

THEME: Your sanctification will influence a sinner's salvation!

Acts 2:42-47

42 They were continually devoting themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.

43 Everyone kept feeling a sense of awe; and many wonders and signs were taking place through the apostles. 44 And all those who had believed were together and had all things in common; 45 and they *began* selling their property and possessions and were sharing them with all, as anyone might have need. 46 Day by day continuing with one mind in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they were taking their meals together with gladness and sincerity of heart, 47 praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord was adding to their number day by day those who were being saved.

I. INTERNAL DEVOTIONS - (vs. 42)

- A. "continually devoting themselves" - no part-time Christianity; self-motivated
- B. "apostles' teaching" - (c.f. 1 Pet 2:2; 1 Tim 4:13; 2 Tim 4:1-14; Tit 1:9; Jn 8:31)
- C. "fellowship" - (*koinonia* - lit. "partnership" or "sharing"; c.f. Hebrews 10:24-25)
- D. "breaking of bread" - Communion - (c.f. 1 Cor 11:27-30; calls for self-examination)
- E. "prayer" - genuine revival will always be followed by a love of prayer

II. EXTERNAL MINISTRIES - (vs. 43 - 47a)

- F. "Everyone kept feeling a sense of awe" -
 - They weren't awed by the church because of its buildings, programs, or anything reflecting human ability, but by the supernatural character of its life.
 - "awe" (GREEK: *phobos*; ENGLISH: *phobia*) - refers to fear or holy terror due to being in the vicinity of divine presence
- G. "all those who believed were together" - Constantly in one another's company
- H. "selling ... sharing them with all" - "Us" mentality rather than "Us versus Them"
- I. "as anyone might have need" - (c.f. 1 Peter 4:9)
- J. "Day by day" - Not just on Sunday's or during a mid-week Bible study; daily

- K. “continuing with one mind in the temple” - They were out in public
- L. “breaking bread from house to house” - sharing food and meals with one another
- M. “gladness and sincerity of heart” -
 - “gladness” from Greek word meaning “to rejoice”
 - “sincerity” from Greek word meaning “free from rocks” or “smooth”
- N. “praising God and having favor with all the people” - (c.f. John 13:35; Acts 6:7)

III. OMNIPOTENT RESULTS - (vs. 47b)

- O. “The Lord was adding” - Salvation is always God’s work (c.f. Psalm 127:1)
 - Effective evangelism is the result of personal devotions & public ministry.
- P. “to their number” - They kept track of the believers - (c.f. Acts 2:41; 4:4; 5:14)
- Q. “day by day” - c.f. Acts 2:46 (“Day by day”) - ESSENTIAL TO UNDERSTAND!
- R. “those who were being saved” - QUESTION: Are you saved? Are you 100% sure?

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CONCLUSION:

Don’t allow the difficult circumstances in your life to diminish your godly influence on the unsaved people around you!

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

- 1) Grade yourself, and discuss how you’re doing in the areas of Internal Devotions (i.e. Studying the Bible, Fellowship with believers, Partaking of Communion, and Prayer).
- 2) Do you still feel a “sense of awe” in your relationship with God? Why or why not?
- 3) How can believers better fellowship and serve one another during this difficult time of COVID-19 restrictions and sheltering in place?
- 4) Describe and discuss what you believe the unsaved community around us thinks about Christianity as a whole, our local church in general, and your faith specifically.
- 5) Discuss why [so many of] our local churches today aren’t seeing many unbelievers getting saved and added to the church? What can we do to change this trend?