produced nothing in the listeners but astonishment and mocking; it wasn't until the gospel was preached that conviction from the Holy Spirit came. This was the work God really wanted to accomplish. [Guzic]

1. Sound of Wind
2. Crowd drawn together around disciples
3. Different languages praising God
4. Word preached
5. Conviction by HS falls
6. Need of Salvation cuts to the heart of listeners

- **Question every person ever lived must ask...**

...what shall we do?

38 Then Peter said to them, **"Repent,** and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

1. Repent: The first word of the gospel
2. Baptized in Name of Jesus for forgiveness of sins
3. Receive gift of the Holy Spirit: Empowerment [Dunamus; i.e. Dynamite]

39 For the promise is to you and to your children, and to all who are afar off, as many as the Lord our God will call."

1. For you
2. Your children
3. For us!

Promise: Be Baptized in the Holy Spirit. Intoxicated by God; completely given over to God

40 And with many other words [Peter] testified and exhorted them...

- Many more words:
 1. Testified: Affirmed the gospel
 2. Exhorted: Urged, pressed, encouraged

...saying, "Be saved from this perverse generation."

- Be saved from: Come out from among them!
- This is a **Perverse Generation**

41 Then those who gladly received his word were baptized

- Important: Conviction, Repentance...then Gladness to receive...
- Next Baptism: Outward expression of inward change

...and that day about three thousand souls were added to them.

- God's purpose for sending the Promise of the Baptism of the Holy Spirit...Salvation
- **Saved by Grace:** Law condemns but grace saves!
 1. **Pentecost 3300 years ago:** Law given on Pentecost; Old Covenant
 2. **Pentecost 2000 years ago:** Holy Spirit given on Pentecost; New Covenant

... on the day Moses came down from the mountain 3000 were slain, but on the day the church was established...3000 were saved.

- **Baptized 3000** Men, woman and children; many Pilgrims
- **Seekers now Finders:** The birth of Church...Bride of Christ

What does a true church look like?

Acts 2:42 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.

- What did this early Church look like? What does a true church look like?

Teaching, Fellowship, Breaking Bread, Prayer, Praise

John 15:12 This is My commandment, that you **love one another as I have loved you.**

IV. Teaching: ...they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine

- Steadfast in teaching: **Apostles teaching was teaching of Jesus:**

John 14:26 [Jesus]... the Holy Spirit...will teach you all things, and **bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you.**

Apostles teaching what Jesus taught them: Word of God

- At that time: 39 Old Testament
- They would add 27 more for NT
- OT and NT: **ALL Scripture.**

What the Apostles would teach and record is Scripture:

2 Peter 6:16 [Speaking of Apostle Paul] ...our beloved brother Paul, according to the wisdom given to him, has written to you, 16 as also in all his epistles, speaking in them of these things, in which are some things hard to understand, which untaught and unstable people twist to their own destruction, **as they do also the rest of the Scriptures.**

- **Word of God:** 66 books, 40 authors, 3 continents, thousand of years
 1. Anvil that destroyed million hammers [philosophies, theories, speculations]
 2. **Sword of the Spirit:** Word of God; weapon for Truth and against deception

2 Corinthians 10:4 ...the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, 5 casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God....

- As Jesus taught from OT and NT so the Apostles would teach from both OT and NT

Matthew 13:52 [Jesus] said to them, "...every scribe instructed concerning the kingdom of heaven is like a householder who brings out of his treasure **things new and old.**"

Romans 15:4 ...whatever things were written before were written for our learning, that we through the patience and comfort of the Scriptures might have hope. [Victory over giants]

- **OT:** Physical representation of a NT Spiritual truth
- **OT and NT:** Everything needed to fulfill our purpose and have victory in this life:

2 Timothy 4:16 All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, 17 that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.

- Thoroughly Complete/Equipped:
 1. **Doctrine:** Teaching
 2. **Reproof:** Don't do that it will bring death
 3. **Correction:** Do this it will bring life
 4. **Instruction in righteousness:** God's moral standard

- **Purpose of Scripture: Reveal Jesus and for us to be thoroughly equipped:**
- Everything we need for This Side of Heaven

2 Peter 1:2 [God's]...divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue

- Know Him through His Word and taught by His Spirit to apply to our Life
- **Continued Steadfastly in Apostles Teaching:** Word of God

1. Not Psychology
2. Not magazines
3. Not other Gospels
4. Not "good thoughts" from Hallmark
5. Not tradition

6. Not fables...The Word of God

2 Timothy 4:1 I charge you therefore before God and the Lord Jesus Christ, who will judge the living and the dead at His appearing and His kingdom: **2 Preach the word!** Be ready in season and out of season. Convince, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and teaching. **3** For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, because they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers; **4** and they will turn their ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables.

- They would teach their children as Jews of old...now with more light [Jesus]

Deuteronomy 6:6 "...these words which I command you today shall be in your heart. **7** You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up. **8** You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. **9** You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.

- Baby Church: Lives would revolve around Word of God...centered Living Word Jesus

SUMMARY: Teaching: ...they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine, Word of God...we will continue steadfastly in the Word of God.

What does a true church look like? Teach the Word of God

V. Fellowship: ...they continued steadfastly in fellowship

- **Teaching and next fellowship:**
 1. Gr. *koinonia* : speaks of association, communion, fellowship, participation
 2. To share in something
- Fellowship with each other

Genesis 2:18 "It is not good that man should be alone; I will make him a helper comparable to him."

