



## “A Portrait of a Faithful Church”

Acts 2:42-47  
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**The Big Idea:** Against all odds the disciples do not scatter to the winds or cower in fear after Jesus leaves them. As the Holy Spirit came and filled them the Church responded to the work of grace in their lives by **loving God** and **loving the people** in His church and world. The Spirit used them in the city and drew thousands to salvation in Christ.

Some of the Biblical Metaphors for the Church

- ✓ The **Body** of Christ [Romans 12; 1 Corinthians 10, 12]
- ✓ The Household (**Family**) of God [Ephesians 2; Galatians 6; 2 Cor. 6]
- ✓ The **Building** He is building [Ephesians 2; 1 Peter 2]
- ✓ The **Bride** of Christ [Revelation 19, 21; Ephesians 5]
- ✓ A Chosen People & a Royal **Priesthood** [1 Peter 2]

Acts 2:42-47 (ESV)

**2** <sup>42</sup> And they **devoted** themselves to **the apostles' teaching** and **the fellowship**, to **the breaking of bread** and **the prayers**. <sup>43</sup> And **awe** came upon every soul, and many **wonders and signs** were being done through the apostles. <sup>44</sup> And **all who believed** were **together** and **had all things in common**. <sup>45</sup> And they were **selling their possessions** and belongings and **distributing the proceeds** to all, as any had need. <sup>46</sup> And day by day, **attending the temple together** and **breaking bread in their homes**, they received their food with **glad and generous hearts**, <sup>47</sup> **praising God** and having **favor with all the people**. And **the Lord** added to their number **day by day** those who were being saved.

What a Faithful Church Looks Like:

1. They treasured the **Word** of God.
2. They loved God's **people** – His **Church**.
3. They understood and practiced the **Ordinances**.
4. They faithfully **prayed** together.

## What Being Filled by the Holy Spirit Does to Individual Believers and Their Churches

1. We will seek **time** with fellow Christians.
2. We will have an uncommon **generosity**.
3. We will seek to **meet** the **needs** of others when they learn of them.
4. We will **worship** God in large groups, gathering with brothers and sisters to praise Him.
5. We will spend time in one another's **homes** in smaller, more intimate gatherings.
6. With hearts shaped by grace and filled with gratitude, we will both **give** and **receive** with joy and gladness.
7. Our **reputation** in the community is favorable – the community speaks highly of us.
8. We will see the Lord **saving people** and adding them to the Church. This will not an occasional thing but a daily occurrence. Evangelism and missions are not programs but our passion and lifestyle.

<p>VERTICAL – <b>Worship</b> &amp; the <b>Word</b>        In worship we speak to God and in the Word        God speaks to us.</p> <p>HORIZONTAL – <b>Fellowship</b> &amp; <b>Witness</b>        In fellowship we minister to one another and in        witness we minister to those outside of Christ.</p>
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Of the 4 pillars of a Spirit-Filled and Faithful Disciple and Church, Which is Your and Our “Shortest”?

- Devotion to the Bible
- Commitment to and participating in the life of the Church
- Observance of Baptism, the Lord's Supper, and Fellowship with Believers
- Time given to praying with one another

What will you do to correct that short-coming?