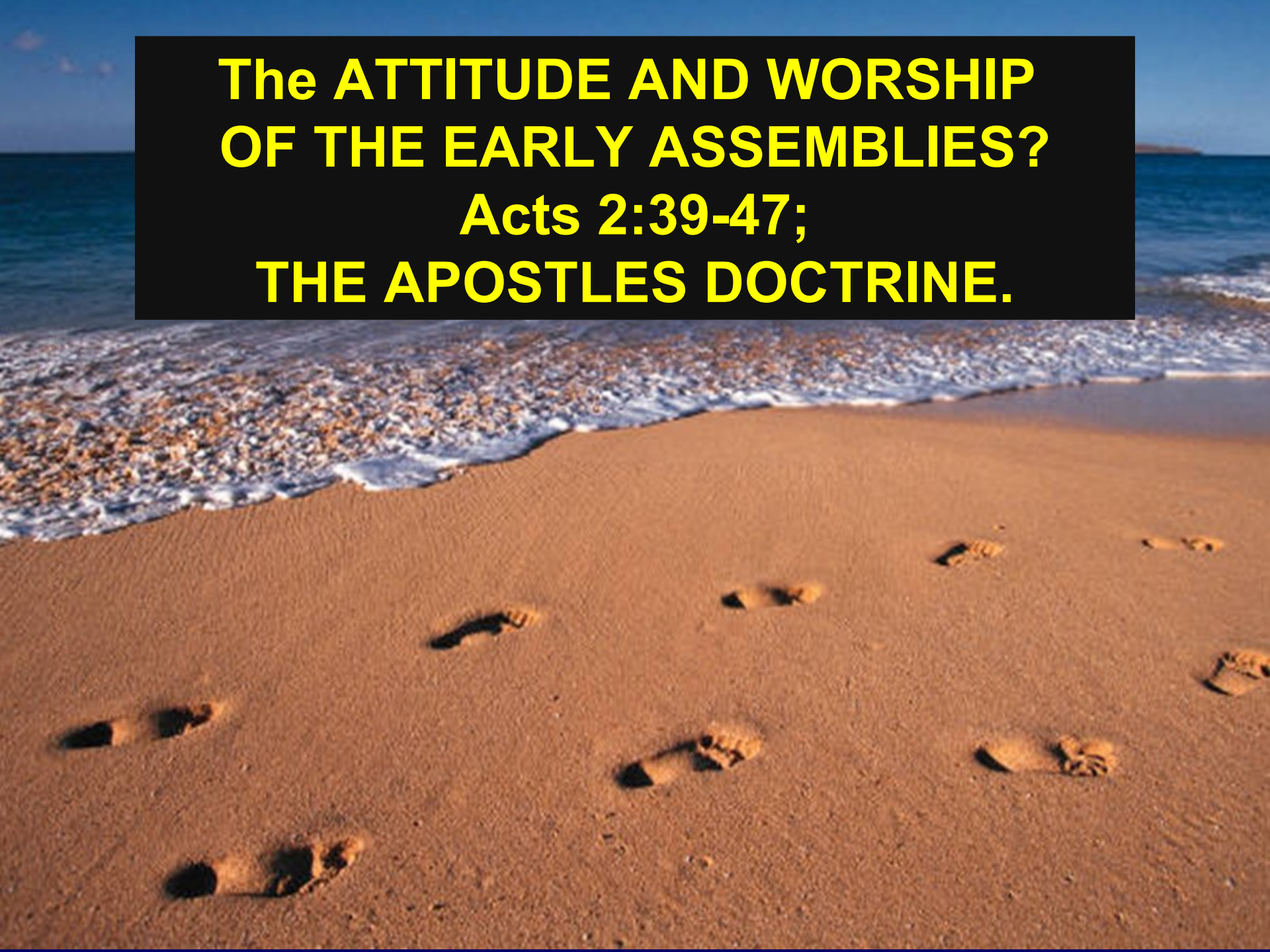


**The ATTITUDE AND WORSHIP
OF THE EARLY ASSEMBLIES?
Acts 2:39-47;
THE APOSTLES DOCTRINE.**



**In THE LAST FEW WEEKS WE HAVE LOOKED
AT HOW PEOPLE BECAME CHRISTIANS
AND THAT THE ASSEMBLY IS A FAMILY.**

**We saw that 3000 people responded
TO THE GOSPEL MESSAGE
OF GODS GRACE by:-**

**HEARING, BELIEVING, REPENTING,
CONFESSING, AND BEING BAPTISED.**

**AS A RESULT OF THEIR RESPONSE
THEY ACCESSED THE GRACE OF GOD
THROUGH THE BLOOD OF JESUS AND RECEIVED
THE FORGIVENESS OF THEIR SINS
AND THE GIFT OF THE INDWELLING HOLY SPIRIT.**

WORSHIP:- THE APOSTLES TEACHING. Acts 2:42;

Up to this point we have studied passages of scripture that tell how **much God loves us** and how **He sent His son as a perfect sacrifice for our sins.**

The scriptures also revealed how God would have us respond to the precious **gift of His grace** offered to us through Jesus Christ.

When we by faith surrender our life to Him in baptism, He forgives our sins, and His Spirit is given as a guarantee of our eternal inheritance.



