

Unstoppable Church

Jesus Builds His church

And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it. **Matthew 16:18**

His intent was that now, through the church, the manifold wisdom of God should be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly realms, **Ephesians 3:10**

Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her ²⁶ to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word, ²⁷ and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless. ²⁸ In this same way, husbands ought to love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. ²⁹ After all, no-one ever hated his own body, but he feeds and cares for it, just as Christ does the church— ³⁰ for we are members of his body.

Ephesians 5:25-30

- Christ gave himself up for the Church – Gave his life to redeem and establish the Church
 - That's expensive purchase
 - That's radical, unrelenting love
 - That's life giving love
 - He has a plan and a purpose for the Church and it will come to pass.
- Will present her to himself as radiant, without stain, wrinkle or any other blemish – Shining, clean, vibrant
- But Holy and blameless – Pure, separated only to him, no mixture, no other partnerships but chaste to her lover the Lord Jesus

Early Church

They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. [43] Everyone was filled with awe, and many wonders and miraculous signs were done by the apostles. [44] All the believers were together and had everything in common. [45] Selling their possessions and goods, they gave to anyone as he had need. [46] Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, [47] praising God and enjoying the favour of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved. **Acts 2:42-47**

1. They devoted themselves. - their devotion was a choice

- Devoted - zealous or ardent in attachment, loyalty, or affection: a devoted friend.
- Antonyms: - apathetic, disloyal, inconstant, neglectful, negligent, uncommitted, unfaithful, untrustworthy
- A moving story of devotion Ruth in the old testament
- The truth is that God is more devoted, committed to you than you could ever be to him

2. Devoted to the Apostles teaching. - speaking of submitted to leaders and to theology

- Submission and devotion to the leaders God had placed over them.

Obey your leaders and submit to their authority. They keep watch over you as men who must give an account. Obey them so that their work will be a joy, not a burden, for that would be of no advantage to you. **Hebrews 13:17**

- Devotion to the word of God and learning and growing
- Hungry, committed

Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth. **2 Timothy 2:15**

- Requires a choice, a commitment
- Not accidentally or casually but devoted too

3. Devoted to fellowship - true authentic community which begins at home.

- We were created for this. Relationship with God and relationship with others
- It begins with valuing people and relationships above things, stuff and money
- You can tell what you value by what you give time too
- They met together regularly in each others home

Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up. [10] Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers. **Galatians 6:9-10**

- Do good especially to the family of believers
- Trust, honestly speaking into each others lives.

Keep on loving each other as brothers. [2] Do not forget to entertain strangers, for by so doing some people have entertained angels without knowing it. **Hebrews 13:1-2**

- Authentic community begins in our own homes with our own families and then extends out.

4. Devoted to the breaking of bread - the centrality of Christ and the cross

- When they broke bread it was a reminder and celebration of the Christ and the work of his cross.
- The divine exchange

When I came to you, brothers, I did not come with eloquence or superior wisdom as I proclaimed to you the testimony about God. [2] For I resolved to know nothing while I was with you except Jesus Christ and him crucified. [3] I came to you in weakness and fear, and with much trembling. [4] My message and my preaching were not with wise and persuasive words, but with a demonstration of the Spirit's power, [5] so that your faith might not rest on men's wisdom, but on God's power. **1 Corinthians 2:1-5**

For no one can lay any foundation other than the one already laid, which is Jesus Christ. **1 Corinthians 3:11**

5. Devoted to Prayer - prayer moves the hand that moves the world.

Then Jesus told his disciples a parable to show them that they should always pray and not give up. **Luke 18:1**

Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful. **Colossians 4:2**

God has ordained that you can access the bank of heaven through the window of prayer.

- Private prayer
- Family prayer
- Church prayer

These devotions led to the fruit or results in verses 43-47.

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Conclusion

- The big ask is to decide that the Local Church is it and could possibly see a community of believers like those in Acts 2.
- Devotion, it's a decision that I want to be devoted to something, nothing greatest to be devoted to.
- Will you devote to apostles teaching - leadership and growth and study
- Will you devote to fellowship - authentic relationships, commitment, trust, dependability, not here one week missing a few others.
- Will you devote breaking of bread - the centrality of Christ and the Cross
- Will you be devoted to prayer - privately, family and as a church family.