

Lesson 2 of the series

“The Beginning of an Unfinished Work”

The Church Begins Acts 2

“They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles. All the believers were together and had everything in common.”
(Acts 2:42-44)



When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them. (Acts 2:1-4)

- ✓ This was the ordained day that God chose for the Spirit to descend upon these believers to begin the work of the church.
- ✓ Although we aren't told for sure, this is probably the same room that is described in Acts 1:13.

“When the apostles returned to Jerusalem from the hill called the Mount of Olives, a Sabbath day's walk from the city. When they arrived, they went upstairs to the room where they were staying. Those present were Peter, John, James and Andrew; Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew; James son of Alphaeus and Simon the Zealot, and Judas son of James. They all joined together constantly in prayer, along with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with his brothers. In those days Peter stood up among the believers (a group numbering about a hundred and twenty) Acts 1:12-15

- ✓ The “they” reference probably includes the entire group of 120 believers

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- ✓ What was the significance of the day of Pentecost?
 - Pentecost means “fiftieth” and is the New Testament name for the Old Testament “Feast of Weeks” (Exodus 34:22-23) or the “Feast of Harvest” (Exodus 23:16). **The celebration was to take place 50 days after the Passover.**
 - Here in this instance, the Spirit came on the day of Pentecost as a celebration of the “first fruits” (just as the Israelites celebrated the first fruits at the Feast of Harvest) of the full harvest of believers that was yet to come.

“And you also were included in Christ when you heard the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation. When you believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit, who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God’s possession—to the praise of his glory.” (Ephesians 1:13-14)

When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. **Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them.** All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them. (Acts 2:1-4)

- ✓ **Luke first describes a sound** (something he heard) that he says sounded “like” the blowing of a violent wind from heaven that filled the whole house. Perhaps somewhat like what the prophet Ezekiel experienced:

“Then the Spirit lifted me up, and I heard behind me **a loud rumbling sound as the glory of the Lord** rose from the place where it was standing” (Ezekiel 3:12)

- ✓ **Luke then describes a sight** (something he saw) that he describes as tongues of fire. Perhaps somewhat like the experience that Moses had:

“And the Angel of the Lord appeared to him in **a flame of fire** from the midst of a bush. So, he looked, and behold, the bush was burning with fire, but the bush was not consumed.” (Exodus 3:2)

- ✓ Luke’s description of this event is “supernatural” and clearly orchestrated by God

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- ✓ This specific supernatural occurrence that Luke describes as “tongues of fire” coming to rest on each of them has no similar Old Testament record and none of the New Testament writers will describe an event such as this in their future writings.
- ✓ Whatever the “tongues of fire” were, Luke tells us that they came to rest on each of them, so that would mean that no believer in that room was exempt from this experience. It seemed to happen instantaneously and simultaneously to each of them.
- ✓ Perhaps the best conclusion (based on what we read in Acts 2:42-47), is that those 120 individual believers were instantaneously made into “one spiritual body” which is the body of Christ - The Church. This is only the beginning!

Instances in the Old Testament where people were filled with the Spirit

- ✓ “So, you shall speak to all who are gifted artisans, whom I have filled with the spirit of wisdom, that they may make Aaron’s garments, to consecrate him, that he may minister to Me as priest.” (Exodus 28:3)
- ✓ “So, Moses went out and told the people the words of the Lord, and he gathered the seventy men of the elders of the people and placed them around the tabernacle. Then the Lord came down in the cloud, and spoke to him, and took of the Spirit that was upon him, and placed the same upon the seventy elders; and it happened, when the Spirit rested upon them, that they prophesied, although they never did so again.” (Numbers 11:24-25)
- ✓ “When Balaam looked out and saw Israel encamped tribe by tribe, the Spirit of God came on him” (Numbers 24:2)
- ✓ “Now Joshua son of Nun was filled with the spirit of wisdom because Moses had laid his hands on him. So, the Israelites listened to him and did what the Lord had commanded Moses. (Deuteronomy 34:9)