**GOD
LOVES YOU.**

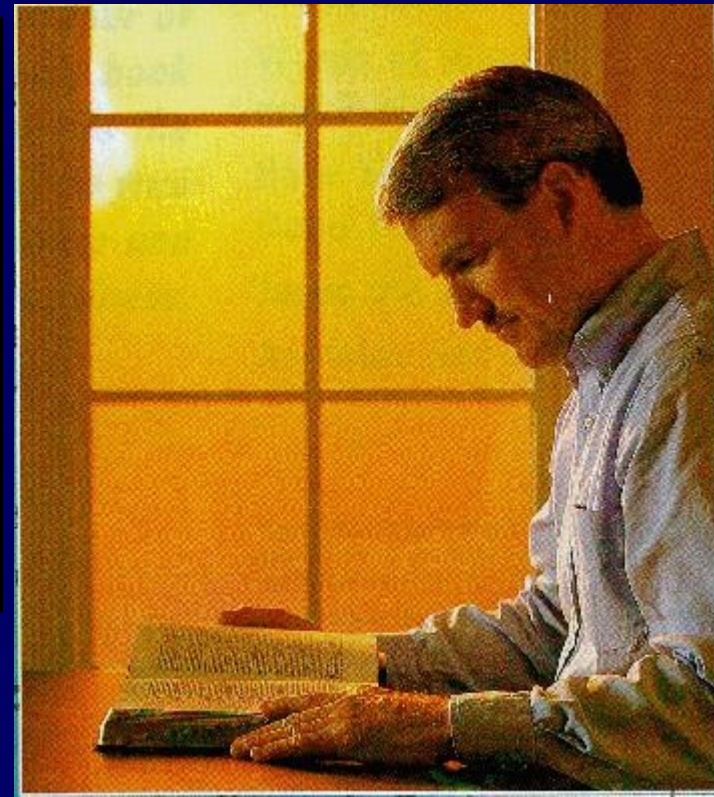
This Is Just The Beginning Of An Amazing Journey.

WORSHIP:- THE APOSTLES TEACHING. Acts 2:42;

Remaining Faithful To God!

**As important as this initial response
of obedient faith is:-**

**It is just as important
to remain faithful to God,
growing in our faith
and becoming more
like Him everyday.**



WORSHIP:- THE APOSTLES TEACHING. Acts 2:42;

Remaining faithful to our commitment.

Our changed life and being faithful to our commitment will bring glory and honour to Him.

This lesson will help us focus on the need for, and the way to, faithfulness.



Satan Will Try To Reclaim Us!

**When we decide to follow Jesus,
Satan is going to try to get us back.**

**Being faithful to our new
relationship will not always be easy,
but it is very necessary.**

**(Rev. 2:10;) “Do not be afraid of
what you are about to suffer. I tell you,
the devil will put some of you
in prison to test you, and you
will suffer persecution for ten days.**

**Be faithful, even to the point of death,
and I will give you the crown of life”.**



WORSHIP:- A Recipe For Faithfulness! Acts 2:42;

See Acts 2:42; As a Recipe For Faithfulness

All of the things stated in the verse
are very important. **If you leave out
an ingredient** when baking something,
The end result is not what was desired.

The disciples **devoted themselves**
to some necessary activities
that spiritually fed them and
strengthened their faithfulness.

“They devoted themselves
to the apostles’ teaching
and to the fellowship,
to the breaking of bread
and to the prayers.” (Acts 2:42;)



WORSHIP:- THE APOSTLES TEACHING. Acts 2:42;
After becoming Christians we see
Some things which dominated their lives
and should dominate ours.

WE need to sit at the feet
of the congregations teachers and learn.

WE need to be around other Christians
as much as we can, not just on Sundays.

We need to come together
with other saints to partake
of the Lord's Supper every week.

WORSHIP:- THE APOSTLES TEACHING. Acts 2:42;

We need to be praying.

We need learn to give.

WORSHIP:- THE APOSTLES TEACHING. Acts 2:42;

41. “Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls.”

42. “And they **continued steadfastly** in the **apostles' doctrine** and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in the prayers”

**And they
CONTINUED STEADFASTLY?
IN THE APOSTLES TEACHING?**

WORSHIP:- THE APOSTLES TEACHING. Acts 2:42;

The Apostles teaching is something that should be important to us!

As recorded in John chapters 14-16, Jesus told the apostles the night before His crucifixion that He must go back to heaven and send the Holy Spirit.

The Holy Spirit was to teach them all truth and remind them of all that Jesus had said.

When we read what the apostles were inspired by the Holy Spirit to write, We are looking at the truth.

WORSHIP:- THE APOSTLES TEACHING. Acts 2:42;

When the three thousand were baptized on the day of Pentecost, **they knew their sins were forgiven, but they needed to learn the teachings of the new kingdom, church, family.**

Therefore, **the apostles taught them** the things that had been **revealed to them** by the Holy Spirit.

Whether they spoke or wrote through inspiration, **their words were Truth, the Word of God.** (1 Thess 2:13;) Like the Bereans, **we should search the Scriptures daily to make sure that we are being taught the Truth.**

(Acts 17:11;)

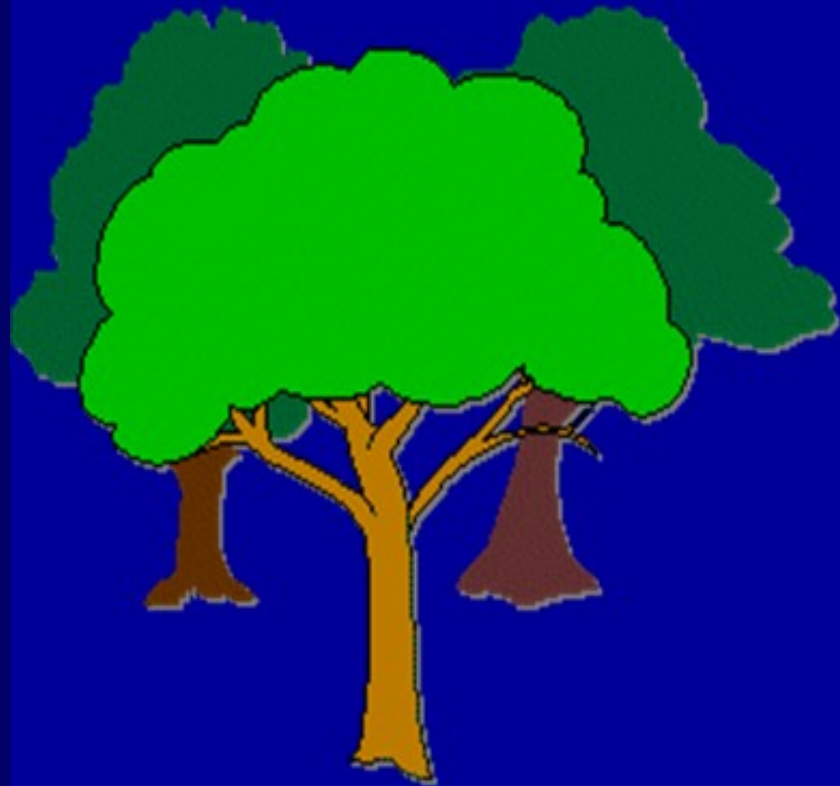


WORSHIP:- THE APOSTLES TEACHING. Acts 2:42;

Like A Healthy Tree?

