

INTRODUCTION

Acts 2 gives us a wonderful picture of how God intended the Church to be. We don't always meet this ideal (even the Acts church had its problems) as the Church is populated with flawed human beings. God wants us to be open to being a Spirit-filled, powerful church. How do we do this?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Share with your group members what the 'perfect church' looks like to you.

2. Read Acts 2:42-47. The word 'devoted' in verse 42 means 'to give your constant attention to' or 'persisting tenaciously in'. List below what the early believers 'devoted themselves to'.

3. What do you think it would look like to be devoted to these four areas as a church? As a family? On your own?

4. If someone were to take a close look at your life, what do you believe they would say you are 'devoted to'?

5. Re-read Acts 2:42. What is 'fellowship'? (See Hebrews 3:12-14 and 10:24-25.) How is 'fellowship' different than 'socializing'?

6. Why is Christian community ('fellowship') dependent on the Holy Spirit? (See Philippians 2:1-11.)

Study Questions for Community Groups

7. Read Acts 2:44-45. Have you experienced a time when the Holy Spirit prompted you to be more generous than you usually would be? How did you respond?
8. Do you think it is more difficult today for us to meet the needs of others than it was in the days of the early church? Why or why not?
9. Read Acts 2:46-47. The early believers met daily with glad and sincere hearts, were full of praise, and enjoyed the favor of the people. If you were to describe the spirit here at Fellowship, what would you say?
10. What do you believe a Spirit-inspired church should look like today? Does this match your answer to question one?

APPLICATION

Prayerfully ask the Holy Spirit to begin or continue to do a work in your life. Consider the following as prompts to help you be more open to the Spirit:

- I will devote myself to studying the Bible and gathering with other believers in corporate worship.
- I will become a participant in the Kingdom, rather than just being an observer.
- I will persistently seek and yield to the Holy Spirit's guidance.

SCRIPTURE

“⁴²They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. ⁴³Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles. ⁴⁴All the believers were together and had everything in common. ⁴⁵They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need. ⁴⁶Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, ⁴⁷praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.”

Acts 2:42-47 (NIV)