Instances in the Old Testament where people were filled with the Spirit

- ✓ “As Saul turned to leave Samuel, God changed Saul’s heart, and all these signs were fulfilled that day. When he and his servant arrived at Gibeah, a procession of prophets met him; the Spirit of God came powerfully upon him, and he joined in their prophesying. When all those who had formerly known him saw him prophesying with the prophets, they asked each other, “What is this that has happened to the son of Kish? Is Saul also among the prophets?” (I Samuel 10:9-11)
- ✓ “So Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the presence of his brothers, and **from that day on** the Spirit of the Lord came powerfully upon David. Samuel then went to Ramah. (I Samuel 16:13)
- ✓ “Word came to Saul: “David is in Naioth at Ramah”; so he sent men to capture him. But when they saw a group of prophets prophesying, with Samuel standing there as their leader, the Spirit of God came on Saul’s men, and they also prophesied.” (I Samuel 19:19-20)

Instances in the Old Testament where people were filled with the Spirit

- ✓ “As for me, this is my covenant with them,” says the Lord. **“My Spirit, who is on you, will not depart from you,** and my words that I have put in your mouth will always be on your lips, on the lips of your children and on the lips of their descendants—from this time on and forever,” says the Lord.” (Isaiah 59:21)
- ✓ “He said to me, “Son of man, stand up on your feet and I will speak to you.” **As he spoke, the Spirit came into me and raised me to my feet,** and I heard him speaking to me. He said: “Son of man, I am sending you to the Israelites, to a rebellious nation that has rebelled against me; they and their ancestors have been in revolt against me to this very day. The people to whom I am sending you are obstinate and stubborn. Say to them, ‘This is what the Sovereign Lord says.’ And whether they listen or fail to listen—for they are a rebellious people—**they will know that a prophet has been among them.**” Ezekiel 2:1-5)
- ✓ “So, Daniel was brought before the king, and the king said to him, “Are you Daniel, one of the exiles my father the king brought from Judah? **I have heard that the spirit of the gods is in you** and that you have insight, intelligence and outstanding wisdom” (Daniel 5:13-14)

Instances in the Gospel's where people were filled with the Spirit

- ✓ “Then an angel of the Lord appeared to him, standing at the right side of the altar of incense. When Zechariah saw him, he was startled and was gripped with fear. But the angel said to him: “Do not be afraid, Zechariah; your prayer has been heard. Your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you are to call him John. He will be a joy and delight to you, and many will rejoice because of his birth, for he will be great in the sight of the Lord. He is never to take wine or other fermented drink, and he will be filled with the Holy Spirit even before he is born. (Luke 1:11-15)
- ✓ “At that time Mary got ready and hurried to a town in the hill country of Judea, where she entered Zechariah’s home and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary’s greeting, the baby leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit.” (Luke 1:39-41)
- ✓ “Everyone who heard this wondered about it, asking, “What then is this child going to be?” For the Lord’s hand was with him. His father Zechariah was filled with the Holy Spirit and prophesied” (Luke 1:66-67)

Instances in the Gospel's where people were filled with the Spirit

“Now there was a man in Jerusalem called Simeon, who was righteous and devout. He was waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was on him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not die before he had seen the Lord’s Messiah. Moved by the Spirit, he went into the temple courts. When the parents brought in the child Jesus to do for him what the custom of the Law required, Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying: “Sovereign Lord, as you have promised, you may now dismiss your servant in peace. For my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the sight of all nations: a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and the glory of your people Israel.” (Luke 2:25-32)

When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. **All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them.** (Acts 2:1-4)

- ✓ This “Coming of the Holy Spirit” in which He rested upon (filled) each person in the room that day, **was marked by this external evidence of speaking in other tongues** (other known languages – Acts 2:5-12) as the Spirit enabled them.
- ✓ This external supernatural occurrence was evidenced by an internal manifestation of the Holy Spirit that allowed these Galileans to speak and yet being understood by others in their own language.
- ✓ Although there will be other recorded instances, as well as teachings and admonitions on the topic of the gift of tongues, there is no biblical record of speaking in tongues (as described here) prior to this day (Pentecost). **This was a unique sign** brought by the Holy Spirit that is best interpreted to show evidence of the beginning of the church.

