

Church – The Beginnings, Part 6

Day of Pentecost – Part 2

Acts 2 – Part 2 | 12/04/2016

NEW LIFE FELLOWSHIP

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Acts 2:36-47

³⁶ Therefore let all the House of Israel **KNOW FOR CERTAIN** that God has made Him both **LORD and Christ (Messiah)** — this Jesus whom **YOU CRUCIFIED.**”

³⁷ Now when they heard this, they were **PIERCED** to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, “Brethren, what shall we do?” ³⁸ Peter said to them, “**REPENT**, and each of you be baptized in the Name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. ³⁹ For the promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off, as many as the **LORD our God will call to Himself.**” ⁴⁰ And with many other words he solemnly testified and kept on exhorting them, saying, “Be saved from this perverse generation!” ⁴¹ So then, those who had received his word were baptized; and that day there were added about three thousand souls. ⁴² They were continually devoting themselves to the apostles’ teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.

⁴³ Everyone kept feeling a sense of awe; and many wonders and signs were taking place through the apostles. ⁴⁴ And all those who had believed were together and had all things in common; ⁴⁵ and they began selling their property and possessions and were sharing them with all, as anyone might have need. ⁴⁶ Day by day continuing with one mind in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they were taking their meals together with gladness and sincerity of heart, ⁴⁷ praising God and having favor with all the people. And the **LORD** was adding to their number day by day those who were being saved.

The Day of Pentecost – PART 2 – The Fulfillment of that Feast Day had come – The New Covenant:

1. We are **SAVED** by God's Grace, in Christ. So, since we are Saved by God's Grace, Mercy, and Love (Romans 5:8) ... To whom does God give His Grace to? [His Chosen Way (Elect Way)]
ANSWER: the **HUMBLE** (James 4:6; 1 Peter 5:5) →

“God **OPPOSES** the **PROUD**, but He **GIVES** His Grace to the **HUMBLE...**”

This Truth is seen from Genesis through Revelation, consistently. That is the Way God is.

God **SAVED** you by His Grace **WHEN** you **BELIEVED**. And you can't take credit for this; it [i.e. Salvation] is a Gift from God. **SALVATION** is not a reward for the good things we have done, so none of us can boast about it. - Ephesians 2:8-9 (NLT)

2. What was the Disciples'/Apostles' **COMMON PROCLAMATION** that all of those people in the crowd on the street were Hearing in the own languages?
Acts 2:11 “...we hear them speaking in our own native languages the **Wonderful Works of God.**”

What should the church be Proclaiming?

a. The Wonderful Works of God (1 Peter 2:9)

- i. What we can plainly see in **CREATION** – (Romans 1:18-22; Psalm 19; 139)
- ii. What we can plainly see in **HISTORY** - God's Faithfulness to His Promises in His Word such as Messianic Prophecies and Prophecies about Israel (e.g. Israel is back in her land, etc.) → Old and New Testaments (ref.: Romans 9 thru 11)
- iii. **God's Wrath, Judgment against sin**, such as with **Worldwide, Global Flood** of Noah's time (e.g.: the Grand Canyon, and the Layers of Sedimentary Rock with gazillions of dead things in them [fossils]) is a reminder of God's Holiness, Righteous, and Justice – Romans 1:18-22; Genesis 1 thru 11)

We, as the church, need to constantly be proclaiming, exclaiming, and explaining in much detail → **God's Works**. Do you **KNOW** them, or at least some of them?

***** Can you articulate them to others around you? Are you willing to at least try? *****

b. **THE GOSPEL** - This is the Message of God's Redemption through the Messiah of Israel, Jesus Christ, the Savior of the World.

The Crucifixion, Death, Burial, and Resurrection (and Ascension and soon return) of Jesus Christ - God punished Jesus because of our sin. (ref.: John 3:15-36; 1 Cor. 15:1-5, etc.)

This ALSO needs to be proclaimed as well ...

Both God's Wonderful Works, as well as, The Gospel of Christ - Both / And

3. **The RESPONSE to God's Miracle** (i.e.: The Violent Mighty Rushing Wind [Holy Spirit] and the Disciples Proclaiming the Wonderful Works of God so that people could hear that in their own "heart" languages) **These are the same kinds of responses we should expect when we share the Gospel:**
 - a. **AMAZEMENT** (Acts 2:12)
 - b. **MOCKING** (Acts 2:13)
 - c. **EXPOSED and REPENTANT** (Acts 2:37-41)
4. **The Church - The Fellowship - The Gathering of Disciples – "JESUS Community"** (Acts 2:42)

First things First – These new Disciples were **Continually, Steadfastly Devoting** themselves to:

