

Relevant Acts

Week 2

Relevant Acts: God's Demonstration, The Early Church Revealed

Introduction:

- Today, we explore the identity and purpose of the church, using the early church as our blueprint.
- The church is called to be a demonstration of God's kingdom on earth.

The Early Church as a Blueprint (Acts 2:1-5, 41-46):

- A diverse group, united in one accord, sharing possessions through a supernatural work of the Spirit.
- Their love and generosity reflect new natures, created by the Holy Spirit, not law or coercion.
- Not socialism, but a spiritual transformation fostering family and community through the blood of Jesus Christ.
- Their fellowship is Spirit-formed—both corporate and individual.

Spirit-Led Fellowship (Phil. 2:1-4):

- Be like-minded, humble, and selfless.
- Prioritize others' interests as much as our own.
- A community marked by humility, love, and mutual care.

God's Presence in Gatherings (Matt. 18:20):

- When believers gather in Jesus' name, He is present!
- The church demonstrates heaven's reality here on earth through the Spirit.

The Church as a Demonstration Field (Farm Illustration):

- A place where new technologies, seeds, and practices are showcased—faith in action.
- **Ephesians 3:10:** The church reveals God's wisdom to the heavenly realms.
- **1 Cor. 3:9:** The church is God's field and building.
- **Isaiah 61:3:** The church displays God's beauty, healing, and righteousness.
- Demonstrates His love, faithfulness, grace, and the reality of His kingdom.

Transformative Power of the Church:

- A testimony of God's ability to change lives—spiritually, mentally, emotionally.
- Evidence of diversity: ethnicity, testimony, struggles, addictions—showing God's love and power to transform all.
- Equipped with diverse gifts and anointings for this transformation.

Fruit of the Spirit (Galatians 5:22-23):

- Love, Joy, Peace, Patience, Kindness, Goodness, Faithfulness, Gentleness, Self-control.
- Fruit develops as we live and serve in community.

Spiritual Gifts and Community (1 Cor. 12:7-11; Rom. 12:4-8):

- Gifts are for the common good, to strengthen and serve the church body.
- Gifts grow and develop through service in the church community.
- Believers are called to reconciliation with God and one another.

Living in Community (Rom. 12:9-13):

- The Spirit works in us to strengthen, convict, heal, and unify.
- The early church grew rapidly because of its message, power, and community—so it is today!

- The church is unique in its purpose: serving both members and non-members.

Our Mission: Serving and Witnessing (Rom. 12:12-21):

- Demonstrate God's love through service, not reaction or revenge.
- The church exists for its members and those outside it.
- Witness isn't just programs; it's inviting others into community and sharing life-changing experiences.
- Church isn't a podcast or sermon; it's a community of power, presence, and transformation.

Conclusion:

- When believers fight or become self-focused, we hinder our witness.
- Communion is an appointment to nourish our relationship with God and each other.
- The church is God's demonstration field—showcasing His reign and love on earth.

Call to Action:

- Embrace our role as God's demonstration—living out love, serving, and inviting others into the community of His grace