Now there were staying in Jerusalem God-fearing Jews from every nation under heaven.

When they heard this sound, a crowd came together in bewilderment, because each one heard their own language being spoken. Utterly amazed, they asked: “Aren’t all these who are speaking Galileans? (Acts 2:5-7)

- ✓ The timing of this event would fall sometime in May of 33 A.D.
- ✓ By this time the Roman Empire controlled Jerusalem and the entire region of what we refer to as the Holy Land, and most of the known Western regions along with the Near East.
- ✓ Also, by this time – large groups of Jews had migrated to other parts of the known world, much of it under the control of Rome. Some of them (labeled as God-fearing) found themselves in Jerusalem to celebrate their required feasts where they would make sacrifice and bring offerings.



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- ✓ These Jews must have been in close proximity to the room where the disciples and others had gathered because Luke tells us that they heard the sound of the strong wind.
- ✓ Luke wasn’t an eyewitness to the event (remember that he is only reporting what his investigations had revealed), but he mentions that a crowd had gathered.
- ✓ At some point the apostles (and possibly other believers) began to speak. Perhaps they were preaching or prophesying (Acts 2:17-21). Luke doesn’t tell us exactly what they were speaking about but based on the balance of Acts 2, they were probably preaching about Jesus and the wonders of the kingdom of God. The Holy Spirit was clearly at work.
- ✓ Those believers who were speaking were Galileans and yet these others (God fearing Jews) from other regions of the Roman Empire could understand in their own tongue.

“Then how is it that each of us hears them in our native language? Parthians, Medes and Elamites; residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya near Cyrene; visitors from Rome (both Jews and converts to Judaism); Cretans and Arabs—we hear them declaring the wonders of God in our own tongues!” Amazed and perplexed, they asked one another, “What does this mean?” Some, however, made fun of them and said, “They have had too much wine.” (Acts 2:8-13)

- ✓ This is a substantial list of “different” people groups with different languages
 - Parthian Empire (modern-day Iran)
 - Mesopotamia (modern-day Iraq)
 - Judea (The land of the Israelites, Hebrews and Jews)
 - Asia Minor (Anatolia or modern-day Turkey)
 - Egypt & Libya
 - Rome itself
 - Cretans (island of Crete), Arabs converts to Judaism who lived south of Damascus

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- ✓ Although these “pilgrims from other regions” couldn’t comprehend how this was possible, Peter will eventually help clear things up, but not before some of them try to pass this off as less than the miracle that it was.
- ✓ There is no other explanation other than this was nothing but a miracle and based on how the chapter closes (Acts 2:36-47), many of these “God fearing Jews” will fully embrace the message about the Gospel (good news of salvation) that Peter will preach and join this band of Christ followers.

**“Then Peter stood up with the Eleven, raised his voice and addressed the crowd:
“Fellow Jews and all of you who live in Jerusalem, let me explain this to you; listen carefully to what I say. These people are not drunk, as you suppose. It’s only nine in the morning!” (Acts 2:14-15)**

- ✓ Although Peter takes the lead on responding to those who doubted the miracle, the other eleven apostles agreed with his words for they offered nothing to the contrary. This would add credibility and authority to the message Peter would so boldly declare to not only those Jews who travelled from afar, but also to those present who made their home in Jerusalem.
- ✓ Peter will raise his voice and declare to the hearers that they are not in fact drunk but filled with the Spirit. Peter refutes the charge of drunkenness as being ridiculous for in those days not even drunkards start drinking that early which he identified as 9:00 am (the third hour).
- ✓ *“Be ready to always give an answer/defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is on you with meekness and fear”.* (1 Peter 3:15)

Peter makes the connection to what transpired at Pentecost to what the Prophet Joel spoke of.