**The first psalm mentions
how a tree gains nourishment.**

**Like a healthy tree,
we must put
our roots down
deep into
the word of God
in order to grow.**



WORSHIP:- THE APOSTLES TEACHING. Acts 2:42;

New Christians or babies in Christ, must have proper nourishment or they will die.

“Like newborn babies, crave pure spiritual milk, so that by it **you may grow up in your salvation.”**

1 Peter 2:2;

When you are hungry or thirsty, you crave something. We should have that same **desire for the word of God. By it **we will grow up** in our salvation.**

How Does Faith Come?

Romans 10:17; **Consequently,**

faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word of Christ.

If we listen to what the apostles were inspired to write, **we take in spiritual food** our faith grows.

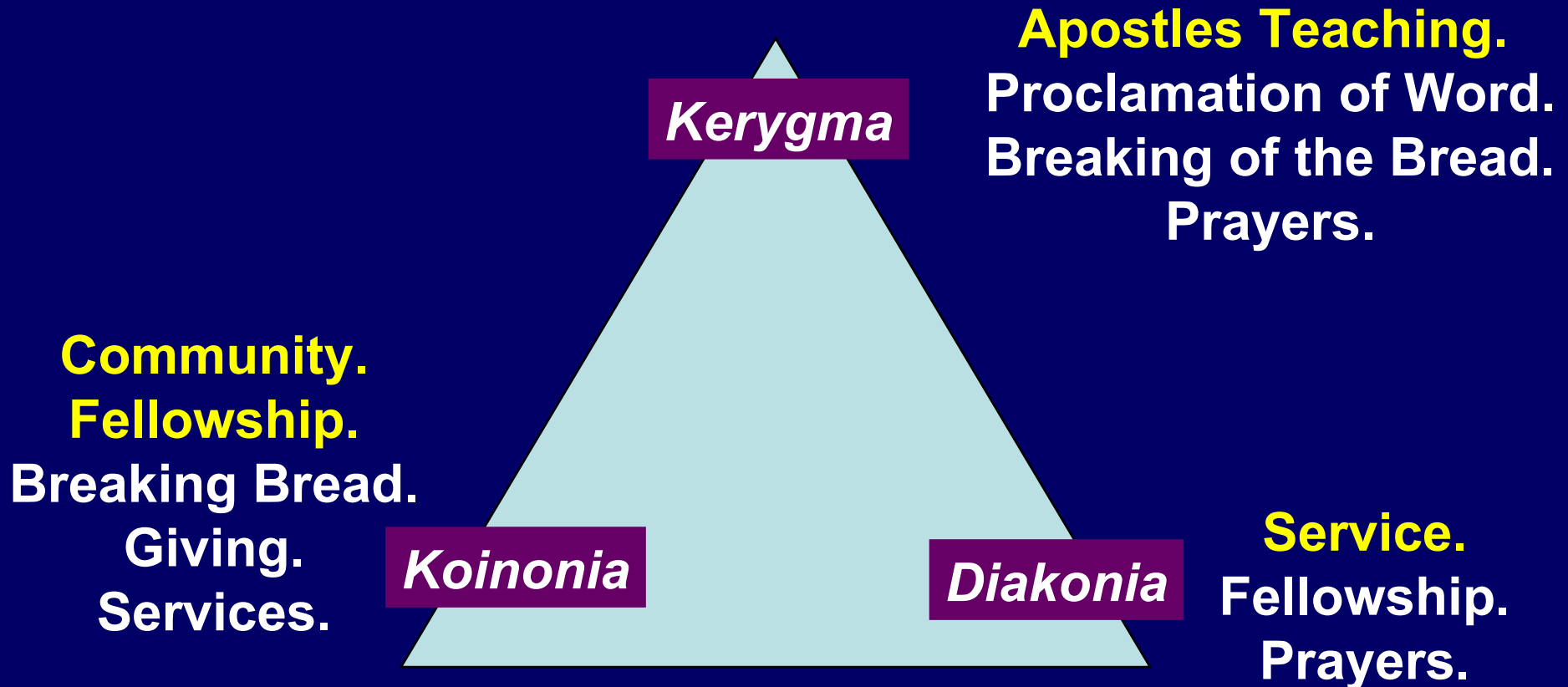
People in the first century spent much time **listening to and understanding what the apostles were teaching.**

God in His infinite wisdom knew we needed these timeless truths for our faith to grow today.

Ecclesia

(Called out, Gathered Community)

An Eclectic body Acts 2 39 - 47;



Ecclesia
(Called out, Gathered Community)
An Eclectic body Acts 2 39 - 47;

**Dedicated
to learning
God's truth**

aching
of Word
e Bread

Community
Fellowship
Breaking Bread
Services

Koinonia

Diakonia

Service
Fellowship
Prayers

WORSHIP:- THE APOSTLES TEACHING. Acts 2:42;

He's Given Us All We Need!

2 Peter 1:3; *“His divine power has given us everything we need for life and godliness through our knowledge of Him who called us by His own glory and goodness.”*

God has given us everything we need to become what He wants us to be.

It is through the word that we gain knowledge of Him.

Jesus told the apostles that he would guide them into all truth. All + Zero = All

WORSHIP:- THE APOSTLES TEACHING. Acts 2:42;

**4. “Children, you are from God
and have overcome them,
because He who is in you
is greater than he who is in the world.”**

**5. “They are from the world, and
therefore the world inspires what they say,
and listens to them.”**

**6. “We are from God;
whoever recognises God listens to us;
anyone who is not from God refuses to listen to us.
This is how we can distinguish
the spirit of truth from the spirit of falsehood.”**

WORSHIP:- THE APOSTLES TEACHING. Acts 2:42;

The **NORM** or **STANDARD** by which the assembly **WAS GOVERNED** was always the same **APOSTOLIC AUTHORITY**.