 - a. **The Apostles' Teachings - Doctrine** (found in: Romans thru Jude)
 - b. **FELLOWSHIP** - Being **Participating** Membership - **Covenant Membership** – This started by being **Publicly Initiated** in Water Baptism (Acts 2:41) into the Body of Christ (1 Cor. 12:13; Romans 6:3-7 – Water Baptism is **ONLY** symbolic of the New Birth, by the Spirit)
 - c. **Breaking of Bread - Having Meals together**
(this is **NOT** the Lord's Supper, Communion, nor is it the Eucharist, Catholic Mass, etc. [let's **break bread**, together ==> eating their meals together with gladness - **Acts 2:46**])
 - d. **Prayer – "and to the Prayers"** – Lots of Prayer - various kinds of Praying (personal, small group, large group) - Praise, Thanksgiving, Petitions, etc. (Philippians 4:4-7)

5. **Miraculous Community of Faith – God Performing Miracles through the Apostles**

Acts 2:43 (compare Acts 4:33; Acts 5:12-16; Galatians 3:1-5)
Why was God, almost, exclusively doing **the Miraculous** through the Apostles and **NOT** through all of these new believers? Why was He using the ordained leadership, chosen directly by Jesus Christ, miraculously? (Also see Acts 6 in regards to more leadership ordained by the Apostles and how God worked through them...) **Again, why did God do it this way?** (Hebrews 2:1-4; John 14:12)
6. **COMMUNITY (Biblical, Gospel Community of Faith) - NOT Communism** - Acts 2:44-45
Key → "as anyone had need ..." – think of the 1000's referenced in Acts 2:7-11. They did not live there, so, they hung around for quite a while after they received Christ. Their livelihoods were back in the countries they came from. The local Christians were helping them for a while, until they went back home. They were being consistent with how Jesus wants us to view our Possessions (**Luke 14:33**) Our Possessions should be **dedicated** to **God's Kingdom Purposes**, not just for our own self-centered "needs" (Philippians 2:3-4; Luke 12:15; Rom. 12:9-13; Gal. 6:9-10; Heb. 13:1-3,16).
7. **Consistent Pattern ... Gathering Publicly and from House to House** (see also Acts 5:42; 20:20) ... this is a consistent pattern that God approves of & is backed up by Doctrine (see Hebrews 10:24-25) [**The Three P's** → Precepts, Principles, & Patterns. **The fourth P** – is God's Promises to us]
8. **God was doing the Adding/Multiplying** - through the **Proclamation** of the **Gospel** and The **Proclamation of the Wonderful Works of God - AND** - the **Community of Faith Atmosphere** of the local church family. **Both are needed.** We must have the Proclamation of God's Holy Word ... and when folks come to Christ, there **MUST BE** a **Loving Community of Faith** to welcome them into. **Both are needed.** (see John 13:34-35).

CAUTION: Not all the places that God planted new churches in the book of Acts have this kind of massive response and multiplication of disciples. **Don't get "Acts 2 Envy" ... "well if it isn't happening like we see in Acts 2, then we must be outside of God's will."** **IF** we are true and faithful to God and His Word, trusting in Him, loving one another, **AND** Proclaiming God's Word to those around us, etc. **we are on the right track.** → **Don't Give Up!!!** (Gal. 6:9-10)

The Biblical “One Anothers”:

“Be at peace with each other.” ... Mark 9:50

“Love one another.” ... John 13:3; 13:34-35; 15:12,17; Romans 13:8;
1 Peter 1:22; 1 John 3:11,23; 4:7,11

We are “members one of another” ... Romans 12:5

“Be devoted to one another.” ... Romans 12:10

“Honor one another above yourselves.” ... Romans 12:10

“Be of the same mind toward one another...” Romans 12:16

“Stop passing judgment on one another.” ... Romans 14:13

“Accept one another.” ... Romans 15:7

“Instruct one another.” ... Romans 15:14

“Greet one another.” ... Romans 16:16; 1 Cor. 16:20, 2 Cor. 13:12,
1 Peter 5:14

“Serve one another in love.” ... Galatians 5:13

Do not provoke one another or envy one another ... Gal. 5:26

“Carry each other’s burdens.” ... Galatians 6:2

“Be patient, bearing with one another in love.” ... Ephesians 4:2; Col. 3:13

Speak the Truth in love to one another. ... Ephesians 4:15

Support one another and work together with one another → Eph 4:16

(according to the proper working of each part... as each “joint” supplies) ...

“Be kind and compassionate to one another.” ... Ephesians 4:32

“Forgive each other.” ... Ephesians 4:32

“Speak to one another with psalms, hymns and spiritual songs.” ...
Ephesians 5:19

“Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ.” ... Ephesians 5:21

“In humility consider others better than yourselves.” ... Philippians 2:3

“Teach and admonish one another with all wisdom.” ... Colossians 3:16

“Encourage/Comfort one another.” ... 1 Thessalonians 4:18

“Build each other up.” ... 1 Thessalonians 5:11

“Exhort one another ...” Heb. 3:13; 10:25

“Spur one another on toward love and good deeds.” ... Hebrews 10:24

“Share with others.” ... Hebrews 13:16

“Do not slander one another.” ... James 4:11

“Don’t grumble against each other.” ... James 5:9

“Confess your sins to each other.” ... James 5:16

“Pray for each other.” ... James 5:16

“Clothe yourselves with humility toward one another.” ... 1 Peter 5:5