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**Common...unity breeds Community**  
**Acts 2:37-47**

What do we do now? A young father and mother are peering down into the crib of their sleeping and newly born infant they have just brought home from the hospital. The babies room has been painted and decorated. They have a stack of diapers under the changing table. The drawers are stocked full of little peoples clothes. They've taken the classes, and read the books, but none of this can fully prepare them or equip them for the sleepless nights and late night feedings, the temper tantrums and exhaustion behind an endless stream of diapers and doctor visits. For those tired young parents staring down into the innocent and beautiful face of their sleeping baby...the question; What do we do now? is an excellent one.

I'm wondering if that was a question the 12 apostles asked each other at the end of a very long and incredibly wonderful day...the day of Pentecost. As you turn in your Bibles to the second chapter of Acts let me catch us back up to speed in our story of the Day God sent His Holy Spirit down from heaven to live and indwell in the believers. The day had started in the upper room where 120 believers were waiting for this promise gift of the holy Spirit. It was early morning when they heard a sound like a rushing wind and flames like tongues of fire danced above the heads of the believers. They were filled with the Holy Spirit and all the noise attracted crowds from Jerusalem. Many came from worshipping nearby at the temple to see what was happening. Jewish people who had come from all over the know world to celebrate the feast of Harvest and Pentecost were there. The party spilled out into the streets and temple courts as the apostles and believers began to speak

praises of the mighty deeds of God in languages not known to them, but known to others who came from various parts of the world.

About 9:00 in the morning Peter stands up with the other 11 apostles, and begins to preach explaining what had just happened by taking them back to the Old Testament that they knew. Explaining how this was God's plan to send His Holy Spirit and explaining that the same Jesus whom they had just crucified was in fact the Messiah they had all been waiting for. Jesus had been given a stamp of approval by God, sent by God, it was God plan that he die and then raised him from the dead to give ultimate proof that everything Jesus was; His example, His teaching, His life was from God and part of God's plan. Peter makes it clear that Jesus was totally God's plan and that whoever calls on the name of Jesus will be saved.

Many in the crowd were cut to the heart by this message and responded by asking our question of the morning; "So what do we do now?" Lets pick up our story in Acts 2:37 and see what they are to do. READ.

The crowd asks "What shall we do now?" Peter responds by telling them in v.38 "Repent" Repent is not a word we use very much outside of the church these days. It simply means to change. This is a change of heart, a change of outlook. Certainly that inner change is going to result in a change of outer conduct, but that is not the emphasis of the word repent. Repent is not just a slavish conformity to a list of rules. Repent is a heart change of the way everything is viewed and that will then reflect on the way life is lived. Repent is a 180 degree change from the way you are going. A 90 degree partial turning just won't do. A 90 degree turn where you can keep an eye on sin and self and the world while trying to look at Jesus at the same time is not repentance. Repentance is looking at Jesus full and complete focus on Him and His way while turning your back on all the rest of the stuff you have left behind. Repentance is saying no to sin and yes to Jesus.

Repentance is not just regret...these folks had already been cut to the heart. Whereas a false repentance hates the consequences of sin. True repentance has taken such a change of heart that you hate the sin itself, not just that fact you got caught, not just the painful consequences of your sin. Repentance actually hates the sin itself. It is changing you mind so that you are no longer at odds with God by you are now in the groove with God; thinking His thoughts, loving what He loves, hating what he hates, doing the things He would enjoy doing. Repentance is turning from darkness to the light. It's a reversal in direction that has been convinced of a new direction...a conviction to follow God.

If you are not a believer yet that is the first thing you need to do in answer to the question, 'What should I do now?'" Repent.

The next phrase Peter says is "let each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ." I want to give you a heads up here in a mistake to avoid. There are some groups that teach water baptism is not only a right a proper act of obedience and an expression of faith, but they would teach that water baptism is an essential means by which God forgives sin. They would say that faith alone is not enough to gain God's forgiveness. You must be baptized with water before you can be forgiven. This is the verse they point to. Certainly, it could be that is what Peter was trying to preach that morning of Pentecost. But he also might have meant something else. I see that phrase about forgiveness as parenthetical because the verbs and pronouns used in the baptism phrase are of different voice and tense then the phrase about repentance and forgiveness so the Second person plural repent must go with the second person forgiveness part grammatically. And the Third person singular baptism command is set off from the main flow of the sentence. It means something like this; Receive the forgiveness of your sins, by repenting and by believing in the name of Jesus Christ, which you signify through baptism.