- Fellowship with God

Genesis 3:8 [Adam and Eve] heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden in the

cool of the day: [Sin broke that fellowship; cross restored it completely]

- **God's desire:** Fellowship with Him and Each other
- **Result: Joy to the Fullest**

1 John 1:1 That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon, and our hands have handled, concerning the Word of life— 2 the life was manifested, and we have seen, and bear witness, and declare to you that eternal life which was with the Father and was manifested to us— 3 that which we have seen and heard we declare to you, that you also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship is with the Father and with His Son Jesus Christ. 4 And these things we write to you that your joy may be full.

- Fellowship/Communication within the Godhead: **Father and Son**

John 1:1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 He was in the beginning with God...

...and the Word became flesh and dwelt among us

- **Entire Godhead desires to fellowship with us:** Father, Son and Holy Spirit

John 14:23 ... "If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and We **will come to him and make Our home with him**. [Father will send a Helper in my name to be with you] ...27 Peace I leave with you, My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid. [not alone]

- **What does fellowship look like in local church?**

1. Jesus centered /Others focused
2. Encouragement
3. Building up
4. Exhorting
5. Prayer
6. Working together
7. Playing together
8. All Jesus focused and for His glory

SUMMARY...they continued steadfastly in fellowship: First church continued steadfastly in fellowship. We will continue steadfastly in fellowship with God and our brothers and sisters.

What does a true church look like? Dig Fellowship

VI. Breaking of Bread: ...they continued steadfastly in the breaking of bread

- Teaching, Fellowship and...**Breaking of Bread**
- v.46 " They ate their food with gladness and simplicity of heart
 1. Gladness: Lit. exultation, extreme joy
 2. Simplicity [singleness] of Heart: Lit. w/out rocks/smooth/plain. No contention

- Eating together: Thanksgiving
- **3 Major God ordained Jewish Feasts:** Deuteronomy 16
 1. Passover
 2. Pentecost
 3. Tabernacles
- **Eating:** Intimate time to get to know each other; why taste buds?
 1. Jesus fed 5000 and 4000: Bread and Fish
- **Jesus loved breaking bread:** We love breaking bread
 1. Ate with sinners
 2. Ate with believers before resurrection
 3. Ate with Believers/Doubters after the resurrection

John 21:9 ... as soon as they had come to land, they saw a fire of coals there, and fish laid on it, and bread. 10 Jesus said to them, "Bring some of the fish which you have just caught."

Luke 24:40 [Proving He is not a spirit but rose bodily]...He showed them His hands and His feet. 41 But while they still did not believe for joy, and marveled, He said to them, "Have you any food here?" 42 So they gave Him a piece of a broiled fish and some honeycomb. 43 And He took it and ate in their presence. [Word speaks of Wedding Feast]

- Jesus will serve food to those who are watching for His coming...those with appetite

Luke 12:35 "Let your waist be girded and your lamps burning; 36 and you yourselves be like men who wait for their master, when he will return from the wedding, that when he comes and knocks they may open to him immediately. 37 Blessed are those servants whom the master, when he comes, will find watching. Assuredly, I say to you that he [Jesus] will gird himself and have them sit down to eat, and will come and serve them."

Psalms 23:5...You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies

- **Feast with Jesus in His Kingdom:**

Isaiah 25:6 ...in this mountain The Lord of hosts will make for all people A feast of choice pieces, A feast of wines on the lees, Of fat things full of marrow, Of well-refined wines on the lees.7 And He will destroy on this mountain The surface of the covering cast over all people, And the veil that is spread over all nations.8 He will swallow up death forever...

And the Lord God will wipe away tears from all faces

- Communion

SUMMARY: Breaking Bread: Intimacy with God and others

What does a true church look like? Love Breaking Bread

VII. Prayer: ...they continued steadfastly in prayer

- Teaching, Fellowship, Breaking Bread and Prayer
- **Prayed together:** Adoration and Supplication

1. **Holy is your Name**
2. **Seeking God's will**

- **Paul:** Pray without ceasing

SUMMARY: Continued steadfastly in prayer

What does a true church look like? Praying for God's Will

VII. Praising God: ...they continued in one accord praising God

- Teaching, Fellowship, Breaking of Bread, Prayer...**and Praising God**
- Jesus an example of praising the Father among His brothers:

Hebrews 2:11 [Psalm 22] [Jesus] is not ashamed to call [us] brethren, 12 saying: "I will declare Your name to My brethren; In the midst of the assembly **I will sing praise to You.**" [Jesus sings praises unto the Father with brethren/sisteren]

Matthew 26:30when [Jesus and Apostles] had sung a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives.

- Enter in with singing and praise:

Psalm 100:3 Know that the Lord, He is God; It is He who has made us, and not we ourselves; We are His people and the sheep of His pasture.⁴ **Enter into His gates with thanksgiving, And into His courts with praise.** Be thankful to Him, and bless His name.⁵ For the Lord is good; His mercy is everlasting, And His truth endures to all generations.

- Prepare hearts for Word of God with Praise and Worship

SUMMARY: One accord Praising God

What does a true church look like? Praising God/Thankfulness

What did the first church look like; what would you see if you peeked in to a gathering?

1. Teaching
2. Fellowship
3. Breaking Bread
4. Prayer
5. Praising God

- **Fear came upon every soul:** Majesty of God

Psalm 111:10 The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom; A good understanding have all those who do His commandments. His praise endures forever.

- **Fear:** Knew this was a real work of God, not about what we where but our heart
- **Apostles did many wonders and signs:**

1. Authority given to Apostles proven by wonders/signs:
 - All things in common: Jesus was central
 - Sold possessions and gave to all in need: Selflessness a godly attribute
 - Had favor with all the people...

The Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved.