

MCHA Acts 2:41-47 Beautiful Beginnings FBC Canton Sunday am July 27, 2025
Introduction: We are attempting to MCHA. We have discussed 7 core habits that will leverage change in your Faithwalk. Romans 1:16-17

Do not negotiate with yourself. Do the hard things first.

Do not deny the richness of these nutrient sources that will change the health of your walk with God.

1. Time in the Word; He is ahead of you every day.
2. Time in prayer, hearing His voice in solitude.
3. Time in worship, private awe will lead to public awe.
4. When your Christianity is dull and lifeless pour service into it, and watch it flourish.
5. Enduring hope is the strongest evidence of healthy Christianity.
6. Knowing your purpose for existence will prolong your days and fulfill your deepest longings.
7. Disciples who are engaged in these core habits will reproduce others who are doing the same...disciples who are healthy grow.

Today we want to look at how to attain the goal of discipleship.

What is a disciple? A learned follower. Matthew 10:24-25

24 "A disciple is not above his teacher, nor a servant above his master. 25 It is enough for a disciple that he be like his teacher, and a servant like his master.

Everyone is a disciple of someone...as a believer you are called to be disciples of Jesus

**Why does God's church place so much on emphasis on making disciples?
Matthew 28:16-20**

Because we are following the commands.

You must be immersed. V. 41

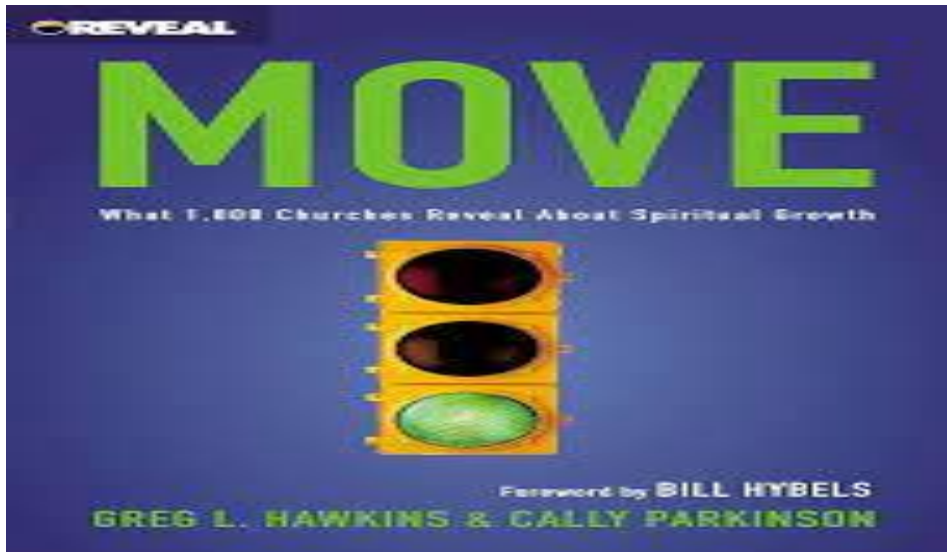
Immersion in the person of Jesus...the more you immerse, the more you progress.

To the degree that we follow the core habits, is the degree of our progress to be a disciple.

I am calling you to leave behind the old life and go forward in your discipleship.

I. All 7 core habits that we have been learning are found in these verses. V. 41-47

1. Education for transformation not information. V. 42



- a. Salvation by grace.
 - b. Trinitarian, and therefore personal God.
 - c. Jesus is first
 - d. Authority of the Bible.
 - e. Identity in Christ.
 - f. Give my life away including resources.
- 2. Practicing solitude in prayer to hear, not just to speak. V. 42**
- 3. You cannot keep the private awe from overflowing to public awe. V. 47**
- a. With all the people.
 - i. Signs are miracles that produce wonder.
- 4. When you find a need, you meet a need=service. V. 44-45**
- a. Giving generously and voluntarily is not socialism.
 - b. Both ups and downs of life are opportunities to meet a need.
- 5. Being saved and helping others to do the same=purpose. V. 47**
- a. You are in a community, not an island.
- 6. Daily enduring hope; never give up growing. V. 47**
- a. You are not just encouraging on Sunday, but all week.
- 7. When you have Jesus, you will want to give him away! V. 47**
- a. God adds, we work, it is both and, not either or.
 - b. Numbers matter because souls matter to God.

