



**A FRESH LOOK**

**NEW TESTAMENT**

**CONCEPTS OF**

**WORSHIP AND**

**ASSEMBLY**

# WORSHIP IN THE NEW TESTAMENT

- Where is the temple in the New Testament? **We are the temple.**
- Why is the body (both us individually and the collective church) the temple? **The Holy Spirits dwells in us.**
- Who are the priests that offer the sacrifices? **We are the priests.**
- What are the sacrifices? **The way you live and good deeds.**
- When is the worship performed? **All the time.**
- What does it mean to worship in the Spirit and in Truth?
- **Jesus said the change was to be from:  
Physical Symbolism to Spiritual Reality**



Romans 12:1

## ASSEMBLY (CHURCH GATHERINGS) TERMS

- The most common word is “*synagō*,” which means “to gather.” It appears nine times when describing church meetings. If that sounds familiar, it is where the word “synagogue” comes from.
- “*Synerchomai*” means “to come together” and shows up twice in passages about church gatherings.
- The familiar word “*ekklesia*” appears three times. While we often translate it as “church,” it actually means “assembly” or “congregation.”

## ASSEMBLY (CHURCH GATHERINGS) TERMS

- In Hebrews 10:25, we find “*episynagōgē*,” another word that simply means “assembling together.”
- Finally, Acts 12:12-17 uses “*synathroizō*,” which also describes people gathering in one place.

Passage	Terminology	"Worship"?	Direction	Liturgy?
Mt 18:17-20	Gathering (synagō), Assembly (ekklēsia)	No	Horizontal	No
Acts 2:42-47	Together (epi to auto)	No	Both	No
Acts 4:23-35	Gathering (synagō)	No	Both	No
Acts 11:21-30	Gathering (synagō)	No	Horizontal	No
Acts 12:12-17	Gathering (synathroizō)	No	Mostly vertical	No
Acts 13:1-4	None	leitourgeō (ministering)	Both	No
Acts 14:21-28	Gathering (synagō)	No	Mostly horizontal	No
Acts 15:4-29	Gathering (synagō)	No	Horizontal	No
Acts 15:30-35	Gathering (synagō)	No	Mostly horizontal	No
Acts 20:6-12	Gathering (synagō)	No	Horizontal	No
1 Cor 11:17-34	Coming together (synerchomai), Assembly (ekklēsia)	No	Both	Possibly in the Lord's Supper
1 Cor 14:1-40	Coming together (synerchomai), Assembly (ekklēsia)	proskuneō Prostrating by Outsider	Mostly horizontal	Possibly with the amen and thanksgiving
1 Tm 2:8-12	"In every place" (en panti topō)	theosebeia (godliness)	Both	No
1 Tm 4:11-16	None	No	Horizontal	No
Heb 10:23-25	Assembling (episynagōgē)	No	Horizontal	No
Jas 2:2-4	Assembly (synagōgē)	No	Neither	No

# SUMMARY OF ASSEMBLY PASSAGES

## WHY ASSEMBLE TOGETHER?

- Hebrews 10:24-25
  - Stir up one another to love and good works
  - Encourage one another
- I Corinthians 14:26
  - Building up one another (edification)
- 1 Thessalonians 5:11
  - Encourage one another and build one another up



