



## Let's Assess the Situation

- We have 11 Apostles returning to Jerusalem to “wait” on the Holy Spirit. (1:1)
- They have just spent 40 days training with Jesus in His resurrected body. (1:3)
- Their total numbers have grown to 120 men and women during the 40 day period (including James the brother of Jesus). (1:14,15)
- They just prayerfully decided to add Mathias to their group of Apostles. (1:26)
- The Day of Pentecost comes, apparently at the early prayer hour (8 a.m. or so) the Holy Spirit shows up and falls on them with power and fire! (2:1)
- They respond by pouring out into the streets proclaiming the glory of God (2:4)
- Thousands showed up and are “perplexed and amazed”. (2:12)
- Peter preaches a message to explain the moment. (2:14 – 36)
- The Holy Spirit moved them and 3,000 people believed and were baptized in ONE day! ( 2:41)
- Now what do they do?
  - 1) **No Space!** – How much room do you need to minister to 3,000 people?
  - 2) **No Structure!** – Who is in charge and what process is in place to disciple these people?
  - 3) **No Sound System!** – How will we communicate with this large crowd?
  - 4) **No Security!** – How do we keep this crowd from breaking into chaos? How do you keep the other thousands who hate you from attacking you?
- We are not sure of the specific logistics, but it appears over a period of time, things settled into a pattern of ministry and growth. This is what we will discuss tonight, in these last six verses of chapter 2.

## I. The Church – The Foundation (2:42)

Verse 42

They devoted themselves (proskartereo = give attention)

- 1) to the apostles' teaching (didache = the instructions)
- 2) and to the fellowship, (koinonia = community)
- 3) to the breaking of bread (klasis artos = sacred meal)
- 4) and to [the] prayer. (proseuche = formal prayer)

We see the primary foundations of the new church era taking shape in this first movement of Christianity.

## The Apostle's Teaching

(didache = the instructions)

First, we realize that these new converts were ignorant of the foundations of the Christian faith – they came out of the Jewish faith. (**Sense of Need**)

Second, we see the deep desire for knowledge that is often a sign of true conversion. (**Spiritual Hunger**)

Third, these instructions by the Apostles would likely have been a presentation of the life, work, and teachings of Jesus Christ. I don't expect that this was “deep doctrine” at this point! (**Christian Witness**)

**Principle: The foundation of all believers and all churches is the basic knowledge of the Gospel and teachings of Jesus Christ.**

## Fellowship

(koinonia = community)

Koinonia comes from the “koine” which means “common”

- 1) It means to come together from difference places. (**Unity**)
- 2) It means to join together for a common purpose. (**Direction**)
- 3) Share together the means one has to meet the goals of the greater good. (**Sacrifice/Commitment**)
- 4) It means to learn from one another as life is shared together. (**Cooperation**)
- 5) Resulting in strong relational bonds that transcend life difficulties. (**Friendship**)

**Principle: The foundation of all believers and all churches is the relationship network that forms through sharing life and ministry together.**

# The Breaking of Bread

(klasis artos)

This simple idea of “breaking bread” together begins with the simple evening meal together.

However, when you consider that the book of Acts was written after the Gospel of Luke and before the destruction of Jerusalem in 70 A.D. Therefore, the idea of “breaking bread” being connected with The Lord’s Supper has had time to evolve.

Later in Acts and throughout the Epistles of Paul, the word “Breaking of Bread” seems to mean “The Lord’s Supper” as part of a weekly observance. (I Cor. 10:16)

**Principle:** The foundation of all believers and all churches is the sacred remembrance of Jesus’ death as a natural part of everyday life not a religious ritual.

## Prayer

(proseuche = formal prayer)

Most likely, the Christian prayers of the early church had not developed as of yet – so these prayers were Jewish formal prayers.

- Again it was during the Jewish early morning prayer time that the Holy Spirit showed up.
- Chapter 3 begins with Peter and John going up to the temple at the “time of prayer – three in the afternoon”.

Because these first converts were Jewish, they understood Jesus through a Jewish framework. However, now through the power of the Spirit they can understand the Psalms in a new light.

**Principle:** The foundation of all believers and all churches is the development of a personal and intimate prayer relationship with the Trinity.