“No, this is what was spoken by the prophet Joel: “In the last days, God says, I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your young men will see visions, your old men will dream dreams. Even on my servants, both men and women, I will pour out my Spirit in those days, and they will prophesy. I will show wonders in the heavens above and signs on the earth below, blood and fire and billows of smoke. The sun will be turned to darkness and the moon to blood before the coming of the great and glorious day of the Lord. And everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved” (Acts 2:16-21)

“And afterward, I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your old men will dream dreams, your young men will see visions. Even on my servants, both men and women, I will pour out my Spirit in those days. I will show wonders in the heavens and on the earth, blood and fire and billows of smoke. The sun will be turned to darkness and the moon to blood before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the Lord. And everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved; for on Mount Zion and in Jerusalem there will be deliverance, as the Lord has said, even among the survivors whom the Lord calls. (Joel 2:28-32)

“No, this is what was spoken by the prophet Joel: “In the last days, God says, I will pour out my Spirit on all people” (Acts 2:16)

- ✓ Peter’s quotation from the Prophet Joel is interesting and probably was an inspirational prompting of the Holy Spirit. The Old Testament scriptures were not readily available to this fisherman from Galilee.
- ✓ Christ’s coming to earth (His birth) ushered in the “beginning of the last days”, and the last days include all the events in Acts, other New Testament writings, and the entire church age until Christ returns (Hebrews 1:1-4, I John 2:18, I Peter 1:20, Hebrews 9:26)
- ✓ At Pentecost, God poured out his Spirit on the 120 believers who gathered in that room in Jerusalem. Although we aren’t told the specifics of what transpired (Luke was not an eyewitness), they spoke of the “wonders of God” and their words were understood by the other devout Jews which was orchestrated by the Holy Spirit.
- ✓ Scriptures teach that the Spirit indwells all believers. In addition, miracles, prophecy and God’s wonders were present throughout the New Testament and the church age.

“Fellow Israelites, listen to this: Jesus of Nazareth was a man accredited by God to you by miracles, wonders and signs, which God did among you through him, as you yourselves know. This man was handed over to you by God’s deliberate plan and foreknowledge; and you, with the help of wicked men, put him to death by nailing him to the cross. But God raised him from the dead, freeing him from the agony of death, because it was impossible for death to keep its hold on him” (Acts 2:22-24)

- ✓ Peter is now addressing who he refers to as “Fellow Israelites”:
 - This probably still included the “God Fearing Jews” who witnessed the miracle in which they heard these Galileans speak but understood what they said in their own language.
 - This most likely also included others who lived in Jerusalem (Jews and Gentiles) and may well have been addressed to those who witnessed or participated in the sham trial and crucifixion of Jesus.
- ✓ Peter knew exactly who he was preaching to and his message was compelling

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- ✓ Things were much different back in the days of the early church
 - There was no internet, no phones, no television, no printing press
 - When events took place, it was primarily communicated in oral (spoken) fashion unless you had the luxury of writing utensils and papyrus (their version of paper)
- ✓ Peter preached a sermon to those who listened and it was later recorded for us by Luke when he penned the Book of Acts (sometime in the early to mid 60’s A.D.). To the best of our knowledge, Luke was not an eyewitness to this sermon by Peter. Luke will later become a travelling companion of the Apostle Paul. (Acts 16)

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- ✓ The key thing to note here is the claim by Peter is that Jesus was a real person and those in the audience would have been aware of that as fact.
- ✓ During the early days of Jesus’ ministry, Nicodemus (who later became a follower of Jesus) recognized his authenticity.

“Now there was a Pharisee, a man named Nicodemus who was a member of the Jewish ruling council. He came to Jesus at night and said, “Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God. For no one could perform the signs you are doing if God were not with him” (John 3:1-2)

- ✓ Much of what Jesus did while ministering on the earth was centered on miracles, wonders, and signs, all of which was done with the Father’s approval

“Fellow Israelites, listen to this: Jesus of Nazareth was a man accredited by God to you by miracles, wonders and signs, which God did among you through him, as you yourselves know. **This man was handed over to you by God’s deliberate plan and foreknowledge; and you, with the help of wicked men, put him to death by nailing him to the cross.** But God raised him from the dead, freeing him from the agony of death, because it was impossible for death to keep its hold on him” (Acts 2:22-24)

- ✓ The crucifixion was never in the hands of man, for it was no accident that Jesus was crucified, nor was He the victim of chance or a martyr for some good cause!