II. Core habits will manifest in core activities that also serve to advance your discipleship.

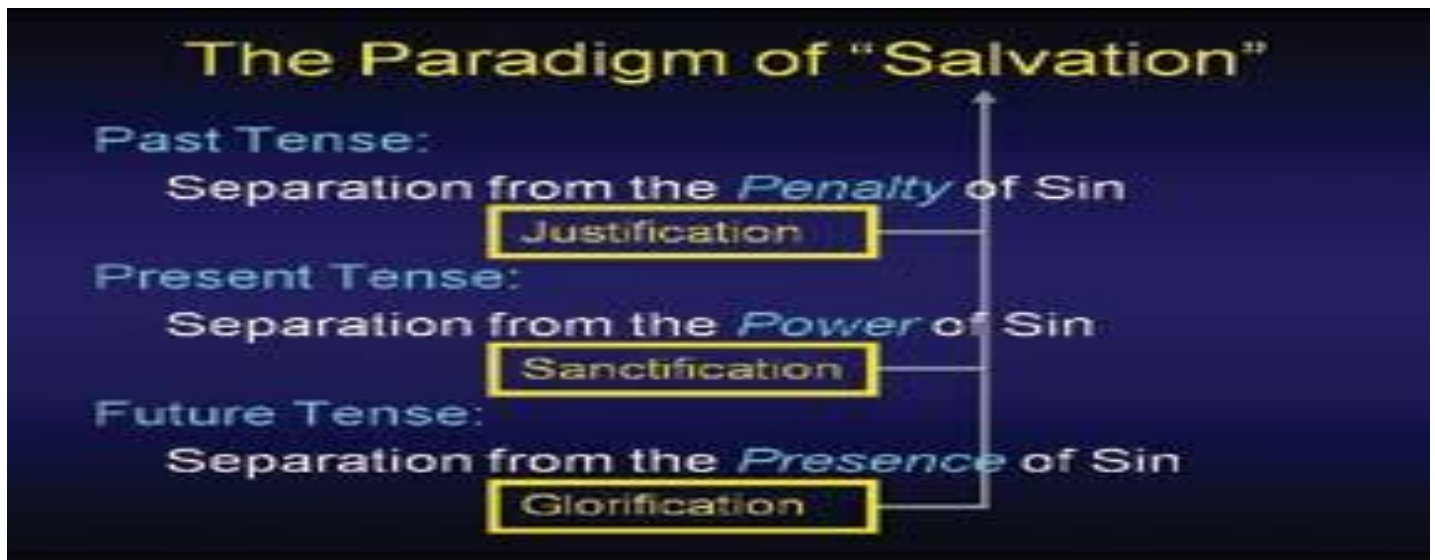
- a. Baptism. V. 41
- b. Learning doctrine...bible studies.

- c. Breaking bread and fellowship.
- d. Signs...miracles that produce wonder will be accomplished.
- e. Praise to God will be powerful.
- f. House to house, and publicly.
- g. Generous giving...sacrificial giving.
- h. Evangelism and missions: Watching the Lord add to their number daily...as they lived out their purpose.

III. **Consistency over time produces disciples.**

- a. **Opportunistic path, not rigid programming.**
- b. **The committed look for opportunities, the non-committed look for excuses.**
 - i. **With delight, not drudgery. V. 41**
 - 1. Received the Word.
 - ii. **Strongly committed, not shaken by obstacles. V. 42**
 - 1. In doctrine, fellowship, breaking of bread, and prayers.
 - iii. **Exuberant Joy, not forceful smiles. V. 46**
 - 1. Gladness to do so every day.
 - iv. **Singleness of heart, God's glory, not ours. V. 46**

Conclusion: The core habits will produce the best of your life for the rest of your life.



Jesus answered and said to him, “Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.” John 3:3

Entering a saving relationship with Christ is a life-changing experience! All things become new! Not *some* things, but *all* things (2 Cor. 5:17). For the first time in your life, Christ is Lord; God is Master. When you become a Christian, Christ’s presence will affect every part of you. You will have new thoughts, new attitudes, new values, and new sensitivities. New priorities will dramatically affect your relationships. You will view everything in your life from a Christlike perspective. Christianity is not something you add to your life; it is life!

