



Sermon Highlights

The Foundation and Function of the New Testament Church

Sermon Summary:

This sermon examines Acts 2:40-47, exploring the essential characteristics and practices of the early church following Pentecost. The pastor emphasizes that a healthy New Testament church is built on four foundational pillars: correct doctrine rooted in apostolic teaching and the Old Testament, genuine fellowship among believers, proper observance of communion (breaking of bread), and fervent prayer. The message challenges modern church practices that prioritize entertainment and brief evangelistic messages over deep biblical teaching and discipleship. Pastor Bruce Gordon argues that when churches faithfully practice these foundational elements, they naturally produce believers who praise God, care for one another sacrificially, and see God add to their numbers daily. The sermon calls for a return to depth in teaching, authenticity in fellowship, and viewing all of life as spiritual service rather than compartmentalizing faith into Sunday-only religion.

Key Points:

- The early church was steadfast in four essential practices: apostolic doctrine, fellowship, breaking of bread, and prayer
- Correct doctrine must be rooted in both Old and New Testament teachings, not superficial or entertainment-focused messages
- The primary purpose of church gatherings is discipleship and teaching believers, not solely evangelistic appeals
- True fellowship produces believers who voluntarily share possessions and care sacrificially for those in need
- Christianity is a daily walk, not a once-weekly religious obligation separated from ordinary life
- Believers should be known for praising God and living authentically before a watching world

- Church growth is God's work, not human manipulation; pastors are to proclaim truth, not manufacture results
- When churches practice these foundational elements correctly, God adds to the church daily those being saved

Scripture Reference:

- Acts 2:40-47 (primary passage)
- References to Old Testament prophecies fulfilled in Christ
- Apostolic teachings throughout the New Testament

Stories:

- The story of 3,000 souls being saved and baptized on the day of Pentecost, immediately identifying publicly with Christ despite the cost
- Pastor Bruce Gordon's childhood experience visiting an Assembly of God church where everyone prayed aloud simultaneously, contrasting with his quiet Baptist upbringing
- The account of a four or five-year-old church member named Mabry who drew a picture of the preacher with the correct tie color and said she wanted him as president because "he teaches us the Word of God"
- The early church believers selling their possessions voluntarily to meet the needs of fellow believers, demonstrating genuine Christian community
- The pattern of early believers meeting daily in the temple and going house to house, integrating faith into every aspect of life