“The reason my Father loves me is that I lay down my life—only to take it up again. No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down and authority to take it up again. This command I received from my Father.”
(John 10:17-8)

“Do you refuse to speak to me?” Pilate said. “Don’t you realize I have power either to free you or to crucify you?” Jesus answered, “You would have no power over me if it were not given to you from above. Therefore, the one who handed me over to you is guilty of a greater sin.” (John 19:10-11)

- ✓ It was by design that Jesus was betrayed by Judas and then given up to the Jewish leaders to be handed over to the Romans to be crucified

“Fellow Israelites, listen to this: Jesus of Nazareth was a man accredited by God to you by miracles, wonders and signs, which God did among you through him, as you yourselves know. This man was handed over to you by God’s deliberate plan and foreknowledge; and you, with the help of wicked men, put him to death **by nailing him to the cross. But God raised him from the dead, freeing him from the agony of death, because it was impossible for death to keep its hold on him**” (Acts 2:22-24)

✓ The resurrection is the central theme of Christian Doctrine

“But if it is preached that Christ has been raised from the dead, how can some of you say that there is no resurrection of the dead? **If there is no resurrection of the dead, then not even Christ has been raised.** And **if Christ has not been raised, our preaching is useless and so is your faith.** More than that, we are then found to be false witnesses about God, for we have testified about God that he raised Christ from the dead. **But he did not raise him if in fact the dead are not raised.** For if the dead are not raised, then Christ has not been raised either. **And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins.** Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ are lost. If only for this life we have hope in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied. **But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead,** the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep.”

(I Corinthians 15:12-20)

✓ The resurrection is the greatest proof that Jesus is the Messiah and something that unbelieving mankind can only deny in ignorance. There is no proof to the contrary!

“David said about him:” “I saw the Lord always before me. Because he is at my right hand, I will not be shaken. Therefore, my heart is glad and my tongue rejoices; **my body also will rest in hope**, because **you will not abandon me to the realm of the dead, you will not let your holy one see decay**. You have made known to me the paths of life; **you will fill me with joy in your presence.**” (Acts 2:25-28)

- ✓ Once again Peter receives an inspirational prompting of the Holy Spirit and he quotes a portion of Psalm 16 where King David testifies of God’s promise of eternal life.

“I keep my eyes always on the Lord. With him at my right hand, **I will not be shaken**. Therefore, my heart is glad and my tongue rejoices; my body also will rest secure, because **you will not abandon me to the realm of the dead, nor will you let your faithful one see decay**. You make known to me the path of life; **you will fill me with joy in your presence, with eternal pleasures at your right hand**. (Psalm 16:8-11)

- ✓ The prophetic proof declared in Psalm 16:8-11 in which David speaks of a “future resurrection” or future restoration of his body where he would no longer be separated from God. Peter declares this to be the very resurrection of Christ that is the fulfillment of that hope! (Acts 2:24-31)

“Fellow Israelites, I can tell you confidently that the patriarch David died and was buried, and his tomb is here to this day. But he was a prophet and knew that God had promised him on oath that he would place one of his descendants on his throne. Seeing what was to come, he spoke of the resurrection of the Messiah, that he was not abandoned to the realm of the dead, nor did his body see decay. God has raised this Jesus to life, and we are all witnesses of it. Exalted to the right hand of God, he has received from the Father the promised Holy Spirit and has poured out what you now see and hear. For David did not ascend to heaven, and yet he said, ‘The Lord said to my Lord: “Sit at my right hand until I make your enemies a footstool for your feet” (Acts 2:29-35)

- ✓ Another inspirational prompting of the Holy Spirit in which Peter quotes from Psalm 110, where King David has the utmost confidence and assurance that although he himself will die and be buried, that is not the end for him.
- ✓ David (speaking prophetically and based on the promise of God) knew that a future descendant would come (Jesus was born from the lineage of David), conquer death by raising from the dead, ascend to the right hand of the Father and reign for all eternity!