Nicodemus thought that salvation meant performing certain religious exercises and holding to particular religious teachings. He had no idea of the all-encompassing nature of salvation! When you become a Christian, God gives you a new heart so that *everything* becomes new! God gives you a new mind, like that of Christ, so you think differently. He gives you new emotions, so you feel deeply about completely different matters. You become sensitive to sin, so you are no longer comfortable with it. Your recreation will be affected as you are made aware of what is honoring to God and what is not. Your relationships will now be guided by the Holy Spirit. Destructive habits and attitudes, previously immune to change, will be transformed.

Have you noticed the changes God has brought to your life since you entered a vital relationship with Jesus Christ? These changes should be very noticeable as a testimony of the new life you received when you trusted Jesus as your Savior and Lord.

CHRISTIAN STANDARD

Authentic Disciple-Making: 5 Essentials

by Christian Standard | 1 March, 2022 | 0 comments

By Bobby Harrington

Fifteen years ago, I started waking up every day focused on disciple-making. In my roles as a pastor, trainer of church planters, network leader, and coach, it became my obsession.

I did this because I came to believe disciple-making is the core mission of the church.

Just as importantly: I came to believe disciple-making is the key to Christian faithfulness in this cultural moment.

Disciple-making has become such a passion that I have now published over 10 books on the topic, initiated and led multiple national conferences on the topic, and cofounded three national networks for church leaders focused on disciple-making: The Relational Discipleship Network, Discipleship.org (reaching 30,000 evangelical church leaders focused on *Jesus'* method), and Renew.org (reaching more than 15,000 leaders in Christian churches/churches of Christ with theology focused on *Jesus'* teachings).

Christian Standard asked me to share the keys to authentic disciple-making I have learned. I'm grateful for the opportunity. Here are the top five in my experience.

1. Altruistic: You Need the Right Motives

To be authentic, our disciple-making needs to start with the right motives. Too many people launch discipleship or disciple-making efforts with distorted goals. Disciple-making efforts should not be launched to get more numbers or grow the church, to keep people happy, or even to give people the fellowship they desire.

Love, which we define as cross-shaped actions following Jesus, should be our motivation (John 13:34-35). Disciple-making must spring from a desire to truly love God and love people. It must be that "Christ's love compels us, because we are convinced that one died for all, and therefore all died" (2 Corinthians 5:14, emphasis mine). We must desire to love people in the way of Jesus, for he came to seek and save the lost (Luke 19:10) and he devoted his most focused energy and time to the making of twelve disciples.

If you seek to make disciples because you see and love people like Jesus saw and loved people, you are starting at the right place.

2. Intentional: You Need to Follow a Plan

The Oxford English Dictionary describes intentionality as "the fact of being deliberate or purposive." Our postmodern world prizes the modesty of uncertainty and self-professed doubt. In the same vein, Christians can back away from intentional involvement in discipling others into following Jesus. It can feel comfortable to be tepid and reserved about making disciples. We might think, After all, only God can guide people. My job is to pray and trust the Holy *Spirit's* guidance in another *person's* life. *That's* all I can do.

The problem with this passive posture is that it is at odds with Jesus' teachings.

Let's examine the primary New Testament text on discipleship:

Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age (Matthew 28:19-20).

This text begins with two commands: "go" and "make." Jesus is commanding us to be intentional. We can follow Jesus' teaching in this text only if we "go" into the world of lost people to reach them and "make disciples." The second command ("make disciples") is even more key. (In Greek, it's the fundamental imperative in the sentence.) And we can make disciples only if we know what a disciple is and how to make one. A disciple maker, by definition, is guided by intentionality and planning. She guides people to follow Jesus.

If I do not have a basic path onto which I guide people, can I really make disciples? If I fail to have a plan or basic sense of direction, I'm deviating from what Jesus told us. For, according to the text, making disciples includes my role in baptizing them and teaching them "to obey everything that Jesus commanded."

At a basic level, my job is to intentionally teach them about Jesus and help them do what Jesus commanded.

3. Relational: You Need to Base Everything on Love

Relationships—genuine life-on-life connections grounded in Christlike love—create and sustain the environment for discipleship.

I became a disciple of Jesus at the University of Calgary because Dr. Mac Jacobs loved me enough to teach me about Jesus and show me how to follow Jesus. But he was able to do that because of our relationship, where he loved me enough to hang out with me, take my late-night calls, come over for family dinners, and put up with all my immaturities.