The **APOSTLES** were **GUIDED** into **ALL TRUTH!**
(John 16:13;) They wrote and spoke **the commandment of the Lord**. (1 Corinthians 14:37;)

Even an angel from heaven, were he permitted to preach, **COULD ADD NOTHING** to the **TESTIMONY** of the **APOSTLES**. (Gal 1:8;)
To **THEM** had been granted **ALL THINGS** that **pertain unto life and godliness**. (2 Peter 1:3; 1John 4:1-6;)

WORSHIP:- THE APOSTLES TEACHING. Acts 2:42;

We need **nothing more
than what the apostles, inspired
by the Holy Spirit, wrote and taught.**

**No wonder these early disciples
devoted themselves to studying
what the apostles taught!**



WORSHIP:- THE APOSTLES TEACHING. Acts 2:42;

**God's truth is
LIFE TRANSFORMING
WHEN God's PERSPECTIVE
begins to replace OURS.**

INNER PEACE

WORSHIP:- THE APOSTLES TEACHING. Acts 2:42;

42 “And they were continually devoting themselves to the apostles’ teaching

and to FELLOWSHIP, to

the breaking of the bread and to the prayers.”

**43 “And everyone kept feeling a sense of awe;
and many wonders and signs
were taking place through the apostles.”**

WORSHIP:- THE APOSTLES TEACHING. Acts 2:42;

Relational

Hearing God's word, meeting together and having fellowship, breaking the bread together,

Sharing our resources with those in need, are all acts of worship that we must continue in!

We want to please God and maintain our steadfastness / faithfulness.

WORSHIP:- THE APOSTLES TEACHING. Acts 2:42;

A Christian enjoys a special relationship with God.

**Having been added to the body of Christ
through the blood of Christ at our baptism,
each member becomes part of a large family,
the assembly, the Kingdom of God.**

**Everyone who has obeyed the gospel is
part of that spiritual family, for whom Christ died.**

**As individuals, each of us can worship God
when we are alone, all by ourselves.**

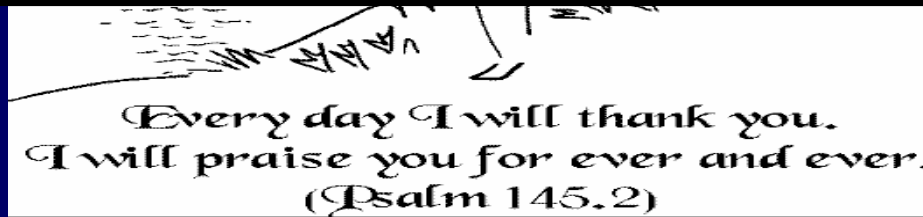
**We can also worship Him together as a family
at home. We are free to sing praises
and offer up prayers to Him any time of the day,
any day of the week.**

WORSHIP:- THE APOSTLES TEACHING. Acts 2:42;

But God has set aside **the first day of the week** (Sunday) the Lord's day as the time for **the assembly** as **a family** to meet together.

In fact, it was the first day of the week when the gospel was proclaimed for the first time and 3,000 souls were baptized for the forgiveness of their sins and were added to the assembly. (Acts 2:38-47;)

From that day over two thousand years ago until now Christians have met upon the first day of the week to remember Jesus' death on the cross for our sins, to study God's word, to pray, to give part of their money or goods back to God, and to sing Praises to God.



WORSHIP:- THE APOSTLES TEACHING. Acts 2:42;

John 4:23-24; Jesus declared: *"Yet a time is coming and has now come when the true worshippers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for they are the kind of worshippers the Father seeks. God is spirit, and his worshippers must worship in spirit and in truth."*

A disciple is to worship God!

Worship is what you are doing when your heart and mind are **centred on living like Jesus.**

It must be **from the heart with emotion and spirit and **in accord with the truth revealed in God's word.****

His family, the called out, Live to adore Him.

WORSHIP:- THE APOSTLES TEACHING. Acts 2:42;

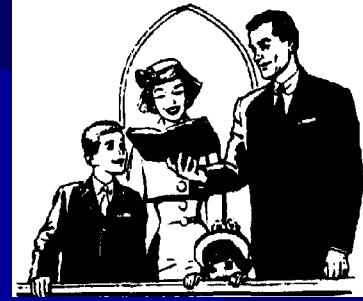
Our lives need to be **Christ centered lives.**

The Holy Spirit through **the word** focuses our attention **on Christ** which enables and empowers us to live a life of obedience to Him.

The assembly is the body of people who have been "**called out**" to worship and serve God. **God is worthy of our worship, not only because our salvation in Christ, but also because of who He is.**

Through the **HOLY SPIRIT** and **GODS WORD:-**
-WORSHIP ought to build us up in the **VERTICAL** relationship with Christ so that **He can live through us** to reach others through **FELLOWSHIP AND WITNESSING.**

WHAT IS WORSHIP? Acts 2:42; Two words translated “worship”



in the New Testament may help
in understanding the meaning of the term.

The First , **proskumeo** (Comes from **pros**, Toward;
and **kuneo**, To Kiss), Means “To Make
Obeisance, Do Reverence To.” (W.E. Vine).

This word is the most frequently used word
for “**worship**” in the new testament.

Worship is an internal act from the heart and
not an act of ritual or mindless rote performance.

The **assembly** of individual worshippers
on Sunday morning should be a time,
but not the only time, when this takes place.

WHAT IS WORSHIP? Acts 2:42;

The Second word for “Worship” Is latruiuo.
It Means “To Serve, To Render Religious Service
or Homage.” (W.E. Vine).

**Worship or praise is given to God by
a life of service.** In daily living you can serve
and worship God by serving others.

Worship is **not confined** to a praise or worship time
in a church building, but is something
that should take place **twenty-four
hours A day, seven days A week.**

Jesus used **both words** in his response
to Satan while being tempted
in the wilderness. (Matthew 4:10;)



WHAT IS WORSHIP? Acts 2:42;

The word **worship** comes from an old English word indicating **WORTH SHIP** we must think that what we worship must be worth something.

If we think that **who we worship** is **worth** something it ought to then be reflected **in how** we worship.

God is worthy Rev 19:9-10;

9. "And the angel said, "Write this:-
Blessed are those who are invited to the wedding feast of the Lamb." And he added,
"These are **true words** that come from God."

WHAT IS WORSHIP? Acts 2:42;

10.“Then I fell down at his feet to worship him, but he said, “No, don't worship me. For I am a servant of God, just like you and other brothers and sisters who testify of their faith in Jesus.

Worship God. for the essence of prophecy is to **give a clear witness for Jesus.**” Rev 19:10;

The lamb Rev 5:13-14; “And then I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and in the sea.

They also sang: “Blessing and honour and glory and power belong to the one sitting on the throne and to the Lamb forever and ever.”

14. And the four living beings said, “Amen!”
And the twenty-four elders fell down and worshipped God and the Lamb.”

WHAT IS WORSHIP? Acts 2:42;

The word Worship is also closely linked with the word **SERVICE**, and carries with it the idea of serving a master. Thus we can worship God in our every day lives by offering service to Him.

Washing dishes can be in this sense worship, washing dishes, or our daily job or school work, or helping others.

What ever we do in word or act or deed can be an indication of **our attitude and worship towards God.**

If done because we are God's and **we want to offer our best to Him,** then **our whole life** can be seen as worship.

WHAT IS WORSHIP? Acts 2:42;

**Rom 12:1-2; - WHY DO YOU LIVE THIS WAY –
because I want to please and glorify God.**

**That ought to be our attitude and
it will be reflected in our actions.**

**Normally we think of worship as something
we do when we meet together, this may be special
but it is only part of worship.**

GOD NEEDS TO BE THE OBJECT of OUR worship.
**Worship is offered to the praise and Glory of God,
through the Spirit for the building up
of the assembly and one another.**

WHAT IS WORSHIP? Acts 2:42;

The order is important, worship needs to be **God centred**. God centred worship means that we recognise what God wants and we strive to give God that which He asks for, **acceptable worship**.

If we worship for what we "get out of it" we worship for the **wrong reason**. It is our **giving of ourselves and our abilities to God**.

HOW ARE WE TO WORSHIP.

It is important for us to understand **HOW God wants us to worship Him**, for God does not accept worship that is not authorized by Him.

WHAT IS WORSHIP? Acts 2:42;

Both **Praise** and **Service** to others
are expressions of worship
described in Hebrews 13:15-16;

The **words spoken** by believers
in songs and prayers,
as well as **acts of service** to others,
are praise to Him.



WHAT IS WORSHIP? Acts 2:42;

It is very clear from scripture that God sent His son **to save souls** and **establish one body of believers.**

His eternal plan for His disciples was that **love and unity** would exist, **not division and separation.**

(Ephesians 4:1-6; John 17:20-23; 1 Corinthians 1:10; 4:17;)



WHAT IS WORSHIP? Acts 2:42;

It is possible to worship God **“in vain,”**
not acceptable to Him. **“And so,**
by your own tradition, you nullify the
direct commandment of God.” Matt 15:6-9;

7. “You hypocrites! Isaiah was prophesying about you when he said, 8. **'These people honour me with their lips, but their hearts are far away.**
9. Their worship is a farce, **for they replace God's commands with their own man-made teachings.”**

WORSHIP:- THE APOSTLES TEACHING. Acts 2:42;

LEVITICUS 10:1-2; - God's reaction to unauthorised worship? The Sin of Nadab and Abihu.

1. “Aaron's sons Nadab and Abihu put coals of fire in their incense burners and sprinkled incense over it. In this way, **they disobeyed** the Lord by burning before Him a **different kind of fire** than He had **commanded.**”

2. So fire blazed forth from the Lord's presence and burned them up, and **they died** there before the Lord.

WORSHIP:- THE APOSTLES TEACHING. Acts 2:42;

THE NATURE OF TRUE WORSHIP. (Joshua 24:14;)

"Now therefore, fear the Lord, serve Him in sincerity and in truth, and put away the gods which your fathers served on the other side of the River and in Egypt. Serve the Lord."

**"Only fear the Lord, and serve Him in truth with all your heart; for consider what great things He has done for you."
1Sam 12:24).**

**"But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshippers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for the Father is seeking such to worship Him. God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth."
(John 4:23-24).**

WORSHIP:- THE APOSTLES TEACHING. Acts 2:42;

**“And whatever you do in word or deed,
do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks
to God the Father through Him.” (Colossians 3:17;)**

The first three Bible passages quoted are all very similar to each other. **All three** use the word **truth**. **Worship**, if it is to be correct, **must be according to truth**. We must do those things (and only those things) that God has commanded.
The fourth verse cited also makes this point.

**Whatever we do in deed (including worship)
and whatever we do in word (teach) must be
in the name of Jesus, which means by His authority.**

**If God does not authorize the worship
we give Him, then it is not true worship.**



WORSHIP:- THE APOSTLES TEACHING. Acts 2:42;

Genuine worship must also be:-

"with all your heart" or "in sincerity" or "in spirit."

Worship that is without love cannot be offered to Almighty God. He would be insulted just as He was by those of old who offered Him their worship but said, "Oh, what a weariness." (Malachi 1:13;)

A man named Jeroboam changed the way

God said to worship. (1 Kings 12:25-33;)

**This decision caused him and the people to sin
"a great sin" (2 Kings 17:21;)**

**No one has the right to add to what God has commanded for worship; no one has the right to take anything away.
We must be content to worship as God has commanded us.**

WORSHIP:- THE APOSTLES TEACHING. Acts 2:42;

So TRUE WORSHIP is three-fold.

1. JOHN 4:24; I CORINTHIANS 14:15;

(a) "In spirit" - For worship to be acceptable it must be done with **the right attitude of mind**, worship must be **from the heart with sincere dedication.**

(b) "In truth" - Worship must also be according to the instructions given in God's word.

We must worship God in the correct way,
**we are not free to worship God
in any way or form that we like,**
but must worship according to His instructions.

c) It must be from the heart - a willing response out of **gratitude and appreciation** for what God has done for us **in Christ**, we give **OUR PRAISE, OUR ADORATION AND OUR THANKS TO GLORIFY AND MAGNIFY GOD.**

No one should be forced to worship.

WORSHIP:- THE APOSTLES TEACHING. Acts 2:42;

WHO ARE YOU DEPENDING ON

to give you a spiritual boost?

The preacher - who is he depending on - **YOU** –
WE BOTH OUGHT TO BE IN TUNE WITH GOD
AND THEN WE WILL BOOST ONE ANOTHER.

Going to get all excited going to tell every body
that Jesus Christ is King. WHY?
BECAUSE HE IS KING IN MY LIFE!

THERE'S THE MOTIVATION- WHY WORSHIP?
BECAUSE HE IS KING AND
HE SAVED ME BY HIS GRACE.
THERE'S THE MOTIVATION.

WORSHIP:- THE APOSTLES TEACHING. Acts 2:42;

Although Worship is God centred, it ought to have spiritual benefits for those worshipping.

**It may certainly be a emotional, soul stirring experience, but like happiness the uplift does not come from “looking for it”
But from being in a right relationship with God.**

Our Happiness ought not to be dependant on an external source so with worship when you come to worship together as a family on Sunday morning.

WORSHIP:- THE FELLOWSHIP. Acts 2:42;
Another ingredient in the recipe
for faithfulness is fellowship.
(Acts 2:42;)

Fellowship comes from the Greek word *koinonia*, one meaning is “**lives interwoven together**, interdependent on each other.”

Christians in the first century were
a constant **encouragement** to one another.
The same should be true of Christians today,
that **we build each other up** and **spur each other on.**
(Hebrews 10:23-25;)

WORSHIP:- THE FELLOWSHIP. Acts 2:42;

**As we look for the return of Christ,
we need to be growing stronger, not weaker.**

**We gain this strength from mutually
encouraging each other and from God's word.**

**Christians should hold one another accountable
to the commitment they have made in Christ.**

Hebrews 10:23-25; “*Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful. And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds. Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another, and all the more as you see the Day approaching.*”

WORSHIP:- THE FELLOWSHIP. Acts 2:42;
Heb 3:12-14; See to it, brothers, that none of you
has a sinful, unbelieving heart
that turns away from the living God.

But encourage one another daily,
as long as it is called today, so that none of you
may be hardened by sin's deceitfulness.

We have come to share in Christ if we hold firmly
till the end the confidence we had at first.

Take note of the warning that is given to believers
concerning falling away. Without the encouragement from
other believers, it is possible for us to develop an
unbelieving heart. To prevent this, God knew that we needed
daily encouragement. Faithfulness is necessary
for us to receive our eternal reward.

WORSHIP:- THE FELLOWSHIP. Acts 2:42;
QUESTION - How do you feel about
your attitude to worship on average.

In [the] fellowship
[Gk. term koinonia—the contribution].

THE CONTRIBUTION

First Corinthians 16:1-2a:- “Concerning
the collection for the saints...: on the first day
of [every] week, let each of you lay something aside,
storing up as he may prosper.



WORSHIP:- THE FELLOWSHIP. Acts 2:42;

The Fellowship often refers to the **contribution** because any time the Greek term **koinonia** is found in the NT with the definite article (“**the**”) before it or when it stands alone without any qualifying phrase, it refers to its root meaning = **contribution**.

26. “since Macedonia and Achaia have chosen to make a **generous contribution** to the poor among God's holy people at Jerusalem.” **Rom 15:26;**

2 Corinthians 8:4-5; 9:13; & Hebrews 13:16;)

WORSHIP:- THE FELLOWSHIP. Acts 2:42;

“For you know the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich, yet for your sakes He became poor, that you through His poverty might become rich.” (2 Cor 8:9;)

God loves "a cheerful giver." (2 Cor 9:7;)

One of our privileges as Christians is to give back to God some of what He has blessed us with. Paul commanded brethren to give on the first day of the week as they had been prospered. (1 Cor 16:1-2;)

WORSHIP:- THE FELLOWSHIP. Acts 2:42;

The **meeting together for worship** was also a good occasion for the Christians **to give financially** to the Lord. 1 Cor 16:2;

“Almost every worthwhile work requires money and without it we find ourselves limited in what we can do - God knew that and declared that **each give according to his ability, Purposefully and cheerfully**”
2 Cor 9:7;

When should we give? - A collection should be made on the first day of every week.

THE FELLOWSHIP / STEWARDSHIP. Acts 2:42;

How much should we give? - "In keeping with his income." A good guide line is the example of the Jews who gave a tenth of their income.

Our giving is not in a percentage but as a reflection of how we are prospering, and how much we appreciate Christ's sacrifice.
2 Cor 9:6-7;

How should we give? - We should give **generously and cheerfully** because **we want to give.**
A person will give, who realizes that **all we have comes from God in the first place.**

THE FELLOWSHIP / STEWARDSHIP. Acts 2:42;
Many things may be learned from these verses:-

For saints, not sinners.

A command, not just a gift.

Observed every (Lord's Day) Sunday.

Observed as often as the Lord's supper.

Observed as part of their worship.

Giving is by every prospering Christian.

THE FELLOWSHIP / STEWARDSHIP. Acts 2:42;

**v.7. "Each man should give as he has
Decided in his heart." The implication is
that our giving should be planned in advance.**

**Giving is always on the basis of love
rather than duty and should
not be done reluctantly or under compulsion.**

THE FELLOWSHIP / STEWARDSHIP. 2 Cor 9:5-8;

5. “So I thought I should send these brothers ahead of me to make sure the gift you promised is ready. But I want it to be a willing gift, not one given under pressure.”
6. “Remember this, a farmer who plants only a few seeds will get a small crop. But the one who plants generously will get a generous crop. 7. You must each make up your own mind as to how much you should give. Don't give reluctantly or in response to pressure.
For God loves the person who gives cheerfully.”
8. “And God will generously provide all you need. Then you will always have everything you need and plenty left over to share with others.”

THE FELLOWSHIP / STEWARDSHIP. Acts 2:42;

The word **KOINONIA** is a word which has to do with **giving and receiving**; with communication in giving; with sharing. literally having a share With someone in something, **a joint participation in privileges and responsibilities.**

**IT INCLUDES THE WEEKLY OFFERING OF MONEY,
but also much more.**

**THE PEOPLE OF GOD MUST EVER CONTINUE
IN FELLOWSHIP, PARTICIPATING AND SHARING
FULLY IN THE LIVES, LABOURS,
AND LOSSES ONE OF THE OTHER.**

THE FELLOWSHIP / STEWARDSHIP. Acts 2:42; SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT.

