



Acts 2:42-47 “A Church Built By Jesus”

Intro:

We live in an era filled with churches that claim the name of Christ, yet differ drastically in their teaching and practice. On one hand, we see modern churches chasing cultural trends, using entertainment and light shows to manufacture emotional highs. On the other hand, we see traditional systems relying on rigid rituals, empty traditions, and a false sense of formal, religious reverence. While having so many options might seem like a positive thing to the world, it forces us to ask a critical question: Which of these churches are actually built by Jesus? How did Christ design His Church to teach, act, and worship? In Matthew 16:18, Jesus made a definitive promise: "I will build my church." As we approach our text today, we see exactly what a Christ-built church looks like. We see the sovereign Lord saving souls and adding them to His flock. We see His hand explicitly on this congregation because they functioned precisely as He designed them to. From this passage, we will observe **4 Core Activities** and **5 Defining Attitudes** of a church built by Jesus.

V.42

“And they **devoted themselves** to the apostles’ teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.”

ACTIVITIES

1. Devoted To The Word

The foundational element of a Spirit-filled church is a deep commitment to Scripture. A Christ-established church does not chase after feelings or emotional experiences as a substitute for truth; rather, it seeks to know Christ *objectively* through His Word. God designed His Church to be entirely submitted and devoted to the scriptures. Every other ministry and activity must flow from this foundation.

2. Devoted To Fellowship

The Greek word for fellowship used here is “*koinonia*”. This word means "partnership" or "sharing a life together." This is not just hanging out or being in the same room. These early believers were not just spectators or part-time churchgoers—they were a true family. Church is not an event you attend; it is a shared life in Christ.

3. Devoted To The Breaking of Bread

This practice carries a dual meaning. It refers to the regular sharing of common meals in fellowship, but it also points directly to the observance of the Lord’s Supper. As they shared their daily food, they would pause to break a loaf of bread and share the cup, faithfully obeying Christ’s ordinance to remember His substitutionary sacrifice on the cross (Luke 22:19, 1 Cor. 11:23–25).

4. Devoted To Prayer

The early church was committed to prayer both individually and collectively. They set apart time to come together and pray for:

- **Boldness** to proclaim the Gospel amid persecution (Acts 4:29–31)
- **Wisdom** and direction in leadership decisions (Acts 1:24–25)
- **The sending** and protection of ministers and missionaries (Acts 13:2–3, 14:23)
- **The sanctification** and spiritual growth of fellow believers (Col. 1:9–10, 1 Thess. 5:23)
- **Open doors** for the advancement of the Word (Col. 4:3–4, 2 Thess. 3:1)

V.43-47

“And **awe** came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. And *all who believed were **together** and **had all things in common**. And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need. And day by day, attending the temple*

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

ATTITUDES

1. **Awe** (V.43)

A holy respect and fear of God filled the entire church because they could clearly see God's presence and power. This was because they were obeying and depending on Him. Because they were devoted to the Word, fellowship, communion, and prayer, God was working through them and it was very evident to see and sense His hand on them. Today, many churches try to fake this awe using light shows, entertainment, religious appearing liturgy or emotional manipulation—but that always leaves one hollow. True awe comes from seeing God's hand at work through the devotion and obedience of His church.

2. **Love** (V.44-45)

The phrase “they had all things in common” does not mean they lived in a commune or didn't believe in private property. It simply means they loved each other sacrificially. This phrase refers to the fact that they lived with open arms. They held whatever they had lightly in their hands ready to release it easily if anyone had need.

3. **Unity** (V.46)

The word “together” in verse 46 comes from a Greek word “*homothymadon*” that means “of one mind.” They were not just physically in the same building; they were completely united in what they believed, heading in the exact same direction, and living for the same purpose.

4. **Joy** (V.46)

The phrase “they **received** their food” point to the fact that their joy and generosity came from a heart of thanksgiving. They were so thankful for their salvation, the forgiveness of their sins, and God's daily provision that it naturally made them joyful and generous toward others.

5. **Praise** (V.47)

They praised and glorified God by living in such a way that they had favor with all the people. Yet their outward praise came from a deep heart posture of praise. Our goal in loving others and being generous should never be that we be praised, but that God alone would be praised and glorified through our lives. We need to understand that a life of biblical obedience is the highest form of worship, and it serves as a powerful witness to the watching world.

Conclusion and Main Idea:

The Lord builds His Church. He is the sovereign author of salvation who saves souls and adds them to the body. He does not ask us to be culturally relevant, trendy, or to manufacture emotional highs to make an impact for His kingdom. Nor does He ask us to rely on external rituals, empty traditions, or a false sense of formal, religious reverence. He only asks us to remain steadfastly devoted to His Word, to fellowship, to the breaking of bread, and to prayer. By His Spirit, this simple, faithful devotion produces a healthy biblical culture marked by awe, love, unity, joy, and praise. We do not need to chase wild spiritual experiences, nor do we need to trust in dead religious forms. **It is the slow, steady, consistent obedience to Jesus Christ that honors Him—and that is exactly what He uses to build His church.** *Let us learn to not just go to church, but by God's grace, let us be the church.*

