

I. Maturing As A Dedicated Community (42)

“They devoted themselves to...”

- A. They tuned in to the teaching (42a) - “...the apostles’ teaching...”
- B. They lived in partnership (42b) - “...and the fellowship...”
- C. They expressed humble devotion (42c) - “...to the breaking of bread...” **The Lord’s Supper**
- D. They were persistent in prayer (42a) - “...and the prayers.”

II. Retaining Wonder As An Awestruck Community (43)

A. They were outwardly humbled (43a) - “And awe came upon every soul...” **The fear of the Lord**

1. The fear of the Lord produces assurance - “We know that we know Him, if we keep his commandments.” (1 John 2:3)
2. The fear of the Lord produces wisdom - “The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom.” (Ps. 111:10)
3. The fear of the Lord produces humility - “Submitting yourselves to each other in the fear of God...” (Ephesians 5:21)
4. The fear of the Lord produces holiness - “...perfecting holiness in the fear of God...” (2 Corinthians 7:1)

B. They were outwardly empowered (43b) - “...and many signs and wonders were being done through the apostles.”

1. **Signs** - these were indicators given to attest to the power of God in the believers (appeals to intellect)
2. **Wonders** - these were acts of power given to astound, and amaze (appeals to emotion/imagination)

III. Releasing As A Generous Community (44-45)

A. They first gave themselves (44a) – “And all who believed were together and had all things in common.”

B. They then gave their substance (45a) - “...they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all...”

C. They were motivated by love and compassion (45b) – “...as any had need.” **All giving was voluntary**

IV. Advancing As A Joyful Community (46-47a)

A. Joy in the house of worship (46a) - “And day by day, attending the temple together...”

B. Joy in believers’ homes (46b) - “...and breaking bread in their homes...”

C. Joy in believers’ hearts (46c) - “...they received their food with glad and generous hearts.” **Contentment!**

D. Joy in the community (47a) - “...praising God and having favor with all the people...”

E. Joy in their witness (47b) – “...And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved.”