Everything belongs to God.

Luke 16:1-15; 1 Cor 10:26; Acts 4:32;

**1 Cor 10:26; For "the earth is the Lord's,
and everything in it."**

**Acts 4:32; Now the whole group of believers
was one in heart and soul, and nobody
called any of his possessions his own.
Instead, they shared everything they owned.**

What one owns is "his own" in relation to others
**Acts 5:4. "The property was yours to sell or not sell,
as you wished. And after selling it, the money
was yours to give away. How could you do a thing like this?
You weren't lying to us but to God."**
Ultimately ALL belongs to God we are His stewards.

THE FELLOWSHIP / STEWARDSHIP. Acts 2:42;
The New Testament teaches that men
are God's stewards of:-

1) Their lives Matt 16:24-26; "Then Jesus said to the disciples, "If any of you wants to be my follower, you must put aside your selfish ambition, shoulder your cross, and follow me."

2) Their abilities Matt 25:14-30;
The Parable of the Talents.

3) Their time Eph 5:15-16; 15. "So be careful how you live, not as fools but as those who are wise.
16. Make the most of every opportunity for doing good in these evil days.
17. Don't act thoughtlessly, but try to understand what the Lord wants you to do.

4) Their money Luke 16:1-8; The servant.

THE FELLOWSHIP / STEWARDSHIP. Acts 2:42;

A steward must be faithful.

1 Corinthians 4:1; “People should think of us as Christ's servants, stewards entrusted with the mysteries of God.”

1 Pet 4:10-11; “God has given gifts to each of you from His great variety of spiritual gifts. Manage them well so that God's generosity can flow through you.

11. Are you called to be a speaker? Then speak as though God Himself were speaking through you.”

“Are you called to help others? Do it with all the strength and energy that God supplies. Then God will be given glory in everything through Jesus Christ. All glory and power belong to Him forever and ever. Amen.”

THE FELLOWSHIP / STEWARDSHIP. Acts 2:42;

**Man acknowledges God's ownership
by setting aside as an act of worship**

a definite portion of his time and income

Heb 10:22-25; 1 Cor 11:23ff 1 Cor 16:1-4; 2 Cor 9:12-15;

SOME PRINCIPLES OF GIVING.

Give self first 2 Cor 8:5;

Be motivated by Love 1 Cor 13:3;

Give regularly 1 Cor 16:1-2;

Give according to ones income.

1 Cor 16:2.

Consider God's part first.

Matt 6:33; Jm 4:15; Mal 3:7-10;

Give liberally and cheerfully. 2 Cor 9:6;

**THE FELLOWSHIP / STEWARDSHIP. Acts 2:42;
DIFFERENCE in the WAYS WE GIVE
SECULARLY / RELIGIOUSLY.**

TIP method - No rule or purpose,
but a tip is supposed to be at least a tenth.

ENTERTAINMENT METHOD.

When present and if services
are considered suitable.

SPONGE METHOD.

Forced to give under pressure.

TITHE METHOD.

Obligatory upon the Jew.

CHRISTIAN METHOD.

Goes beyond the tithe and cheerfully given.

Matt 23:23; 5:20;

THE FELLOWSHIP / STEWARDSHIP. Acts 2:42;

SOME BLESSINGS PROMISED TO FAITHFUL STEWARD.

- A. Give and it shall be given unto you. Luke 6:38;
- B. More blessed to give than to receive. Acts 20:35;
- C. God is able to make grace abound; this **"GRACE"** refers to material blessings. 2 Cor 9:1-12;

WHY SHOULD A CHRISTIAN GIVE.

The obligation of being a Christian, to follow Christ is to give.

Matt 19:21 2 Cor 9:13;

The teaching of the New Testament. Matt 6:1;

The example of the early Christians. 1 Cor 16:1-2;

Our obligation to the lost of the world.

Rom 15:25-27; 2 Cor 8:1-5;

Obligation of a good steward. everything belongs to God;
What am I doing with the part entrusted to me? 1 Jn 3:17;

THE FELLOWSHIP / STEWARDSHIP. Acts 2:42;

Obligation of the golden rule. Matt 7:12;

Obligation of income or wealth.

The means to do good to all men.

Prov 3:27-28; 2 Cor 8:14;

Obligation to our country. Rom 12:11;

**Challenge of the unfinished task,
"you are the salt of the world." Matt 5:13;**

Obligation to conscience. Jam 4:17;

Because Christ, our example, gave ALL.

Rom 5:15; Jn 3:16;

THE FELLOWSHIP / STEWARDSHIP. Acts 2:44-47;

44 “All the believers were together and had everything in common. 45 Selling their possessions and goods, they gave to anyone as he had need.”

46 “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,”

47 “praising God and enjoying the favour of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.”

A Period of Good Will. Acts 2:44-47;

These first days of the Kingdom / assembly were like a honeymoon. But it would not last long.

Soon the movers and shakers of the Jewish religion that did not accept Jesus as their Messiah began to violently oppose what they saw as a renegade sect of Judaism growing in numbers and power.

But for now **this great multitude from all over the civilized world were staying in Jerusalem and **were united and happy.****

A Period of Good Will. Acts 2:44-47;

Sharing With

One Another

A Period of Good Will. Acts 2:44-45;

THERE WAS ALSO A GREAT COLLECTION!

JOHN WESLEY preaching said.

EARN ALL YOU CAN! Old farmer. AMEN!

SAVE ALL YOU CAN! Another AMEN!

GIVE all you can!

And the old farmer groaned

OH! HE'S GONE AND SPOILED IT!

**These new Christians had come from far and wide
and wanted to stay to hear more, some having
become Christians might have lost their jobs!**

THE FELLOWSHIP / STEWARDSHIP. Acts 2:44-45;

44 “All the believers were together and had everything in common. 45 Selling their possessions and goods, they gave to anyone as he had need.”

**Generous,
Sacrificial**

4:34; “For there was not a needy person among them, for all who were owners of land or houses would sell them and bring the proceeds of the sales,

35 and lay them at the apostles’ feet, and they would be distributed to each as any had need.”

