

The Book of Acts: 5 Practices of the Church Part 1: The Word

Acts 2:14-41

Here in Acts 2, we encounter nothing less than the transformation of Peter; who was now a courageous preacher of the gospel.

3000 new to the faith. 3000 who were worth the investment.

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. A deep sense of awe came over them all, and the apostles performed many miraculous signs and wonders. 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.

Those who said yes to Jesus and were baptized were all in; they committed themselves to what we call "formation".

Colossians 3:16 – Let the message about Christ, in all its richness, fill your lives. Teach and counsel each other with all the wisdom he gives. Sing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs to God with thankful hearts.

Where the Holy Spirit reigns, a love for God's Word is evident.

1 Peter 2:2-3 – Like newborn babies, you must crave pure spiritual milk so that you will grow into a full experience of salvation. Cry out for this nourishment, now that you have had a taste of the Lord's kindness.

New believers and seasoned saints, must never lose their appetite and hunger and love for God's word. For it is our source of life.

1 Peter 1:21-25 – Through Christ you have come to trust in God. And you have placed your faith and hope in God because he raised Christ from the dead and gave him great glory. You were cleansed from your sins when you obeyed the truth, so now you must show sincere love to each other as brothers and sisters. Love each other deeply with all your heart. For you have been born again, but not to a life that will quickly end. Your new life will last forever because it comes from the eternal, living word of God. As the Scriptures say, "People are like grass; their beauty is like a flower in the field. The grass withers and the flower fades. But the word of the Lord remains forever." And that word is the Good News that was preached to you.

Psalm 119:9-11 – How can a young person stay pure? By obeying your word. I have tried hard to find you—don't let me wander from your commands. I have hidden your word in my heart, that I might not sin against you.

Where the Holy Spirit reigns, God's people continually devote themselves to the study of God's Word.

2 Timothy 3:16-17 – All scripture is inspired by God and is useful to teach us what is true and to make us realize what is wrong in our lives. It corrects us when we are wrong and teaches us to do what is right. God uses it to prepare and equip his people to do every good work.

Hebrews 4:12-13 – For the word of God is alive and powerful. It is sharper than the sharpest two-edged sword, cutting between soul and spirit, between joint and marrow. It exposes our innermost thoughts and desires. Nothing in all creation is hidden from God. Everything is naked and exposed before his eyes, and he is the one to whom we are accountable.

Psalm 42:1-2 – As the deer longs for streams of water, so I long for you, O God. I thirst for God, the living God. When can I go and stand before him?

How do we learn more of God's Word?

- Hearing it
- Reading it
- Memorizing it

We need Christians who read and hear the Word of God so that they can know the Word and therefore live out the Word in an unbelieving world.