

**On the day of Pentecost all the believers
were meeting together in one place.**

Acts 2:1

Suddenly, there was a sound from Heaven like the roaring of a mighty windstorm, and it filled the house where they were sitting. Then, what looked like flames or tongues of fire appeared and settled on each of them. And everyone present was filled with the Holy Spirit and began speaking in other languages, as the Holy Spirit gave them this ability.

Acts 2:2-4

When [the city crowds] heard the loud noise, everyone came running, and they were **bewildered** to hear their own languages being spoken by the believers. They were **completely amazed**. **“How can this be?”** they exclaimed. “These people are all from Galilee, and yet we hear them speaking in our own native languages!...They stood there **amazed** and **perplexed**. **“What can this mean?”** they asked each other.

Acts 2:6-12

**But others in the crowd ridiculed them, saying,
“They’re just drunk, that’s all!”**

Acts 2:13

Then Peter stepped forward with the eleven other apostles and shouted to the crowd, “Listen carefully, all of you, fellow Jews and residents of Jerusalem! Make no mistake about this.”

Acts 2:14

**“These people are not drunk, as some of you are assuming.
Nine o’clock in the morning is much too early for that.”**

Acts 2:15

Acts 2:16-36 – Peter's Sermon

- 1. Jesus is the Messiah.**
- 2. Y'all killed Him.**
- 3. God raised Him.**
- 4. Apologize. And really mean it.**
- 5. Because the Spirit is here and it's Church time.**

Peter's words pierced their hearts, and they said to him and to the other apostles, "Brothers, what should we do?"

Acts 2:37

Peter replied, “Each of you must (1) repent of your sins and turn to God, and (2) be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. (3) Then you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

Acts 2:38-39

Those who believed what Peter said were baptized and added to the church that day—about 3,000 in all.

Acts 2:41

The Birth of the First Church Ever

- Roaring Tornado Winds**
- Holy Spirit Fire**
- Miraculous Linguistic Fluency**
- Total Bewilderment and Amazement**
- Massive Crowds**
- Prophetic Fulfillment**
- Apostolic Gospel Preaching**
- Heart-Piercing Conviction**
- Repentant Hearts**
- 3,000 Baptisms**
- 3,000 Conversions**
- 3,000 Eager Disciples**
- The Launch of a new era**
- The Undeniable Power and Glory of God**

**The 3,000+ formed intentional small communities
that lived the ways of Jesus together.**

Those who believed what Peter said were baptized and added to the church that day—about 3,000 in all. All the believers devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching, and to fellowship, and to sharing in meals (including the Lord's Supper), and to prayer. A deep sense of awe came over them all, and the apostles performed many miraculous signs and wonders.

Acts 2:41-47

And all the believers met together in one place and shared everything they had. They sold their property and possessions and shared the money with those in need. They worshiped together at the Temple each day, met in homes for the Lord's Supper, and shared their meals with great joy and generosity—all the while praising God and enjoying the goodwill of all the people. And each day the Lord added to their fellowship those who were being saved.

Acts 2:41-47

**The 3,000+ formed intentional small communities
that lived the ways of Jesus together.**

**This passage is not about personal salvation,
it's about community formation.**

Personal Salvation must lead to Community Formation.

**Repentance and Baptism are personal decisions,
but they are not private decisions.**

**Repentance and Baptism are personal decisions,
but they have communal expectations.**

“Repent! And believe in me.”

“...Parthians, Medes, Elamites, people from Mesopotamia, Judea, Cappadocia, Pontus, the province of Asia, Phrygia, Pamphylia, Egypt, and the areas of Libya around Cyrene, visitors from Rome (both Jews and converts to Judaism), Cretans, and Arabs”....

“ ‘In the last days,’ God says, ‘I will pour out my Spirit upon all people.’ ”

Acts 2:9-11,17

**Repentance and Baptism are personal decisions,
but they are not private decisions.**

**Repentance and Baptism are personal decisions,
but they have communal expectations.**

All the believers **devoted** themselves to the **apostles' teaching**,
and to **fellowship**, and to **sharing in meals**
(including the Lord's Supper), and to **prayer...**

Acts 2:42-47

**All the believers devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching,
and to fellowship, and to sharing in meals
(including the Lord's Supper), and to prayer...**

Acts 2:42-47

Fueled by devotion. Based on Practice.

How devoted to worship and teaching were they?

Acts 2:46 – “They worshiped together at the Temple each day.”

How devoted to community and meal sharing were they?

Acts 2:46 – “They met in homes for the Lord’s supper,
and shared their meals with great joy and generosity...”

How devoted to servanthood and generosity were they?

Acts 2:44 – “All the believers shared everything they had.

**They sold their property and possessions and shared the money
with those in need.”**

How devoted to prayer were they?

Acts 2:43 – “A deep sense of awe came over them all,
and the apostles performed many miraculous signs and wonders.”

How devoted to evangelism were they?

Acts 2:47 – Each day the Lord added to their fellowship those who were being saved.

They studied the apostles' teachings rarely, and when they would, they did it all alone by themselves for 10 minutes. They called it "quiet time." All the believers came together about one out of three weekends to worship, discussing afterwards what they liked and didn't like about the service, hopping and shopping church families, and forgetting entirely that the worship wasn't ever for them to begin with.

Americans 2:42-47

And a deep sense of awe never came over them all, and so because of that they saw no miraculous signs or wonders. They prayed when they really needed something, and they got coffee together every now and then. Some of the believers got together and talked about generosity, but most couldn't actually practice it because their money was tied up in mortgage debt, automobile debt, student debt, consumer debt, and their excessive budget for travel, streaming services, alcohol and eating out.

Americans 2:42-47

They lived spontaneous for Jesus, and so they were irrelevant to their neighbors. Their churches shrank, their paranoia grew, and they ended up placing their faith, hope, and trust in a sinner seated in an Oval Office or whichever sinner ran against him.

Americans 2:42-47

We must refocus our devotion away from what's preferential or popular or political and focus it on the practices of the early church.

STAKEHOLDER

LEVEL 1
"INITIAL"

LEVEL 2
"CONSISTENT"

LEVEL 3
"INTENTIONAL"

GENEROSITY

ONE-TIME
GIFT

GIVE
A PREDETERMINED
% REGULARLY

GIVE 10%
OR MORE

SERVANTHOOD

ONE-TIME
SERVE EVENT

JOIN
A SERVE TEAM
FOR A TRIAL PERIOD

ANNUAL COMMITMENT
TO SERVE TEAM

COMMUNITY

ONE-TIME LARGE
GROUP EVENT

SHORT-TERM
COMMUNITY
ENGAGEMENT

JOIN
A COMMUNITY GROUP