THE FELLOWSHIP / STEWARDSHIP. Acts 2:44-45;

**This was way beyond
normal charitable giving,
becoming a Christian
can involve SACRIFICE!**

**Sacrificial giving is much more
effective than spiritual talk!**

A Period of Good Will. Acts 2:44-47;

The purpose of this collection was TO relieve individuals in need, NOT to distribute property equally. (2:45; 4:35,)

**Each disciple decided voluntarily how much to give.
(2 Cor. 9:7; Acts 5:4;)**

7. “You must each make up your own mind as to how much you should give. Don't give reluctantly or in response to pressure. For God loves the person who gives cheerfully.”

**Christians did not practice
mandatory communal living.**

**People continued to own houses to live in.
(Acts 2:46; 21:8; chap 12:12;)**

A Period of Good Will. Acts 2:44-47;

They Shared Their Blessings! Believers trusted and encouraged each other every day.

**They had all things in common.
They shared their blessings with one another.**

**Their lives were
Interdependent
and interwoven.**

**This is what helped them
remain faithful to the lord.**



INTERWOVEN

A Period of Good Will. Acts 2:44-47;

This special need likely arose because people had come to Jerusalem from all over the world. After being converted, they stayed to be taught before going home. (v 5-11;)

Other Christians went to great lengths to provide for them. Many other verses show that local congregations helped needy members. (Acts 4:32-5:11; 6:1-6; 11:27-30; 2 Corinthians 8:4; 9:1,12;)

A Period of Good Will. Acts 2:44-47;
Congregations received funds to do
their work and meet special needs by taking
collections on the first day of the week.

All members gave generously
according to their prosperity.
See 1 Corinthians 16:1-2; 2 Corinthians 9:6-7;

This CONDUCT was in marked CONTRAST with
the NEGLECT of the poor which was then common
among the Jews, even in violation of their own law,
and which was universal among the Gentiles.

A Period of Good Will. Acts 2:44-47;

**46. “And day by day continuing with one mind”
UNIFIED?**

**Phil 2:2; “make my joy complete by being
of the same mind, maintaining the same love,
united in spirit, intent on one purpose.”**

**To accommodate meetings of thousands
of Christians, the Jerusalem congregation
apparently met in a porch of the temple. (cf. Acts
3:11; 5:12;) However, they ate their meals at home.**

A Period of Good Will. Acts 2:44-47;

The work of the early church involved:-

Worshipping God,

Studying and teaching God's word,

and caring for needy members.

Large groups:-

-Shared -Anonymity-Excitement.

Small groups:-

-Personal-Interactive-Intimate.

These Christians were Authentic and Grateful!

Lk 17:11; The 10 lepers had an Infantile attitude:-

We are often bitter regarding what we don't have

**Not being grateful for what we've been given
is a source of much selfishness & dissatisfaction**

THE FELLOWSHIP / RELATIONSHIP. Acts 2:46; *Koinonia*:- “to have in Common - to share.” Is this weird?

v 46 “Every 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.”

What IS weird:- The way WE are alienated. Spending days and nights often without **MEANINGFULL** human relating!

Living in a sea of people who have **no idea**
What is really **happening in our lives!**

Never having experienced **actual intimacy**
with a **community of people!**

THE FELLOWSHIP / STEWARDSHIP. Acts 2:46;

What IS weird:-

**Feeling like superficial banter means
“being friends” with others!**

**Thinking television, football
or video-based entertainment
can substitute
for deep human relationships!**

THE FELLOWSHIP / STEWARDSHIP. Acts 2:46;

**Our union with God OUGHT
to provide the basis for closer relating.**

But it doesn't happen automatically!

**Because of our preoccupation with selfish needs
we begin to take what God has done for granted.**

**We need focused reflection
on God's nature and works.**

**SEE HOW FREELY GOD HAS GIVEN TO US AND
CONSIDER HOW WE SHOULD RESPOND TO HIM.**

A Period of Good Will. Acts 2:47;

47 praising God, and having favour with all the people.

**Praising God ought to be THOUGHTFUL,
POWERFUL, WORSHIPFUL, JOYFUL
EVEN EXCITING!**

**WE ARE SAVED TO SERVE! We need
to be a blessing to others as LIGHT and SALT!**

Without this:-

We are NOT fulfilling our potential in Christ.

**Being blessed by God
is not an end in itself!**

A Period of Good Will. Acts 2:47;

**The assembly is a SPIRITUAL BODY,
dedicated to the salvation of souls.**

**We need to IMITATE this SPIRITUAL
EMPHASIS in the congregations today.**

**Acts describes the assembly as a living, working
group of people (Acts 5:11; 8:1-3; 11:22,26; etc.)**

**The assembly is not a physical building
or an institution - it is a LIVING ORGANISM.**

We need to develop a Deeper relationship with Christ.

We need to GROW reaching out to the Community.

We need to be a WELCOMING Family of Believers.

We need to have a greater SENSE of our MISSION.

We need to WORK TOGETHER in Partnership with the Christ.

A Period of Good Will. Acts 2:44-47;

Soon the **movers and shakers** of the **Jewish religion** that **did not accept Jesus as their Messiah** began to **violently oppose** what they saw as a renegade sect of Judaism growing in numbers and power.

But **for now** this great multitude from all over the civilized world were staying in Jerusalem and were **united and happy**.

A poem by Ellis Jones. Acts 2:44-47;



A poem by Ellis Jones. Acts 2:44-47;

**Fellowship is sharing
Ourselves, our things, with others.
Especially with Christians;
But all men are our brothers.**

**Our neighbour's not the one next door
But anyone in need.
Seize the opportunity
And Jesus' teaching heed.**

**Share time, concern, a hand to help,
A kindly word of cheer,
Share their joys with happy smile
Or even share a tear.**

**Jesus came to earth to share
In our humanity.
So that we may share with Him
A blest eternity.**

WORSHIP - FELLOWSHIP / STEWARDSHIP

CONCLUSION

Jesus asks of us all we are able to give:-

Ourselves in love.

Our belongings freely.

Proper use of what He has given us.

**The ATTITUDE AND WORSHIP
OF THE EARLY CHURCH?
Acts 2:39 - 47;
THE APOSTLES DOCTRINE.**

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**Next in the series:- Acts 2:42b
The Bread?**