

# OPEN BIBLE CHURCH

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**SERMON TITLE** The Greatest Revival

**SERIES** Godly Reset

**DATE** 3/7/2021

**KEY SCRIPTURE** Acts 2:42-47

**SYNOPSIS** The Greatest Revival of all time happened in the book of Acts. We can have a similar experience if we follow their example.

**HIGHLIGHTS**



## ☞ **The Greatest Revival**

Acts 2:42-47

**42 They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. 43 Everyone was filled with awe, and many wonders and miraculous signs were done by the apostles. 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 favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.**

The Greatest Revival of all time happened in the book of Acts. I believe we can have a similar experience if we follow their example.

### ☞ **The Commitment v. 42**

**They devoted themselves to the Apostle's teaching** – they gave constant attention; they were continually immersed in the teaching; they held on and persisted in it. They didn't have the bible back then. In fact, the things the apostles were teaching went on to become our New Testament. For us, then, this devotion to the apostle's teaching, means to be **continually in your** ☞ **bibles**. Give it careful and constant attention. Don't ever give up on reading and studying the word of God. Every Christian should have a "read" bible. This is especially important in these last days.

2 Timothy 3:13-17

evil men and impostors will go from bad to worse, deceiving and being deceived. 14 But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have become convinced of, because you know those from whom you learned it, 15 and how from infancy you have known the holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. 16 All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, 17 so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.

**The Fellowship & the breaking of bread** – this was all about spending time with each other and eating meals together.

Hebrews 10:25

☞ 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.

We need each other – and all the more in these last days. There is persecution and discouragement all around, so we need to be encouraging each other. When I was a kid we met together Sunday mornings, Sunday nights and Wednesday nights every week. Plus, there frequently were other meetings on various days. I know the times have changed and people's



schedules are not as consistent as they were back then. But sometimes I wonder if there's a need for a greater commitment to the gathering together of believers.

## **Prayer**

Acts 4:24, 31

...they raised their voices together in prayer to God.

...After they prayed, the place where they were meeting was shaken.

## **☞ Colossians 4:2**

**Devote yourselves to prayer**, being watchful and thankful

There was a strong commitment to the faith in this first revival. We also need to have a strong commitment to the faith. Commitment to the word; commitment to the fellowship; and commitment to prayer. None of this half-hearted, lackadaisical attitude anymore. Real commitment is needed.

*--Charles Thomas Studd... If Jesus Christ is God and died for me, then no sacrifice can be too great for me to make for him.*

## **☞ The Community v. 44, 46**

John 13:34-35

34 "A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. 35 By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another."

## **All the believers were together**

It started in Acts 2:1 ...they were all together in one place. This only affirms my comments moments ago about the commitment to fellowship that is necessary. But I want to take it a little **☞** further. There was simply **a strong sense of unity**. We need that kind of unity. We are family; God's family, and there ought to be extraordinary commitment to each other. I know we sometimes rub each other wrong. What family hasn't done that? But devoted families don't let that ruin their relationships. They work through it and remain committed to each other. We need that kind of togetherness; that kind of unity.

## **Everything in common; they gave to others in need**

This continued on beyond this first week as well. Acts 4:32... All the believers were one in heart and mind. No one claimed that any of his possessions was his own, but they shared everything they had.

1 John 3:16-18

This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers. 17 If anyone has material possessions and sees his brother in need but has no pity on him, how can the love of God be in him? 18 Dear children, let us not **☞ love** with words or tongue but **with actions and in truth**.



I love that our church has a food pantry to help others in need. I love hearing reports of individuals from this church reaching out and helping each other. That's the way it is supposed to be. Way to go, Church! Keep it up.

### **Met together & ate together**

*You might be a Christian if your definition of fellowship has something to do with food.*

*A teacher tells her class of young children that they should bring a symbol of their religion to class the next day, for the purposes of cultural enrichment. The next day, the teacher begins to go around the room, asking children to show what they brought. The first little boy says, "I'm Jewish, and this is a menorah! We light it to celebrate Hanukkah." "Very good!" says the teacher. Then, turning to the next student, "Now how about you?" The little girl stood up and said, "I'm Muslim, and this is a prayer mat. I kneel down on it, facing Mecca, to pray." "Wonderful!" said the teacher, "Anyone else?" A young girl stood up, held aloft a dish, and declared, "I'm a Protestant, and this is a casserole..."*

*You might be a Christian if you keep a casserole in the freezer just in case of a potluck.*