Peter clears this up in his next sermon in chapter 3 v.19 when he states, “repent therefore and return that your sins may be wiped away in order that times of refreshing may come.” There is no mention of the act of baptism here necessary for salvation. In fact Peter this same speaker all through the rest of Acts promises that the forgiveness of sin is based on faith alone (5:31, 10:43, 13:38, 26:18) 10:43 “whoever believes in Him receives forgiveness of sins.” Acts 16 when the jailor cries out, “Men, what must I do to be saved. Paul replies, “believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and you shall be saved.” Many other passages in scripture affirm this truth. Ephesians 2:8,9 For by grace are you saved through faith and not of yourselves it is a gift of God. Not of works so no one should boast about it.”

Peter tells them that forgiveness from God comes from faith and repentance. Baptism then is the outward expression of the inward change. Peter called for a public act of faith...openly identifying with Jesus Christ in His death, burial and resurrection. So we see the answer to their question What should we do now??? The New Testament way to follow Christ; Belief, repent, then express that in baptism. Some of you may desire to be baptized. Write down your desire on a blue communication card and put it in the box in back. I'd love to talk to you have following God in obedience in this area.

Well, the response on that day of Pentecost was incredible. 3000 repented and turned to God and 3000 were baptized. This must have been an incredible day. If all 12 apostles split up the baptizing duties they had 250 a piece. If each of the apostles baptized one person a minute, with no breaks, it would have taken over 4 hours. Wow. If they baptized like they do now my back would be sore. 169, 170, 171. Hey James...give me hand my lower back is killing me. I could see how some of these other traditions of sprinkling might have their seeds right here. I am thinking that at the end of the day the apostles sat down to eat exhausted and incredibly satisfied at being filled by His spirit and having experienced

the power of God. But they must have also asked themselves a question...much like those parents of the new born infant. What do we do next? We have 3000 baby believers. What do we do next. 3000 people that fill us with incredible joy but 3000 people who need direction and care and teaching and love.

In the next few verses the writer of Acts lays out for us the direction, the values and experiences of that early church. The rest of the book of Acts tell of specific stories how these core values of the early church are lived out. I find it very interesting that the four core priorities we are pursuing for our church are the same for core priorities the early church was engaged in pursuing. And really it shouldn't be all that surprising because they come directly from the great commandment in Matthew 22 and the Great commission in Matthew 28. Does anyone remember what the 4 core priorities are that we are pursuing as a church? Priority of God's person. Matthew 22, "Love the Lord your God with all your heart soul and mind. We want God to be our supreme and incomparable love over all the other loves in our life. This includes areas of worship and prayer and singing praise to God. Priority of God's people. Comes all from Matthew 22 and a second command is like unto it you shall love your neighbor as yourself. This is a pursuit to come together in biblical community and loving one another well. That is how they will know we are Christians...by our love for one another. The Priority of God's plan comes from the Great Commission at the end of Matthew chapter 28 Go into all the world and make disciples. Acts 1:8 repeats the same idea "you shall be my witnesses all over the world". God has commission each of us to strategically impact the world around us for Christ and share with them the great news that God loves them and offers forgiveness if they would believe. The areas of evangelism and missions fit well in this core priority. The fourth priority is also found in the great commandment Matthew 28; as it says "teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you." This is the priority of God's

precepts or instruction. We desire that everyone who attends this church be able to understand and practically applying God's word to their life. Four core priorities need to be kept in focus and in balance as they will keep us in focus to grow a healthy church.

So lets take a look in v.42 and see these core priorities of the early church that bred a common unity and produced true new biblical community. You may want to ask yourself as we walk through these a question. Is this something I need to be doing more of? How am I daily devoted to doing that? V.42 says that the early believers were continually devoting themselves to some things. First thing mentioned was the apostles teaching. They place a priority on the precepts of God as were taught by the apostles. They had all come together in common unity by believing in a body of truth that each had embraced and committed to follow. That was the good news of Jesus life, death, burial and resurrection. They were continually devoted to the solid teaching of the apostles. Well fed sheep have a tendency to remain healthy sheep. They have developed an apatite for some good food. They had tasted the steak of solid teaching and would never be satisfied to chew on hot dogs. They were hungry for the good stuff. The hot dogs sermons that are filled with pop psychology and self help messages didn't even taste good to them. They wanted the steak sermons that are solidly founded upon God's word. And once you've tasted that you want more and more of it.