He walked with Jesus and loved me along the way.

It changed me.

Love changes people more than mere information does.

In the context of relationship, truth can be transferred from one life to the next. Questions can be asked. Real-life stories can be shared. Sin can be confessed. Accountability can be offered.

Encouragement can be given. Jesus' ministry clearly shows us that disciple-making is a relational process built on trust.

In describing unconditional agape love, the apostle Paul provided a rich description of the context that makes for fruitful discipling relationships:

Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. Love never fails (1 Corinthians 13:4-8).

Let me make this personal. As I trust and follow Jesus and seek to help others trust and follow Jesus, I am seeking to become a person epitomized by this kind of love. I want my biography to become clear to all.

Bobby is patient, Bobby is kind. Bobby does not envy, Bobby does not boast, Bobby is not proud. Bobby does not dishonor others. Bobby is not self-seeking. Bobby is not easily angered and keeps no record of wrongs. Bobby does not delight in evil, but rejoices with the truth. Bobby always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. Bobby never fails.

This is why we say agape love is to be the foundation for everything that happens in disciple-making. It is the ultimate sign of maturity and a top priority when it comes to relationships. We pursue a life of love (Ephesians 5:1-2).

- Love is our motivation as we seek discipling relationships.
- Love is our mindset as we plan and strategize discipling relationships.
- Love is our foundation as we nurture and uphold discipling relationships.
- Love is our model as we navigate conflicts, difficulties, and disappointments in discipling relationships.

Love is the motivation for discipling relationships, because as Paul said, "Love never fails."

4. Transformational: Your Goal Must Be to Change Lives

The goals of disciple-making are leading people to experience eternal salvation and live lives of Holy Spirit-inspired obedience. Remember the goal of the Great Commission is not that we would "know the teachings of Jesus."

Stop and think about that last statement.

Jesus calls us to obedience-based disciple-making. We are to teach those we disciple "to obey everything I have commanded you," Jesus said (Matthew 28:20).

As stated earlier, here are things we do not focus on in disciple-making (even if some of the following end up becoming byproducts):

- helping those we disciple to be happy
- knowledge for knowledge's sake
- close friendships
- increasing church members

- providing emotional support

Some of those things will likely happen when we disciple people the way Jesus did, but they cannot be our focus. I have made countless mistakes in discipling relationships because I have erroneously made each of those a focus point.

The apostle Paul described his discipling focus succinctly: “He [Jesus] is the one we proclaim, admonishing and teaching everyone with all wisdom, so that we may present everyone fully mature in Christ. To this end I strenuously contend with all the energy Christ so powerfully works in me” (Colossians 1:28-29, emphasis mine).

The goal is developing people so they reach full maturity in Christ.

It is strenuous. It takes the energy of Christ. We ask God to powerfully work in us.

Here is what that looks like:

- helping people to find salvation
- helping people practice their new identity in Christ
- helping people to obey specific commands
- helping people stop repetitive sins
- helping people forgive the unforgivable and love the unlovable

The apostle Paul described the impact of his discipling relationship with the Corinthians this way: You yourselves are our letter, written on our hearts, known and read by everyone. You show that you are a letter from Christ, the result of our ministry, written not with ink but with the Spirit of the living God, not on tablets of stone but on tablets of human hearts (2 Corinthians 3:2-3).

5. Repeatable: You Must Graduate Disciple Makers

Authentic disciple-making repeats itself, where the disciple becomes a disciple maker, reproducing the disciple-making process.

As I prepared to launch Discipleship.org’s national conferences and online training, I sought the input of some of the most effective disciple makers in North America. I was stunned by their uniform emphasis on one point: disciple-making is not biblical without an emphasis on multiplication.

Remember Jesus’ final command: disciples must go and make other disciples.

Jesus is our model. He showed us that disciple-making starts with lost people (he discipled the disciples before they were true disciples) and it reaches maturity when the disciples he made carried on the mission.

As disciples, we want to be like Jesus.

Here are summaries of what Jesus showed us about his style of disciple-making:

- He came to seek and save the lost (Luke 19:10).
- He devoted 65 to 90 percent of his best time to discipling the Twelve (Luke 6:13).
- He told us students are to be like their teachers, and servants like their masters (Matthew 10:25).
- He commissioned his disciples at three different times in three different ways to go make disciples like he did (John 20:21; Matthew 28:19; and Acts 1:8).

