

WHEN THE SPIRIT BUILDS A CHURCH

Pentecost: Part IV

May 31, 2026

**“The color line was washed away
in the blood..The ‘Azusa Mission’
became the great melting pot of
races, cultures, and social classes...
All were equal.”**

–Frank Bartleman (Participant and
Chronicler of Azusa)

Los Angeles Daily Times

WEDNESDAY MORNING, APRIL 18, 1906.

WEIRD BABEL OF TONGUES.

*New Sect of Fanatics Is
Breaking Loose.*

*Wild Scene Last Night on
Azusa Street.*

*Gurgle of Wordless Talk by
a Sister.*

for his church, head down, eyes absent-ly fixed on his coming sermon. Suddenly his book went flying one way; his hat another. His two arms widely clutched the empty air. With a furious sprawl, he measured his length along the gravel walk.

From behind a neighboring hedge came very suspicious snickers.

Mr. Gould brushed himself off as best he could and proceeded sorrowfully to church.

He had just started in on his "first-ly" when here came an ominous thump and a startling ker-bang on the roof; everyone in the congrega-tion jumped with a start; then smiled and resumed attention to the sermon.

Another thump sounding like Ve-suvius getting busy! One of the dea-cons ran outside. Snorts of laughter, but the thumping ceased.

But just as the congregation was getting rapt in attention to the ser-mon, there came a most dismal sound, seemingly from the regions under the earth. It was a most lonely, piercing and doleful howl.

AMAZING SUIT FOR DIVORCE.

*Pretty White Wife Weary
of Black Husband.*

*Friendless Girl's Story of
Sorry Match.*

*Claims She Loved Negro
When Married.*

LOS ANGELES H

A DISTINCT h
feet of another
C.A. girl, Miss
for the past year
educational secret
society. Miss F
pointed general se

Pentecost is not merely about a religious experience but the Spirit creating a new kind of community under the reign of King Jesus.

Acts 2:42-43

42 And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. 43 And awe came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles.

Acts 2:44-45

44 And all who believed were together and had all things in common. 45 And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need.

Acts 2:46-47

46 And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts, 47 praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved.

Four Markers of a Spirit-Created Church

1. **Word:**

Devotion to the apostles' teaching—The Spirit forms a people centered on the story of Jesus, with scripture being the basis for all truth.

Four Markers of a Spirit-Created Church

2. Koinonia:

Devotion to a shared life—The Spirit creates a new family marked by generosity, unity, mutual care, and deep participation in one another's lives.

Acts 2:45

45 And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need.

Four Markers of a Spirit-Created Church

3. Breaking bread:

Devotion to the table—The Spirit gathers believers around meals and life, making strangers into family.

Acts 2:46

46 And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts.

Four Markers of a Spirit-Created Church

4. Prayer:

Devotion to dependence on God—The Spirit draws the church into worship, intercession, and continual reliance on God's presence and power.

“Those who are not of us...seek and request that they may enter into the church and that prayer may be made for them; for they know and are persuaded that the prayer which is made in the Church is greatly heard and avails much with God.”

—“Didascalia Apostolorum”
 (“The Teaching of the Apostles,” 250 CE)

“...because Christianity was a mass movement, rooted in a highly committed rank and file, it had the advantage of the best of all marketing techniques: person-to-person influence...”

—Rodney Stark, “The Rise of Christianity”

...the primary means of [Christianity's] growth was through the united and motivated efforts of the growing numbers of Christian believers, who invited their friends, relatives, and neighbors to share the 'good news.'"

—Rodney Stark, "The Rise of Christianity"