I work hard each week at making sure I not serving up preprocessed fluff on Sunday. I want us to learn things that are solidly based in God's word or else we are just wasting our time. But learning has to come from you...I might talk about some information on Sunday...but only if you understand and apply do you really learn and I really could be accused of teaching. That means you and I have to work hard together. Continually devoting ourselves to the teaching of God's word. There is nothing more exciting for a teacher of the word. Women's study, Sunday School teacher, preacher, youth pastor whatever. Nothing

revs up his engine more than when the listeners get excited about learning. The pastor longs to see the seeds of his preaching and teaching bear fruit among his people and in his own life. Is the word of God making a major dent in your values? In the way you make choices? Has the truth you have heard changed the way you treat others, the way you forgive and love? Has it helped you live life the way God intended? Take pains to learn get down to the serious business of learning and bless the socks off your teachers. Let them know how their teaching of god's word has challenged and changed you and it will make their entire week.

Last Sunday I was teaching the men's class "man in the mirror" and one of the guys answered a question in a almost a direct quote from our discipleship material. That made my day. Why? I wasn't the one that had directly disciplined him. Eight years ago I disciplined three guys and one of those guys disciplined another guy and that that guy was discipling him. He's my discipling great grandson and correctly applied the truth right to the right situation. I had to say "yes" he's got it. He is learning. Is God's word producing fruit in your life? Are you eating regular meals in His Word. You have got to get into the word for the word to get into you. Make God's precepts you priority.

Next it says they were continually devoted to fellowship. That is the putting a priority on God's people. Fellowship the Greek word is a familiar one. Koinonia. When we think fellowship we tend to think of the church potlucks. But this word holds far more then sharing food. Fellowship is far more then the sentimental feeling when we sit around a campfire and sing kum-ba-ya. It's more then punch and cookies. The root word koinonia means common. Every time this word is used in the NT people are sharing something. And fellowship comes through giving. This word carries the idea of generosity. Giving of yourself. Koinonikos with root word common, koinos means generosity. Fellowship comes through giving. Maybe you've walked into a church or LIFE group spent a few minutes and walked out thinking. There is no real fellowship there.

That group, that church needs more fellowship. If that's you, then you have totally missed it. Because fellowship is not about meeting our needs. Fellowship. Koinonia comes when we look to meet others needs. You will never experience common...unity, community until you have a eye that looks for how you can meet someone else's need. We experience fellowship when we make it a practice to reach out to others and give something of ourselves.

Look where they were doing this in the early church in verse 44. "those who believed had all things in common. And they began to sell their property sharing with all as anyone might have need." Just a note. This is not talking about communism because all the giving was voluntary not coerced. Communism is enforced sharing of goods on the basis that no one has the right to own anything. It has nothing to do with this Godly generosity. This is also not socialism. Socialism acknowledges peoples right o own property, but compels people to give a percentage of everything over and above a certain percentage. Our tax system enforces a certain amount of socialism here in America and even more so in Canada. But I am not here to says that socialism is good or bad but simply that this was not what was going on in the early church. It wasn't a political statement or economic policy. It was spirit filled generosity from the love and koinonia they received from God they wanted to share with others. They were continually devoted to doing this.

Are you looking for a place to give to others. Our gift-counselors are standing by to meet with you and help you discover how God has crafted you and what He wants you to do about it. It may be you want to serve others with meeting some of the practical needs in the body and community. Keith Wilson at the end of the sermon is going to share with you an idea he has to help us as a church to move deeper to practically meet each others needs and as we give to others we will experience more and more of the common unity, the community the priority of God's people that makes God's church attractive and infectious with joy. When

the spirit pours in there is a responsive desire in wanting to pour that back out to others. When we serve each other it epoxy bonds people together.

Maybe you read this and God is talking to about stepping out of your small group of a half dozen people and reach out to someone else. Maybe its someone who can't return much to you right now. Maybe its someone you don't know very well. Invite them over for a barbecue. Share you spiritual journeys, pray together, enjoy each other. Help each other out. Be continually devoted to fellowship. For the essence of fellowship is giving to others and that is a great way to grow a church. Ask yourself this morning. In what ways have I been continually devoted to that kind of fellowship this past week? How might I pursue that next week? When is the last time you really sacrificed and gave some of yourself, your time, your money, your talent to help out a brother or sister in need. Giving of yourself breeds community.

