

## **The Book of Acts: 5 Practices of the Church Part 2: Fellowship**

**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.

The church has a shared mission.

**Philippians 1:1-5** – This letter is from Paul and Timothy, slaves of Christ Jesus. I am writing to all of God's holy people in Philippi who belong to Christ Jesus, including the church leaders and deacons. May God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ give you grace and peace. Every time I think of you, I give thanks to my God. Whenever I pray, I make my requests for all of you with joy, for you have been my partners in spreading the Good News about Christ from the time you first heard it until now.

God designed people to live in fellowship with one another.

**Genesis 2:18** – then the Lord God said, "It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper who is just right for him."

**Psalms 70:5** - But as for me, I am poor and needy; please hurry to my aid, O God. You are my helper and my savior; O Lord, do not delay.

**Psalms 33:30** – We put our hope in the Lord. He is our help and our shield.

**Psalms 115:9** – O Israel, trust the Lord! He is your helper and your shield.

**John 14:26** – But when the Father sends the Advocate(helper) as my representative—that is, the Holy Spirit—he will teach you everything and will remind you of everything I have told you.

The Early Churches with-ness, enhanced their witness.

1. What does fellowship mean?

Fellowship is a common shared life with others.

**Hebrews 10:24-25** – Let us think of ways to motivate one another to acts of love and good works. And let us not neglect our meeting together, as some people do, but encourage one another, especially now that the day of his return is drawing near.

**2 Corinthians 8:1-5** – Now I want you to know, dear brothers and sisters, what God in his kindness has done through the churches in Macedonia. They are being tested by many troubles, and they are very poor. But they are also filled with abundant joy, which has overflowed in rich generosity. For I can testify that they gave not only what they could afford, but far more. And they did it of their own free will. They begged us again and again for the privilege of sharing in the gift for the believers in Jerusalem. They even did more than we had hoped, for their first action was to give themselves to the Lord and to us, just as God wanted them to do.

## 2. Why is fellowship needed?

**Acts 2:12-13** – They stood there amazed and perplexed. “What can this mean?” they asked each other. But others in the crowd ridiculed them, saying, “They’re just drunk, that’s all!”

**Acts 8:1-3** – Saul was one of the witnesses, and he agreed completely with the killing of Stephen. A great wave of persecution began that day, sweeping over the church in Jerusalem; and all the believers except the apostles were scattered through the regions of Judea and Samaria. (Some devout men came and buried Stephen with great mourning.) But Saul was going everywhere to destroy the church. He went from house to house, dragging out both men and women to throw them into prison.

The refuge for the believers was the “one-another” experience.

## 3. How is fellowship to be done?

### **Acts 2:42-47**

The early church was a relationship building church.

The book of Acts emphasizes vital building blocks needed for the foundation of the church; preaching and teaching the word, fellowship, worship, prayer, and evangelism.