The replication of disciple makers was Jesus’ master plan.

An Aha That Changed My Life’s Focus

I am a church planter who spent years training church planters around the country. After training church planters for a decade, I realized something fundamentally transformational.

If you plant a church, you may not get disciples. But if you make disciples who make disciples who make disciples, you should always get a church.

Jesus’ plan for multiplication is making disciples who make disciples who plant churches that make disciples.

Disciple-making is the best way to reach a lost world. It is the best way to bring the saved to maturity. It is the best way, in turn, to propagate the most important mission on planet earth for others. That mission is to be disciples who make disciples. Will you join with me and make it your mission too? Bobby Harrington is the lead pastor at Harpeth Christian Church, Franklin, Tennessee, and the point leader for Discipleship.org and Renew.org.

3. ([Acts 2:41](#)) The response to Peter's sermon.

Then those who gladly received his word were baptized; and that day about three thousand souls were added to them.

a. **About three thousand souls were added to them:** This day of Pentecost saw an amazing harvest of souls. The church went from about 120 people to 3,120 people in one day.

i. Think of how this touched lives beyond that one day. Many of the 3,000 were undoubtedly pilgrims who came to Jerusalem for the feast of Pentecost. They expected something special from God, but not anything like this. Many in this crowd went back home, traveling far from Jerusalem, taking the good news of Jesus Christ with them.

b. **Those who gladly received his word were baptized:** Those who believed on Jesus that day did so **gladly**, even making a dramatic statement in baptism. They would not have submitted to baptism unless they were fully convinced of who Jesus was and their great need for Him as a Savior.

i. How could you baptize 3,000 people? There were huge resources of water available on the temple mount, and pools and reservoirs nearby, so it was not difficult to find a place where the baptisms could take place.

ii. God continues to do such great things. After the 1990 Summer Harvest Crusade, there was a mass baptism at Corona del Mar. They couldn't count how many were baptized, but more than 5,000 people attended the event. It was reported as the largest baptism service in American history.

D. The life of these first believers.

1. ([Acts 2:42](#)) The foundation of their Christian life.

And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers.

a. **And they continued steadfastly:** On the day of Pentecost the sound of the rushing wind, the tongues of fire, and the conversion of 3,000 were all remarkable events. But the things described in [Acts 2:42](#) were the abiding legacy of God's work.

b. **They continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine**: They relied on the apostles to communicate to them who Jesus was and what He had done. They just trusted in Jesus; now they wanted to know more.

i. **Continued steadfastly** uses a Greek verb communicating “a steadfast and single-minded fidelity to a certain course of action.” (Longenecker) There was to be no departure from the **apostles' doctrine**, because it was the truth of God.

ii. Thankfully, God allows us to sit under the **apostles' doctrine** — the New Testament record. Every pastor should seek to be unoriginal in the sense that we don't have our own doctrine, but the **apostles' doctrine**.

c. **They continued steadfastly in... fellowship**: The ancient Greek word *koinonia* (translated here as **fellowship**) has the idea of association, communion, fellowship, and participation; it means to **share** in something.

i. The Christian life is meant to be full of **fellowship**, of sharing one with another.

- We share the same Lord Jesus.
- We share the same guide for life.
- We share the same love for God
- We share the same desire to worship Him.
- We share the same struggles.
- We share the same victories
- We share the same job of living for Him.
- We share the same joy of communicating the gospel.

d. **They continued steadfastly... in the breaking of bread**: Even living so close to the time when Jesus was crucified, they still never wanted to forget what He did on the cross. How much more important is it for us to never forget?

e. **They continued steadfastly... in prayers**. Whenever God's work is done, God's people gather for prayer and worship.

i. “In the Greek the definite article occurs before the word ‘prayer.’ The text actually says, ‘to the prayers.’ They devoted themselves ‘to **the** breaking of bread and to **the** prayers.’ Obviously, that is a reference to something formal — to worship in which the people got together and praised God.” (Boice)

f. **The apostles' doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers:**

Everything else we read about the power and glory of the early church flows from this foundation of the word, fellowship, remembrance of Jesus' work on the cross, and prayer.

i. From Luke's description of the early Christian community, "The educated reader would have got the impression here that the Greek ideal of society had been realized." (Dictionary of New Testament Theology)

ii. "It is presented as a model church, but this does not mean that it was perfect. A few chapters further on, we are going to find that it was far from perfect." (Boice)

2. **(Acts 2:43) The presence of the power of God.**

Then fear came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were done through the apostles.

a. **Then fear came upon every soul:** This was evidence of the power of God. One of the greatest, most powerful works God can do is to change the human heart towards a reverent honor of the Lord.

b. **Many signs and wonders were done:** This was evidence of the power of God. Where God is at work, lives will be touched in miraculous ways.