## II. The Church – The Presence (2:43)

Verse 43

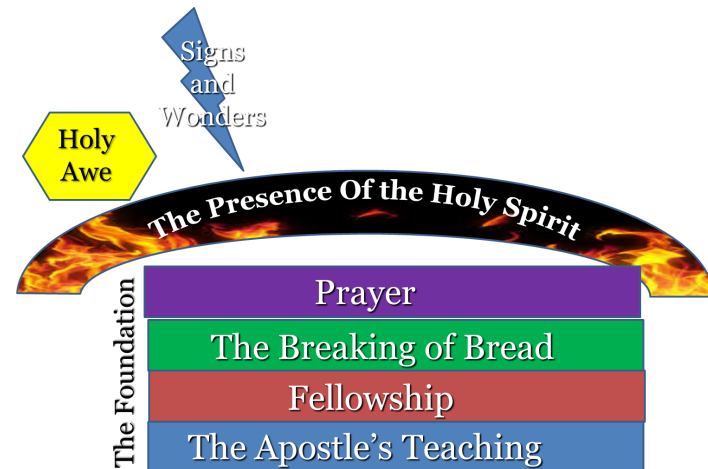
Everyone was

- 1) **filled** (ginomai = continually bringing into being)  
with **awe**, (phobos = reverance/respect/“soul fear”)  
[psyche = the seat of their emotions]
- 2) **and many wonders** (teras)
- 3) **and miraculous signs** (semeion)  
were **done by the apostles**.

There was an awareness of the presence of The Holy Spirit that lingered with the group long after the day of Pentecost.

There were also “miraculous” events that confirmed this presence through the Apostles.

The foundations are vital, but so is the presence of the Holy Spirit and the sense of “Holy Awe” and manifestations of His presence.



## III. The Church – The Attitudes (2:44 - 45)

Verse 44

All the believers (pisteo) were

- 1) **together** (autos epi)
- 2) **and had everything** (hapas = absolutely all things)  
in **common**. (koinos = shared by all)

This simple picture, is one of the greatest evidences of the power and presence of the Holy Spirit – unity in diversity; community through charity.

Likely, many of the 3,000 converts have returned to their homes as the seed of the harvest of Christianity throughout the region. However, those who remain in Jerusalem demonstrate a cooperation which is unique in history.

Someone has said, “We are all on the same ground at the foot of the cross!”

This was the greatest desire expressed by Jesus in his “high priestly prayer” in John 17 – “They may be one as we are one”





#### Verse 45

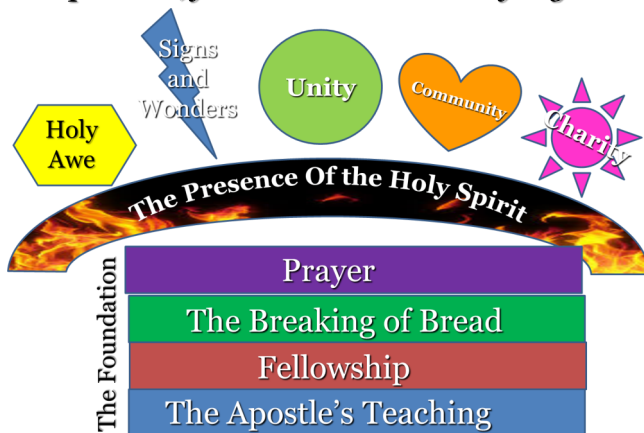
**Selling their possessions** (ktema = property/estate)

This was usually considered land and other acquired assets **and goods**, (hyparxis = wealth/living goods)

This was usually “personal items with value to the owner” **they gave** (diamerizo = distribute) **to anyone as he had need**. (chreia = employment)

When the Spirit begins to work, there is a sense of charity that develops within the heart. God has such compassion on the poor, widows, orphans, and those in need and this compassion begins to pour out of those who establish a personal relationship with the Holy Spirit.

Our motivation is the most important thing as Paul reminds us in **2 Corinthians 9:6 – 8**, “...each man should give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver...”.



## IV. The Church – The Actions (2:46 - 47)

### Verse 46

Every day

- 1) **they continued** (prokartereo – like vs 42 – focused) **to meet together** (homothymadon = one mind) **in the temple courts**.

(place of worship/discourse/evangelism)

- 2) **They broke bread in their homes** (oikos = house to house)
- 3) **and ate** (metambano = taking) **together** (trophe = food)

**with glad** (agalliasis = extreme joy) **and sincere** (aphelotes = simplicity) **hearts**,

Whereas the Temple is the center of Jewish worship life, the “home church” becomes the center for the Christian community.



### Verse 47

- 4) **praising God** (aineo = extol/lift up voices)
- 5) **and enjoying the favor** (charis = grace sharing) **of all the people**.

**And the Lord added** (protithemi = gather in) **to their number daily those who were being saved**. (sozo)

God is bringing people to salvation, not through the spectacular signs of the speaking in tongues, but through the supernatural love of these people for God, for the Temple, for each other, and for those who do not know Jesus yet!

The Feast of Weeks is over – these are likely residents of Jerusalem – long term Jews witnessing transformation.

## Prayer Concerns and Other Notes:

