



Book of Acts - Pt. 4
Transforming a Community: The 7 Seeds of the Early Church
(Acts 2:37-47)

Hazen Stevens - February 2nd, 2025

I. Introduction

A. Picking Up the Narrative from Acts 2

1. Last week, Billy concluded with a prayer for the infilling of the Holy Spirit from Acts 2.
2. Today, we continue from Acts 2:37, where the people were “cut to the heart,” repented, were baptized, and experienced transformation.
3. This moment marked the birth of the early Church, with 3,000 added to their number that day.
4. What followed was the development of a thriving, Spirit-filled community marked by seven key characteristics—seven seeds of spiritual growth.

B. The Seven Seeds of a Thriving Church

1. Salvation – A radical turning to Jesus through repentance and baptism.
2. Devotion – A commitment to prayer, to the Word, and to corporate spiritual practices.
3. Power – The supernatural work of the Holy Spirit in signs, wonders, and bold witness.
4. Unity – A deep commitment to fellowship and relational wholeness.
5. Generosity – A lifestyle of sacrificial giving and meeting one another’s needs.
6. Cultural Impact – Favor with those outside of the Church, influencing society.
7. Growth – The expansion of God’s Kingdom through new disciples being added daily.

C. Connecting This to Gate City Buckhead

1. We are in a season of birthing a church and want to plant these same seeds into our DNA.
2. The framework of *Altar, Table, Road* helps us understand how these seeds function in the life of a believer and a community.



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3. The focus today: Cultural Impact & Growth – What it means to step into a new season where we carry what has been cultivated at the altar and table into the world.

II. Biblical Foundation: Acts 2:37-47 (NLT)

Acts 2:37-47 – “³⁷ Peter’s words pierced their hearts, and they said to him and to the other apostles, ‘Brothers, what should we do?’ ³⁸ Peter replied, ‘Each of you must repent of your sins and turn to God, and be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. Then you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. ³⁹ This promise is to you, to your children, and to those far away—all who have been called by the Lord our God.’ ⁴⁰ Then Peter continued preaching for a long time, strongly urging all his listeners, ‘Save yourselves from this crooked generation!’ ⁴¹ Those who believed what Peter said were baptized and added to the church that day—about 3,000 in all. ⁴² All the believers devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching, and to fellowship, and to sharing in meals (including the Lord’s Supper), and to prayer. ⁴³ A deep sense of awe came over them all, and the apostles performed many miraculous signs and wonders. ⁴⁴ And all the believers met together in one place and shared everything they had. ⁴⁵ They sold their property and possessions and shared the money with those in need. ⁴⁶ They worshiped together at the Temple each day, met in homes for the Lord’s Supper, and shared their meals with great joy and generosity—⁴⁷ all the while praising God and enjoying the goodwill of all the people. And each day the Lord added to their fellowship those who were being saved.”

III. The Seven Seeds within the Altar, Table and Road Framework

A. Altar: Salvation & Devotion (Vertical Relationship with God)

1. Salvation – “Each of you must repent... and be baptized... for the forgiveness of your sins.” (v. 38)
 - a. The first seed is a transformational relationship with Jesus, rooted in repentance and new life.
2. Devotion – “All the believers devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and to prayer.” (v. 42)
 - a. This is a commitment to spiritual practices individually and corporately.



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- b. Prayer, studying the Word, and worship create the right conditions for growth.
 - 3. Application for Gate City
 - a. A church anchored in the altar remains centered on salvation and spiritual devotion.
 - b. We must continue fostering a deep hunger for God's presence and the Word.
- B. Table: Unity & Generosity (Horizontal Relationship within the Church Community)
 - 1. Unity – "All the believers devoted themselves... to fellowship." (v. 42)
 - a. True community is built on spiritual family, not just attendance at gatherings.
 - 2. Generosity – "All the believers met together in one place and shared everything they had." (v. 44)
 - a. They lived open-handed lives, caring for one another's needs.
 - 3. Application for Gate City
 - a. We want to cultivate radical unity—where deep relationships flourish.
 - 4. Generosity is not just about finances but a lifestyle of giving, serving, and investing in others.
- C. Road: Cultural Impact & Growth (Engagement with the World)
 - 1. Cultural Impact – "Enjoying the goodwill of all the people." (v. 47)
 - a. The early believers didn't just isolate - they had favor in society.
 - b. Their lives were a witness, drawing others toward Jesus.
 - 2. Growth – "Each day the Lord added to their fellowship those who were being saved." (v. 47)
 - a. A healthy church is not stagnant—it expands and multiplies.
 - 3. Application for Gate City
 - a. We are stepping into a season where God is positioning us for influence.



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- b. We must be prepared to take what we have received at the altar and table and bring it into the world.

IV. Message Emphasis: Cultural Impact & Growth

A. Why These Two?

- 1. The altar and table sustain us, but the road is where we are sent.
- 2. God is calling us to be a city on a hill, influencing the culture around us.

B. Key Questions for Reflection

- 1. How can we position Gate City to carry favor in Atlanta, bringing transformation beyond our gatherings?
- 2. What does spiritual and numerical growth look like in this next season?
- 3. Are we personally and corporately ready to step onto the road?

V. Closing Call to Action

A. Pray for a fresh outpouring of the Holy Spirit

- 1. Just as in Acts 2, ask for a kairos moment where God accelerates growth.
- 2. Seek the Lord's presence to empower cultural impact.

B. Commit to stepping beyond comfort

- 1. Engage in outreach, evangelism, and city transformation.
- 2. Carry the presence of God into workplaces, neighborhoods, and relationships.

C. Strengthen the Altar and Table to sustain the Road

- 1. Evaluate personal devotion, unity, and generosity.
- 2. Ensure a strong spiritual foundation before stepping into expansion.

VI. Conclusion

- A. The early Church thrived because they cultivated seven seeds that fueled their spiritual life, community health, and cultural impact.



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- B. As Gate City moves forward, we are stepping into a season of greater influence and expansion.
- C. Are we ready to be a church that carries the power of Acts 2 into Atlanta and beyond?