“Therefore, let all Israel be assured of this: God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Messiah.” When the people heard this, **they were cut to the heart** and said to Peter and the other apostles, **“Brothers, what shall we do”** (Acts 2:36-37)

- ✓ This was the closing argument to Peter’s sermon:
 - Each one of them (all Israel) needed to understand what they did by crucifying Jesus and that their eternal destiny was at stake.
 - Jesus was **Lord** (Yahweh) and **Messiah** (Savior)
 - They could continue to deny Jesus was Lord at their own peril, or they can recognize the overwhelming evidence that Peter presented, along with the irrefutable evidence that Jesus in fact rose from the dead.
- ✓ Those that heard Peter’s sermon were under conviction by the Holy Spirit and faced with the realization that they stood condemned before God! They now had a strong desire to be saved from that wrath and were willing to submit to God’s will.

“Peter replied, “Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off—for all whom the Lord our God will call.” With many other words he warned them; and he pleaded with them, “Save yourselves from this corrupt generation.” Those who accepted his message were baptized, and about three thousand were added to their number that day” (Acts 2:38-41)

- ✓ Repent means to have a change of heart, change your outlook, or reverse the direction of your life. To those who heard this message it was clear that Peter was telling them that the Jesus they rejected was the Jesus they need to accept and embrace.
- ✓ The call to be baptized; is a natural action that follows repentance. The outward action of baptism was a mark that identified the person as a follower of Christ and the cost was often high for such a public confession. It (baptism) was an action that made a “public break” from Judaism and established the person as a follower of Christ....there was no turning back. This action would pretty much eliminate or weed out those conversions that were not genuine.

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- ✓ The promised indwelling of the Holy Spirit is one of the greatest joys for a believer for it confirms that we stand “right” before God! Once a person repents and believes in Christ then the Holy Spirit is given as a gift.

“In Him you also trusted, after you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation; in whom also, having believed, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise, who is the guarantee of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, to the praise of His glory”. (Ephesians 1:13-14 NKJV)

- ✓ Peter knew that what awaited the Jewish community was continued persecution at the hands of the Romans and many would perish. The eventual destruction of the Jewish Temple in A.D. 70 would also claim many Jewish lives. As such he appeals to them to repent NOW! Many did so and the church grew by 3000 souls that very day.

“They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles. All the believers were together and had everything in common. They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need.” (Acts 2:42-45)

- ✓ They were committed to the apostles teaching which shows a purpose for their gathering together.
- ✓ Another function that the early church followed was they fellowshiped together. The purpose of that fellowship was to motivate and stimulate one another toward a life of holiness and faithfulness. It is a partnership in which we are committed to one another with the purpose of sharing the joy of serving Christ.
- ✓ Another function of the church was to break bread together (communion) in the same manner that Jesus taught then at the Lord’s Supper. (Matthew 26:26-30)
- ✓ The early disciples relentlessly pursued this method of communication with God (prayer) for they no longer had the luxury of seeing Jesus face to face. (John 14:13-14)

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- ✓ These new Christ followers were filled with a sense of “awe” which is best defined as an attitude of reverence in which a person senses that God is present! the basic idea is that our spiritual lives are severely impacted when we operate our lives in reverent fear of a Holy God.
- ✓ They recognized that the miracles, wonders, and signs performed by the apostles were from God and those things solidified in their minds that what was transpiring before their eyes was ordained by God.....thus they continued to be obedient to what was being taught by the apostles.
- ✓ They were unified which was evidenced by the fact that those who believed were of one accord and helped meet the needs of their fellow brethren.

“Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved” (Acts 2:46-47)

- ✓ They continued meeting together in the temple courts of Jerusalem which was their right to do so. They moved about the community in which they lived, and other people (unbelievers) were able to witness their testimony of a changed or transformed life.
- ✓ Their desire to live in unity provided a different model than that of the Pharisees and Sadducees who were always at odds with one another. This is a good lesson for us to always strive toward unity for the world has enough strife of its own.

“My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, **that all of them may be one**, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me. I have given them the glory that you gave me, **that they may be one as we are one** - I in them and you in me so that they may be **brought to complete unity. Then the world will know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me.** (John 17:20-23)