Lets take a look at the other two priorities we see here. The priority of God's person. That is worship and prayer. The end of v.42 we see that these believers were committed to prayer and kept feeling a sense of awe. V.47 as they came together probably more formally in the temple and also in each others homes, with gladness and sincerity they were praising God. This was no half hearted worship that was memorized by rote. They got with it. Coupled with an incredible awe of God they anticipated God to do miraculous things in their church. With spontaneous joy and gladness they gave praise to God. They came to the meetings on tip-toe with expectancy and an awe inspiring delight that God would meet them and show up in a powerful way.

Is that the way you come to worship? Do you come on the edge of excitement anticipating God to meet you in a powerful way? When was the last time you were brought to tears in worship not because how bad it was but because you had been vaulted so far into the presence of God that you could relate fully with Isaiah when He said, "Woe is me I am a

man of unclean lips...for my eyes have seen the king, the lord of hosts.” What a response from someone who has been profoundly impacted by the presence of God. That where the joy and gladness is, in the presence of God. When was the last time you were stripped bare before God and enveloped by His presence in a powerful way? Challenged by His truth? Overwhelmed with a feeling of gratitude that sweeps away everything else and blocks everything else out so thankful for His forgiveness and mercy and grace and kindness to you. When was the last time you were so lost in love of God and praise that for a moment you forgot where you were at? When was the last time you felt an undeniable peace and joy sweep over your soul? It is that kind of worship that captures the heart and once you’ve experienced it nothing less will ever satisfy. Its far more than a feeling and a good tune. Worship is encountering Almighty God and once you’ve experienced it you will no longer be willing to play at church again. Can you taste it? Come with an expectant sense of awe. God the father is looking for worshipers who will worship in spirit and in truth. This Thursday is national day of prayer. Show up at 7pm and expect God to move in your heart in a powerful way.

Certainly all through this passage we see the priority of God’s plan. Evangelism. V.41 “so added that day were about 3000 souls” V.47 And the Lord was adding to their number day by day those who were being saved. When the spirit moves in peoples life in powerful ways they can’t help but share the great news with others. Do you have a faith worth sharing? Is your life filled with the spirit in such a way that its attractive to others. Do people look inside our church and say wow what a great looking bowl of fruit. I’d sure like to eat some of that. Rotten wormy fruit isn’t very attractive folks. But sweet and juicy fruit is. I think we need to become a church that is less like a bag of marbles where their only contact with each other is to collide and knock on each other. Less like a bag of marbles and more like a bowl of fresh fruit. A bowl of fruit that is sweet and juicy and maybe even gets cut up together for a very tasty fruit

salad with all our juices running together so together we taste far better together than we could ever be apart.

Back to our first question. What do we do now? If you feel God is prompting you to repent and in belief accept the forgiveness that God who loves you wants to extend to you now's the time. If you have time right after service come up and tell me you want to talk about how to get to know God. If you don't have time right now drop me a note in the box and we can get together sometime next week. If you are already a believer. What do I do now? Perhaps this morning God was talking to you. Maybe you were convicted that you have not been continually devoted pursuing God in worship and prayer as you need to. Maybe it's become ho-hum, boring, mechanical and old. Maybe it's time to change and come to God with anticipation and expecting. Maybe this morning you realize you become lazy in your learning and have showed up with a "I dare you to teach me something" attitude. It's time to apply what you've learned. To get down to the business of real learning. Maybe God is convicting you to share the good news of Jesus with someone putting a priority on God's plan. Maybe God wants you to begin doing more to give something out to others that koinonia fellowship. Keith, come up here...

## Notes on Acts 2:38-47

v.38

“pierced to the heart” Honest. Not just an intellectual question. What do we do next???

Repent; Aorist imperative command second person plural. Metanoia. 180 deg. Change. Have change of heart, change of outlook, butterfly.

Metamorphosis. . It results in the conduct but that’s not the emphasis here that is a result of the inner change of heart. The Jews had rejected Jesus (whom you crucified...) now they needed to trust in Jesus. Not just a partial 90 deg. Turn looking at Jesus and all the rest of the stuff you left behind. It is saying no to sin and yes to Jesus.

False repentance hates the consequences. True repentance hates the sin itself and forsakes it in turning to Jesus.

Repent in the Greek is connected to Forgiveness of sins. By agreement of second person, PLURAL. Water baptism for the forgiveness of sin and filling of the holy spirit is not consistent with the rest of the New Testament. Baptism Aorist command imperative passive. third person SINGULAR. Is set apart from the rest is done in obedience, a natural response to an inward change that is worked by the holy Spirit. Peter next sermon clears up this confusion in 3:19 “Repent therefore and return that you sins may be wiped away in order that times of refreshing may come. No mention of an act of baptism.