3. **(Acts 2:44-45) Their close hearts and sharing in the common life of Jesus.**

Now all who believed were together, and had all things in common, and sold their possessions and goods, and divided them among all, as anyone had need.

a. **Now all who believed were together, and had all things in common:** With the influx of more than 3,000 believers, most of whom stayed in Jerusalem and didn't have jobs, the family of Christians had to share if they were to survive.

i. We shouldn't regard this as an early experiment in communism because it was voluntary, temporary, and flawed to the extent that the church in Jerusalem was in continual need of financial support from other churches. Also, we don't have any evidence this continued very long.

b. **All who believed were together:** The Jews had a tremendous custom of hospitality during any major feast like Pentecost. Visitors were received into private homes, and no one could charge for giving a bed or a room to a visitor or for supplying their basic needs. The Christians took this tremendous feast-time hospitality and made it an everyday thing.

c. **Sold their possessions and their goods, and divided them among all, as anyone had need:** The power of God is evident here because Jesus became much more important to them than their possessions.

4. ([Acts 2:46-47](#)) The Christian family lived together and grew.

So continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they ate their food with gladness and simplicity of heart, praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved.

- a. **So continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house**: The church is meant to worship God and learn His Word together. Yet it is meant to do more; God wants us to share our [lives](#) with one another.
- b. **Praising God and having favor with all the people**: Their Christian experience was daily, joyful and simple — good examples for us to follow.
- c. **And the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved**: This is God's prescription for church growth. If we take care to follow the example of [Acts 2:42-47a](#), God will take care of growing the church Himself.

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Updated: August 2022 David Guzik

Chuck Smith commentary:

What promise? The promise that God made to pour out His Spirit on all flesh. Who is it for?

It's for you, and it's for your children, and to all that are far off, even as many as the Lord our God shall call ([Act 2:39](#)).

No mention of just being good for the apostolic period, but on down through the church ages. "As many as the Lord our God shall call."

And with many other words he did testify and exhort, saying, Save yourself from this untoward generation. Then they who gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls ([Act 2:40-41](#)).

So you've got the beginning of the church growth program. Rapid church growth program, suddenly they've increased manifestly. Now this is important. What was the early church's function? What were they doing?

They continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers ([Act 2:42](#)).

These were the four institutions of the early church. First of all, the apostles' doctrine: the study of the Word of God. Second, the fellowship: the *koinonia*--a very interesting Greek word. Its implications are beyond translation into English. But this coming together, interrelating, becoming a part of each other, a strong bond and tie and communion and commonness and fellowship. Breaking of bread, the symbol of that inner relationship and prayers.

A lot of the things that the church does today are not listed here. I think a lot of the things that the church does today are extraneous and supercilious, and we'd do well to let them die a natural death instead of trying to keep them alive by artificial means.

And fear came upon every soul: and many wonders and signs were done by the apostles. And all who believed were together, and had all things [*koinonia*] in common; And many of them sold their possessions and their goods, and they parted them to all men, as every man had a need ([Act 2:43-45](#)).

There was a early communism, in a good sense, in the church, prompted by love. Those who had, were selling in order that they might distribute to those who did not have, that they might be able to help them.

And they, continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house ([Act 2:46](#)),

So the church actually began in both the fellowships in the temple, but also in the home fellowships. Breaking bread from house to house,

They did eat their meat with gladness and singleness of heart ([Act 2:46](#)),

What was the result? As they were,

Praising God, and having favor with all the people. The Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved ([Act 2:47](#)).

When the church was what God wanted the church to be, then God did for the church what He was wanting to do.

