

Discussion Guide

1. The third characteristic of a Spirit-filled church is that it will be a loving church. Describe in your own words what that looks like.
 - a. How and why is biblical fellowship different from worldly friendship? - John 17:23
 - b. What will you do this week to express biblical love.
 - c. Think of ways your flock group can show love within the next week.
2. Why is communion so important and what does it call us to remember?
3. Why is prayer so important?
 - a. Which of the reason(s) for lack of prayer do you relate to?
 - b. Do you have anyone in your life to hold you accountable to pray? Why or why not?
 - c. Will your flock group commit to attending the next corporate prayer gathering on October 26?
4. How has God spoken to you through today's message?

ANSWERS: Saved, Teaching, Loving, commitment, burdens, Encourage, Greet, diversity, Christ-centered, the, Oneness, Unity, incarnation, death, resurrection, return, examine, Dependent, Begin praying

Power From on High

Series: Power From On High. **Text:** Acts 2:42-47
Title: The Marks of a Spirit-filled Church, Part 2 **Date:** Oct 2, 2022
Lesson: 19

Acts 2:42-47 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.

“devoting themselves” [proskartero] - It means to be persistent, unwavering, and resolute.

It describes a steadfast and singleminded fidelity to a certain course of action or actions.

Being “continuously devoted” characterizes the lives of the first church.

How did this radical change take place?

The transforming power of the gospel.

The key element that characterizes a true church.

1. _____ Church

A. _____ church

Acts 2:42-47 They were continually devoting themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.

B. _____ church

Acts 2:42-47 They were continually devoting themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.

Apostles teaching → fellowship

Why is prayer not a higher priority?

Ephesians 6:10-12 Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of His might. 11 Put on the full armor of God, so that you will be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil. 12 For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places.

18 With all prayer and petition pray at all times in the Spirit, and with this in view, be on the alert with all perseverance and petition for all the saints,

How does the battle show up in our lives?

"I don't feel like praying"

"I've tried praying, but God doesn't answer"

"I have too many things to do"

"Things are going well without it"

"I'm disappointed and angry with God"

"I'm too uncomfortable praying with others"

"Why pray if God is sovereign"

What is the solution?

1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17,
18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28

Charles Spurgeon - "Prayer is the slender nerve that moves the muscles of omnipotence"

Philippians 4:6-7 Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. 7 And the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

John 14:13-14 "Whatever you ask in My name, that will I do, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. 14 "If you ask Me anything in My name, I will do it.

Matthew 7:7 "Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you.

Mark 11:24 "Therefore I say to you, all things for which you pray and ask, believe that you have received them, and they will be granted you.

1 John 5:14-15 This is the confidence which we have before Him, that, if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. 15 And if we know that He hears us in whatever we ask, we know that we have the requests which we have asked from Him.

"according to His will"

Mark 14:38 "Keep watching and praying that you may not come into temptation; the spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak."

IMPLICATION - The natural outgrowth of the Word of God is a deepening _____
to other believers.

"Fellowship" [koinonia] - It implies a cohesive, inseparable oneness of spirit.

The world cannot experience Biblical fellowship.

John 17:23 I in them and You in Me, that they may be perfected in unity, so that the world may know that You sent Me, and loved them, even as You have loved Me.

"I in them and You in Me"

"perfected" [teleioo] - NIV "brought to complete unity"

True fellowship is expressed throughout the N.T. by the term "one another."

Romans 12:10-12 Be devoted to one another in brotherly love; give preference to one another in honor; 11 not lagging behind in diligence, fervent in spirit, serving the Lord; 12 rejoicing in hope, persevering in tribulation, devoted to prayer,

Practical ways biblical fellowship can be expressed:

1. Bear one another's _____.

Galatians 6:2 Bear one another's burdens, and thereby fulfill the law of Christ.

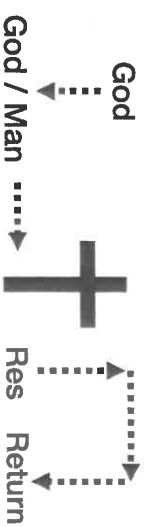
2. _____ one another.

Hebrews 3:13 But encourage one another day after day, as long as it is *still* called "Today," **so that** none of you will be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin.

Hebrews 10:24-25 ²⁴and let us consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds, ²⁵not forsaking our own assembling together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging *one another*, and all the more as you see the day drawing near.

C. His _____ and _____.

26 For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until He comes



2. Communion exhorts us to _____ ourselves.

1 Corinthians 11:28-31 But a man must examine himself, and in so doing he is to eat of the bread and drink of the cup. 29 For he who eats and drinks, eats and drinks judgment to himself if he does not judge the body rightly. 30 For this reason many among you are weak and sick, and a number sleep. 31 But if we judged ourselves rightly, we would not be judged.

D. _____ church

Acts 2:42-47 They were continually devoting themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.

Prayer is mentioned 25 times in 17 chapters.

Prayer is not optional, it is commanded.

1 Corinthians 11:24-25 and when He had given thanks, He broke it and said, "This is My body, which is for you; **DO THIS** in remembrance of Me." 25 In the same way He took the cup also after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in My blood; **DO THIS**, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

Why are we commanded to take communion.

1. It keeps us focused on the work of Christ.

A. His mission and _____

1 Cor 11:24 and when He had given thanks, He broke it and said, "This is My body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of Me."

B. His sacrificial _____

25 In the same way He took the cup also after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in My blood; do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

3. _____ one another in love.

1 Peter 5:14 Greet one another with a kiss of love. Peace be to you all who are in Christ.

4. Appreciate _____.

Romans 14:1 Now accept the one who is weak in faith, but not for the purpose of passing judgment on his opinions.

IMPLICATION - Indifferent and non-participating

Indifferent and non-participating believers are _____ with the nature of their salvation and God's plan for the church.

C. _____ church

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

This refers to communion not eating meals.

1. The Lord's supper is to be a very high priority in the church because it is commanded.

2. The same phrase "breaking of bread" is mentioned again down in verse 46

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, - where it says they were

3. The Greek helps make this clear.

"the breaking of _____ bread "

The definite article before bread identifies it as the specific bread that is to be set aside for the

memorial of communion.

Verse 46 has no definite article.

4. "fellowship / the breaking of bread" are paired together.

Acts 2:42-47 They were continually devoting themselves to the apostles' teaching **AND** to fellowship, to the breaking of bread **AND** to prayer. apposition

"apostles teaching"

"**AND** fellowship, the breaking of bread"

"**AND** to prayer"

Why are "fellowship & the breaking of bread" listed together?

Both speak of " _____ and _____ "