Cornelius received the Holy Spirit before he was baptized. If Baptism is required for salvation then nobody in Hebrews 11 the old testament hall of faith was saved because none were baptized.

**(Two ways to interpret this passage.) View one:** Both repentance and baptism are necessary for forgiveness of sins. The problem with that view There are several places in scripture where the forgiveness of sins is based on faith alone (John 3:16, Eph 2:8,9, Rom4: Romans 11 and even Peter the same speaker later on promises sins forgiveness based on faith alone Acts 3:19, 5:31, 10:43, 13:38, 26:18)

**View two:** translate it Be baptized...on the basis of the remission of your sins. (preposition of eis used in the accusative case can be possibly translated this way

**View three:** the baptism clause is parenthetical. Agreement of verb to repent and the word “your” in the forgiveness phrase. So repent must go

with the forgiveness part. Be baptized is singular and set off from the rest of the sentence

Repent

(Be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ) visually demonstrate their private confession through public confession of baptism.

For the forgiveness of your sins.

And you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit

This promise is for you and your children

And

For all who are far off (Gentiles..that us) as many as the Lord our God shall call to himself)

And with many other words, He solemnly testified

And

Kept on exhorting them saying “Be saved from this perverse generation”

So then, those who had received his word were baptized

And there were added that day about 3000 souls.

(in Jewish culture baptism was a rite for Gnetile converts that symbolized a break with ones past. What a day for Jerusalem. First the flames dancing above the apostles heads, speaking in languages unknown and now the pools of Jerusalem are clogged with converts waiting to baptized. 3000 new bundles of joy and 3000 accidents waiting to happen. New born again believers.

v.42

And they were CONTINUALLY DEVOTING themselves to (Larry Bird continual devotion to free throw shooting. Tired and hurting from a foul still makes over 80 percent of the shots...practice)

The **Apostles teaching**

And to

**Fellowship**

To the **breaking of bread**

And to

**Prayer**

And everyone kept feeling a SENSE OF AWE

And

Many *wonders and sings* were taking place

Through the apostles

And all those who had believed

Were together

And had all things in common;

And they began selling their property

And  
Possessions  
And sharing them with them all  
(As anyone might have need)

And  
Day by day  
Continuing with one mind  
In the temple  
Breaking bread from house to house  
Taking their meals together  
With gladness  
And sincerity of heart  
Praising God  
Having favor with all the people  
The Lord was adding to their number

Day by day  
Those who were being saved.

Benefits of the local church.

Teaching, Fellowship, observing ordinances, communion, worship,  
common need and mutual assistance.

Edify, encourage, exalt, equip, evangelize,

Looking up

Looking in

Looking out.

What did the early church in initial stages look like? Are we supposed to look like that too? Example to follow. Was this just descriptive of some of the things that could happen in a church or was it prescriptive of things that ought to be happening in the church. If so then where are they happening? Did the first ones get it the most right or did it improve later on? Are there some core values for us to follow? Why did Jesus include this in His instruction manual the Bible.

What am I daily devoted to???

Are these the things I am Daily devoted to?

In what ways am I Continually Devoted to:

**Teaching of Gods** word

**Fellowship**, relationship, breaking of bread together, eating together? More then just a couple times a year at potluck.

(I don't come to those potluck things anymore. Foods bad and the kids and things are loud and chaotic.)

**Prayer**. Corporate praying together.

Is there are sense that God is doing some great things? Are we people impressed with God and His power?

In what ways am I mutually seeking to **help another brother** out in need?

What's my attitude? Is it one of gladness? Sincere heart?

Are people in our community looking with favor on the people and acts of those who attend our church? (or do they see a bunch of hypocrites who are in it to just feel good and assuage their guilt?)

Am I praising God?

Are people being added to our fellowship?

This was not socialism or communism because it was all voluntary. And the goods were not distributed evenly but only as the needs arose. Communism is enforced sharing of goods on the basis that no one has the right to own anything. It has nothing to do with generosity. This is also not socialism as socialism acknowledges the right of private property but compels people to give a percentage of or everything above a certain percentage. Our tax system forces certain socialism in America. Canada does so even more. I'm not saying that certain socialism is good or bad but simply this was not what was going on in the early church. The Christians were sharing not because of a political view, but because of the love and koinonia they received from God. So they determined to be generous with each other.

What about those who would dare come into the church to take advantage of their charity?