Today the church is spending all of its efforts in church growth programs. How to increase our attendance? Studying psychology and sociology and making demographic studies of communities and determining what will appeal to the people of this particular community. What type of an advertising program will be most effective, taking polls and census and putting everything together so that we can have a church growth program because we want to add so many members to our church. You can get professionals to come in and do all of these studies and, for a fee, they will go ahead and develop your whole program. There are other professionals who'll come in and set up a whole financial program for us, and they will, for ten percent of the take, will set up the whole program of how to take you. And many churches hire these professionals for the church growth, or the fundraising programs. The early church didn't know anything of that. They were not very sophisticated, and they hadn't gone to seminary. So all they could do is what they knew to do, just get together and study the Word and pray and fellowship, break bread. "And the Lord added daily to the church such as should be saved." It was a natural spontaneous growth as the Lord added to the church.

"Oh, times are different." Why? Has God changed? God's hand is not short that He can't save, neither is His ear heavy. But we are no longer relying upon God; we're no longer relying upon the Holy Spirit. We've sought men's devices and man's ways. And we have forsaken the Word of God and gone to entertaining programs. And we have tried to attract the people by this lavish program of entertainment. "Come and be entertained. See the tallest Christmas tree in the world. See Elijah ascend directly into the clouds." And oh what a trap that is.

There was this particular church that every Christmas was putting on the spectacular program, and the problem is when you draw people to that, you've got to get more spectacular every year. And so, they had the "Living Christmas Tree." "Come and see the living Christmas tree!" And, of course, all of them there in the shape of a Christmas tree singing the carols. Well the next year it had to be a bigger Christmas tree, you know, bigger than the year before, because it's got to be the best. "The greatest living Christmas tree ever." Different costumes and different little gimmicks and gadgets, and finally, as they were developing this Christmas tree, living Christmas tree, year by year, they had just about run out of ideas, when someone had the idea of taking and putting a live angel at the top of the Christmas tree. And they lowered him out of the ceiling, and as the Christmas tree was being formed, he would come out of the ceiling and would be there at the top of the Christmas tree, the live angel. Well something happened to the gears, and as they were letting him down, he got suspended in mid

air over the auditorium, and began swinging around and around. And the angel began to cry out, "Get me down from here!" And he got so upset--this is true--he began to curse. "Someone stop this damn thing from swinging!" And he got so sick from spinning, he began to throw up. May that be the fate of all man's endeavors and programs so that we can learn to rely upon God and the power of His Holy Spirit to build the church and to do His work.

"This promise is unto you, and to your children, and to those who are afar off, even as many as the Lord our God shall call." "Ye shall receive power when the Holy Spirit is come upon you and you'll become a witness." The gift of God's Holy Spirit is for you tonight. I pray that each of us might be open to God, to receive whatever it is that God may wish to impart to us. That we might become whatever God would have us to be. That we might, indeed, be His witness of His love in this world in which we live today. And so, may God bless you as you go forth, to bear witness of Jesus Christ. And may your life show forth the works of God that He has wrought in you. In His name.

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Matthew Henry :: Commentary on Acts 2

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Chapter 2

Between the promise of the Messiah (even the latest of those promises) and his coming many ages intervened; but between the promise of the Spirit and his coming there were but a few days; and during those days the apostles, though they had received orders to preach the gospel to every creature, and to begin at Jerusalem, yet lay perfectly wind-bound, incognito-concealed, and not offering to preach. But in this chapter the north wind and the south wind awake, and then they awake, and we have them in the pulpit presently. Here is,

- I. The descent of the Spirit upon the apostles, and those that were with them, on the day of pentecost ([v. 1-4](#)).
- II. The various speculations which this occasioned among the people that were now met in Jerusalem from all parts ([v. 5-13](#)).
- III. The sermon which Peter preached to them hereupon, wherein he shows that this pouring out of the Spirit was the accomplishment of an Old-Testament promise ([v. 14-21](#)), that it was a confirmation of Christ's being the Messiah, which was already proved by his resurrection ([v. 22-32](#)), and that it was a fruit and evidence of his ascension into heaven ([v. 33-36](#)).
- IV. The good effect of this sermon in the conversion of many to the faith of Christ, and their addition to the church ([v. 37-41](#)).
- V. The eminent piety and charity of those primitive Christians, and the manifest tokens of God's presence with them, and power in them ([v. 42-47](#)).