SPUR ONE ANOTHER ON TO LOVE AND GOOD WORKS  
HEBREWS 10:24-25

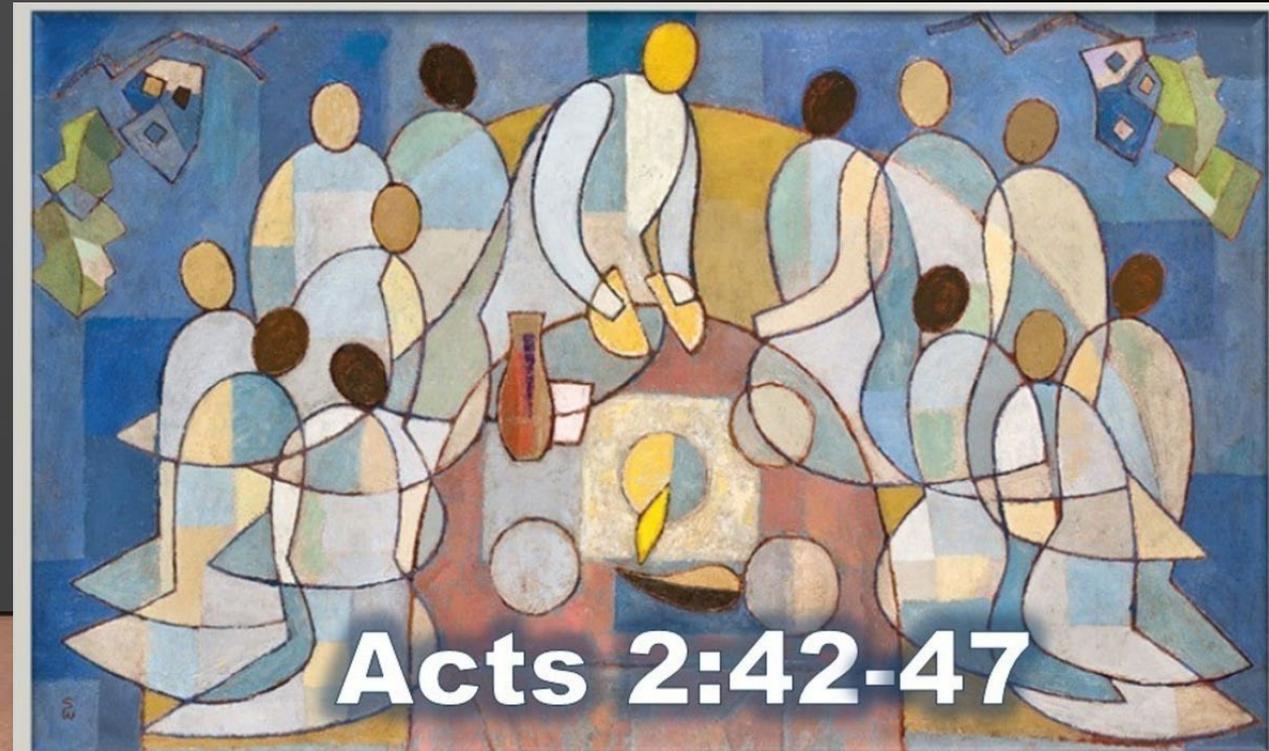
Spur one another on to love and good works.  
We must spur one another on to love and good works.  
Not forsaking the assembly,  
But encouraging one another,  
We will spur one another on to love and good works.

# WHAT IS IMPORTANT TO GET RIGHT IN THE ASSEMBLY?



## WHAT DID THE EARLY CHURCH DO WHEN THEY ASSEMBLED?

- Acts 2:42 - And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the **fellowship**, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.



## FELLOWSHIP

- *κοινωνία* – *koinonia* (from *koinos* “common”) = fellowship, communion, sharing in common, a participation, partaking, of common experiences and interests of the Christian life.



## FELLOWSHIP

- What comes to mind when you think of Fellowship
- What kind of fellowship do we share?



## WHAT DID THE EARLY CHURCH SHARE IN COMMON?

- Acts 2:42 - And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.
- Acts 2:44-45 - And all who believed were together and had all things in common. And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need.
- Acts 2:46 - And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts,

## WHAT DID THE EARLY CHURCH SHARE IN COMMON?

- **1 Corinthians 1:9** - God is faithful, by whom you were called into the **fellowship of his Son**, Jesus Christ our Lord.
- **2 Corinthians 13:14** - The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the **fellowship of the Holy Spirit** be with you all.
- **Galatians 2:9** - and when James and Cephas and John, who seemed to be pillars, perceived the grace that was given to me, they gave the **right hand of fellowship** to Barnabas and me, that we should go to the Gentiles and they to the circumcised.

## WHAT DID THE EARLY CHURCH SHARE IN COMMON?

- **1 John 1:3** - that which we have seen and heard we proclaim also to you, so that you too may have fellowship with us; and indeed our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ.
- **1 John 1:7** - But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin.



## WHAT DID THE EARLY CHURCH SHARE IN COMMON?

- **1 Corinthians 10:16** - The cup of blessing that we bless, is it not a participation in the blood of Christ? The bread that we break, is it not a participation in the body of Christ?
- **Philippians 2:1** - So if there is any encouragement in Christ, any comfort from love, any participation in the Spirit, any and sympathy,
- **Romans 15:27** - For they were pleased to do it, and indeed they owe it to them. For if the Gentiles have come to share in their spiritual blessings, they ought also to be of service to them in material blessings.

## WHAT DID THE EARLY CHURCH SHARE IN COMMON?

- **2 Peter 1:4** - by which he has granted to us his precious and very great promises, so that through them you may become **partakers of the divine nature**, having escaped from the corruption that is in the world because of sinful desire.
- **1 Peter 5:1** So I exhort the elders among you, as a fellow elder and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, as well as a **partaker in the glory** that is going to be revealed:



## FELLOWSHIP

- What kind of fellowship do we share?
- When? Is it limited to outside the “worship assembly?”
- Is Fellowship a key element of our assembly or is it a side benefit?