See the theme of JOY in the early church.

### **Worship:**

No half hearted worship learned by rote. They participated and got with it. A healthy respect and awe of God. Spontaneous joy and gladness of praise. Our Lord still inhabits the praises of His people. Meetings are dull and predictable. On time, led by well meaning folks who are faithful and dedicated but it seems that tip toe expectancy and awe inspiring delight mixed in with a sense of the awe of God are often missing.

Is our church experiencing true worship? Are you often brought to tears on the edge of excitement at church? Lost in love of God and praise and you forget where you are at? Is there freedom in your soul? An overwhelming sweep of gratitude and an intensity of prayer that blocks everything else out? That is the kind of worship that captures the heart and satisfies once you have experienced it nothing else less will even come close. Once you have tasted that you will never be willing to play church again. Or are you bored stiff with rigimortis setting in?

Isa 6:5 “Woe is me I am ruined for I am a man of unclean lips. What a response from someone profoundly impacted by the presence of God.

**Instruction:**

v.44 they came to believe a body of truth that all had mutually embraced. The good news of Jesus life, death and resurrection was faithfully declared. (in every sermon in Acts). In addition there was solid biblical instruction. Well fed sheep have a tendency to remain healthy sheep. Hungry sheep are an easy prey to the cults and errant doctrines unable to stand up against the battles of life’s trials. Stick with the word. Feel good self-help talks are not what the church needs today. Deliver interesting messages that are sources not in pop psychology but in the word of God. Once the sheep get a taste for the real stuff, the word they will want to eat more and more of it. Once you’ve eaten a great steak, those tube steaks are not as wanted.

God’s word:

- Gives stability to our faith
- Stabilizes us in times of testing
- Helps us understand and apply the Bible correctly
- Equips us to detect and confront error.
- Builds confidence in our walk

Remember the four purposes of the church are to be held in balance. Instruction that has gone to seed on a heady theological trip that knows much but applies little is not right. The church is not an exclusive club only for those who understand Greek. Cautions: If theology remains theoretical watch out it will breed arrogance. If preaching or teaching are not balanced by love and grace, watch out. Intolerance is close by. When teaching becomes an end in itself watch out. Teaching is not to be idolized but to be utilized and followed.

Jonathan Edwards quote Swindall p. 17 The Bride bible study guide

**Fellowship:** Koinania. Root word is common. Every time this word is used people are sharing something. Fellowship is not just a sentimental feeling when we sit around a campfire and sing kum-ba ya. It’s not just punch and cookies. Fellowship comes through giving. If you are not experiencing fellowship then its because you aren’t giving enough. Go visit a church or LIFE group and say, “There is no real fellowship there because they have an eye only for their own needs. Truth is we will only experience fellowship when we make it a practice to reach out to others and give something of ourselves. If you want to share the joy of commonality often I say the best way is to roll up your sleeves and get in and serve together. Sitting in the stands observing will doom you to feel estranged. It will feed your criticism. It will foster your doubt in God’s power. It will embitter your relationships. You need to get out and give to

someone. Time. Money. Talent. Give it away to another and enjoy the fellowship the gladness that comes.

Remember fellowship is linked with giving. Hughes p50

1John 1:3 Fellowship happens as we draw close to God and we draw close to each other.

The stronger your vertical fellowship, the stronger your horizontal fellowship will be.

Shared common joy and sorrow and shared materially with each other gifts of love and encouragement. Swindall p54 choose to be a bag of marbles or a bag of grapes. Either single distinct affecting each other only in collision or juices mingling in such a way there is no way to extract even if you tried.

Hebrew 10:24 Do not forsake the assembling together as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another as you see the day drawing near. Failure to participate in the life of the local church is disobedient to God and inexcusable

**Prayer:**

Literally devoted to “the prayers” They listened and cared for each other in a most profound way by praying for each other. Kindling effect when we pray with other believers. When we choose to isolate ourselves we become cold lump of coal. Programs draw big crowds, but not prayer. We have neglected this in our church. National day of prayer.

**Expression/ Evangelism:** Many were added to their number daily.

When the spirit reigns, Believers relate to the word I teaching

Relate to each other in fellowship

Relate to God in worship

Relate to the world in evangelism.

Daily” This seems to be the normal assurance. Wouldn’t it be great to hear that just about every day someone repents and turns to Christ?

They were an attractive church. “having favor with all the peoples” MacArthur p.91 philosopher Arisides in early second century writes of the incredible good actions of the early Christians.