

Kingdom Start, Giving All

Text: Acts 2:42–47

The call to radical devotion, sacrificial generosity, and a shared life in the holiness of the Church

Intro:

Good morning, church.

Today, we are diving into a powerful and transformative passage from Acts 2:42–47. This is a picture of the early Church, filled with the Holy Spirit, living out the principles of holiness, community, and radical devotion to God. As a part of the Church of the Nazarene, we believe in the message of entire sanctification — a life that is wholly devoted to God. What we see in this passage is a reflection of that holiness in action.

Our message today is titled "**Giving All**" — because that's exactly what these early believers did. They gave all: all their time, all their resources, all their energy, all their hearts — for the sake of God's kingdom and the body of Christ. And in doing so, they saw the growth of the Church, both spiritually and numerically.

Let's read the text together:

"They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles. All the believers were together and had everything in common. They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need. 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, praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved." — Acts 2:42–47 (NIV)

1. Giving All to God's Word (v.42)

"They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching..."

In the Church, we hold that the Word of God is essential for the life of holiness. Just as these early believers were devoted to the apostles' teaching, we, too, are called to a deep devotion to God's Word. This devotion is not just intellectual knowledge — it's a commitment to live out the truth of the Word in the power of the Holy Spirit. Holiness

begins with a surrendered heart to the Word of God, and the Church is built on this foundation.

Cross-references:

- *Psalms 119:11* – "I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you."
- *John 8:31-32* – "To the Jews who had believed him, Jesus said, 'If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.'"
- *2 Timothy 3:16-17* – "All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work."

Application:

Let's ask ourselves: Are we truly devoted to the Word of God in a way that transforms us into the likeness of Christ? Let us recommit to studying the Bible, not just as a duty, but as a way of encountering God's presence and holiness.

2. Giving All to One Another (v.42–46)

"...to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer... All the believers were together and had everything in common."

In the Church, we emphasize the importance of community, living together in holiness. The early Church is an example of a community that was so deeply united in Christ that they shared everything — their resources, their time, their prayers.

They didn't just meet on Sundays; they lived in communion with each other every day. Their fellowship was centered around mutual care, holiness, and a shared mission.

"They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need."

This wasn't about forced communal living; it was about *voluntary* love. It was a response to the love of Christ, a natural outpouring of hearts that had been sanctified by the Holy Spirit.

They weren't just meeting physical needs — they were showing the world what it looked like to live a life of selflessness, sacrificial love, and holiness.

Cross-references:

- *Romans 12:10* – "Be devoted to one another in love. Honor one another above yourselves."
- *1 John 3:16-18* – "This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers and sisters. If anyone has material possessions and sees a brother or sister in need but has no pity on them, how can the love of God be in that person?"
- *2 Corinthians 9:7* – "Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver."

Application:

What does it look like for us to give all to one another in this church? Are we aware of the needs of those around us? Are we willing to make sacrifices for the sake of the body of Christ? Holiness calls us to not just "be holy" in isolation but to live out holiness in our relationships, sharing our resources, time, and love with each other.

3. Giving All to Worship (v.46–47)

"Every day they continued to meet together... praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people."

Worship was the heartbeat of the early Church. It wasn't just an event on Sunday — it was a lifestyle.

They gathered in the temple courts and in their homes, praising God with glad and sincere hearts.

Worship wasn't confined to a building or a set time; it was a continuous offering of their lives to God.

This is what it means to live a life of holiness — offering everything, every day, to God in worship.

And the result?

“And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.”

When we give all to worship — when we live our lives as an act of worship — God uses us to draw others to Himself.

Holiness isn't just a personal pursuit; it's a witness to the world.

Cross-references:

- *Romans 12:1* – "Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God — this is your true and proper worship."
- *Hebrews 13:15* – "Through Jesus, therefore, let us continually offer to God a sacrifice of praise—the fruit of lips that openly profess his name."
- *Colossians 3:16-17* – "Let the message of Christ dwell among you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom through psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit, singing to God with gratitude in your hearts. And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him."

Application:

Are we offering our lives as worship every day? Worship is not just about singing songs; it's about living in such a way that the world sees the holiness of God reflected in us. Are we ready to be a living testimony of God's grace, calling others into His kingdom?

Conclusion: Will You Give All?

The early Church gave all:

- **All their hearts to God's Word.**
- **All their lives to one another.**
- **All their praise to Jesus.**

And because they gave all, God *multiplied* their numbers. He worked powerfully through their radical devotion to Him and to each other.

Church, the question is not, “How much can I give?” but “Am I willing to give **all**?” God has called us to be a holy people, set apart for His purpose. Holiness means that we don’t hold back. It’s a life fully devoted to Him — in His Word, in fellowship, and in worship.

“For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you through his poverty might become rich.” — 2 Corinthians 8:9

Jesus gave all for us. How can we do any less?