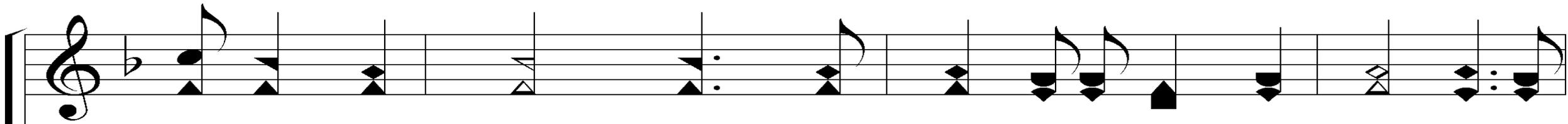
The background of the lower half of the slide is a vibrant, multi-colored abstract pattern resembling a galaxy or a colorful explosion, with shades of blue, green, orange, and purple. At the bottom of the slide, there is a horizontal strip of a light brown wood-grain floor.

**koinōnia**

**hosting • sharing**  
**serving • giving**

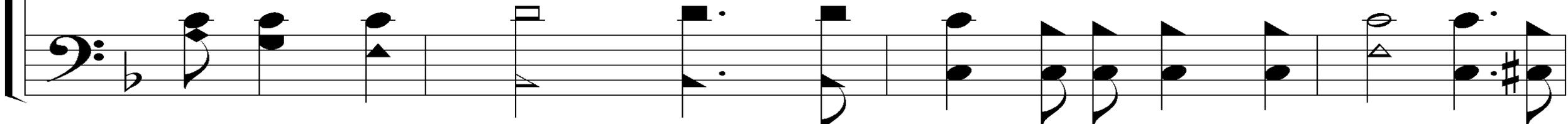
**A com-mon love for each oth-er, A com-mon gift to the**

**Sav-ior, A com-mon bond hold-ing us to the Lord;**

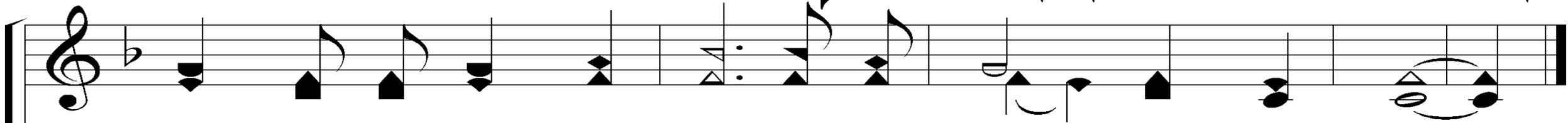


A musical staff in treble clef, key signature of one flat (B-flat), and common time signature. The melody consists of quarter and eighth notes, with some notes beamed together. The staff is part of a system with a brace on the left.

**A com-mon strength when we're wear-y, A com-mon hope for to-**

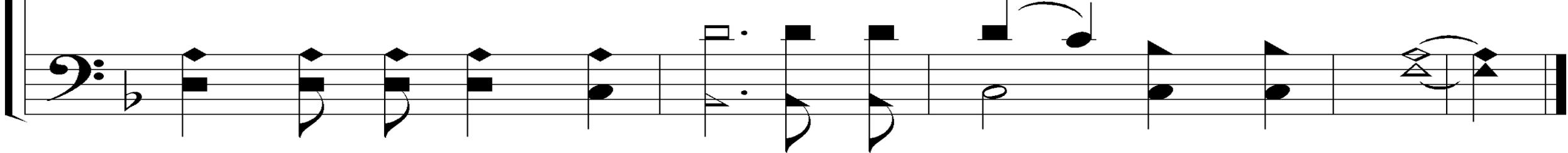


A musical staff in bass clef, key signature of one flat (B-flat), and common time signature. The accompaniment consists of quarter and eighth notes, with some notes beamed together. The staff is part of a system with a brace on the left.



A musical staff in treble clef, key signature of one flat (B-flat), and common time signature. The melody continues with quarter and eighth notes, including some beamed notes. The staff is part of a system with a brace on the left.

**mor-row, A com-mon joy in the truth of God's Word.**



A musical staff in bass clef, key signature of one flat (B-flat), and common time signature. The accompaniment continues with quarter and eighth notes, including some beamed notes. The staff is part of a system with a brace on the left.