

LIVING THE NEW TESTAMENT CHURCH

Becoming One Church

Acts 8:10

Week 7 March 27, 2022

Pastor Mike Popovich

They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. Acts 2:42 NIV

Is there a group of people you do not like? Is there a particular gender, age, ethnic background, cultural type of person that you dislike just because they can be described with that characteristic?

And Saul was there, giving approval to his death. On that day a great persecution broke out against the church at Jerusalem, and all except the apostles were scattered throughout Judea and Samaria. Godly men buried Stephen and mourned deeply for him. But Saul began to destroy the church. Going from house to house, he dragged off men and women and put them in prison. Acts 8:1-3 NIV

God used the persecution of these new believers to get them moving.

THE WORD COMES TO THE SAMARITANS

Those who had been scattered preached the word wherever they went. Philip went down to a city in Samaria and proclaimed the Christ there. Acts 8:4-5 NIV

Philip preached and they believed and received Jesus as their Lord and Savior.

But when they believed Philip as he preached the good news of the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women. Acts 8:12 NIV

Then Peter and John placed their hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.
Acts 8:17 NIV

THE WORD COMES TO THE GENTILES

Cornelius is a centurion and a believer and follower of God.

While Peter was still speaking these words, the Holy Spirit came on all who heard the message. The circumcised believers who had come with Peter were astonished that the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out even on the Gentiles. For they heard them speaking in tongues and praising God. Then Peter said, "Can anyone keep these people from being baptized with water? They have received the Holy Spirit just as we have." So he ordered that they be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Acts 10:44-48 NIV

Then Peter began to speak: "I now realize how true it is that God does not show favoritism but accepts men from every nation who fear him and do what is right." Acts 10:34-35 NIV

THE WORD COMES TO JOHN'S DISCIPLES

On hearing this, they were baptized into the name of the Lord Jesus. When Paul placed his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came on them, and they spoke in tongues and prophesied. There were about twelve men in all. Acts 19:5-7 NI

THERE IS ONLY ONE CHURCH

When he arrived and saw the evidence of the grace of God, he was glad and encouraged them all to remain true to the Lord with all their hearts. Acts 11:23 NIV

The evidence that the Holy Spirit of God lives in us, is the fruit of the Spirit.

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law. Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the sinful nature with its passions and desires. Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit.

Galatians 5:22-25 NIV

Is the fruit of God evident in your life?