*A bulletin bloop: Thursday night potluck; prayer and medication to follow.*

*The numero-uno cardinal potluck rule: Never, ever, comment on the food you just tasted unless to say it is delicious. Simple as that. Break this rule and you will live to regret it.*

*Here are a couple more potluck rules: The first lady to make a delicious recipe, even if it actually belongs to Paula Deen or Rachel Ray, forever has dibs on that recipe. Never make another lady's prize recipe unless you are making it for your own family. And again, when you do make it for your family, make sure they know, this is Megan's Lasagna.*

*Show some restraint, Miss Piggy. This is a potluck, for crying out loud, not an all-you-can-eat buffet.*

☞ In all seriousness we need community. **We need each other.**

*-- Carl Conner... A few winters ago, heavy snows hit North Carolina. Following a wet, six-inch snowfall, it was interesting to see the effect along Interstate 40. Next to the highway stood several large groves of tall, young pine trees. The branches were bowed down with the heavy snow--so low that branches from one tree were often leaning against the trunk or branches of another.*

*Where trees stood alone, however, the effect of the heavy snow was different. The branches had become heavier and heavier, and since there were no other trees to lean against, the branches snapped. They lay on the ground, dark and alone in the cold snow.*

*When the storms of life hit, we need to be standing close to other Christians. The closer we stand, the more we will be able to hold up.*

☞ **The Confirmation v. 43, 47** (Revival; God's response)



## **They were filled with awe**

### **☞ Many wonders & miraculous signs**

In Acts 3:1-10 a crippled beggar asked Peter and John for money. Peter said, "Silver or gold I do not have, but what I have I give you. In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, walk." Taking him by the right hand, he helped him up, and instantly the man's feet and ankles became strong. 8 He jumped to his feet and began to walk. Then he went with them into the temple courts, walking and jumping, and praising God.

I mentioned Acts 5:12-16 last week... there were so many miracles going on that people lined the streets just hoping to have Peter's shadow fall on them as he passed by. People came from nearby towns and the sick and demonized were all healed.

Acts 19:11-12

11 God did extraordinary miracles through Paul, 12 so that even handkerchiefs and aprons that had touched him were taken to the sick, and their illnesses were cured and the evil spirits left them.

1 Corinthians 4:20

the kingdom of God is not a matter of talk but of **power**.

*John Wimber – "When do we get to do the stuff?" ... "We only sing about it."*

John 14:12

I tell you the truth, anyone who has faith in me will do what I have been doing. He will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father.

## **Favor of the people/Daily added to their number**

So many good things were happening that even though the authorities didn't approve, the general populous loved these early believers. They had the favor of the people and they were **☞ growing daily**. Peter preached and 3,000 were added in one day. And they continued to grow!

### **☞ The Chief Component**

Acts 2:4 tells us how this all started... "All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them."

### **☞ They were filled with the Holy Spirit**

Jesus promised this in Luke 24:49... "I am going to send you what my Father has promised; but stay in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high."

Acts 2:38-39 tells us this is a normal part of being a believer:



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. 39 The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off — for all whom the Lord our God will call."

### **It includes power for us...**

Acts 1:8

But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

Romans 8:26

the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groans that words cannot express.

Jude 20

But you, dear friends, build yourselves up in your most holy faith and pray in the Holy Spirit.

Jesus talked about the gift of the Holy Spirit in Luke 11:13... "If you then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!"

In the bible there is a pattern of people coming to believe in Christ, getting saved, and then being baptized in the Holy Spirit, typically with speaking in tongues. If you haven't experienced  all of that, then I encourage you to **pursue the fullness of Christ, including Holy Spirit baptism.**

Jack Hayford: How to be filled with the Holy Spirit...

Remember the Promises; Pray, ask; Praise God

If you have experienced all of this, then you need to keep on being filled with the Spirit. Billy Sunday said, "you leak." So, keep on being filled. And Ephesians 5:18-20 tells us how: "do not  be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit, 19 **speaking to one another** in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, **singing** and making melody in your heart **to the Lord**, 20 **giving thanks always** for all things to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ," NKJV

The Greatest Revival of all time happened in the book of Acts. I believe we can have a similar experience if we follow their example:

Let's commit ourselves to the faith; to the fellowship; to prayer.

Let's keep the community; encouraging each other; helping each other; sharing life together.

Let's pursue the confirmation of miracles and healings; the power of God on display.

Let's be filled with the Holy Spirit; ask for his anointing; pray in his power.