

Acts of the Holy Spirit
“God of the Impossible” – Series

~ READ TEXT ~

AS YOU SETTLE IN...

- Turn to (Acts 2:41-47) NLT

~ LET'S PRAY ~

NOTE TAKERS...

- I've titled today's message: **“How Do I Live as a Christian?”**

~ INTRO ~

AT THE END OF (Acts 2)...

- We're reading about the excitement...
 - Of people that are NEW to the faith...
 - And HUNGRY for more!

THERE WERE...

- 3,000 people that just responded to Peter's message of repentance.
 - And now these people followed with a fresh enthusiasm!

PERHAPS WE COULD CONSIDER...

- The excitement of a new church OR a new believer.
 - There's a freshness...
 - People have a new hope...
 - And Christian love & grace is spill out everywhere.

BUT... AS TIME GOES ON...

- The freshness can wear off!

AND... SOMETIMES PEOPLE...

- Point to the pastor as not being able to give a compelling vision.

HENRY BLACKABY – Spiritual Leadership ¹

The pastor should not constantly cast vision for what the church should do next. The objective is to bring the people into an intimate relationship with Christ, so they know when He is speaking and guiding them... (p.144).

¹ Henry Blackaby, *Spiritual Leadership: Moving People on to God's Agenda* (p.144). B & H Publishing Group. Kindle Edition 2011.

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CHURCH... I WANT YOU TO BE TAPPED INTO JESUS... NOT JEFF!

- I'll disappoint you!
 - I'll fail your expectations at some point!
 - I'm not always available for every need!
 - And I can't solve all the problems!

BUT... if any church is going to function as God intends...

- Each of us must know, understand, & apply God's word personally.

SO...

“How Do I Live as a Christian?”

HERE'S WHAT OUR TEXT SAYS TODAY:

- Read (Acts 2:41-47) NLT

THE BIG IDEA – “DEVOTION”

LET'S CONSIDER TWO-AREAS OF DEVOTION:

- a) God's word
- b) God's people

BOTH OF THESE...

- Keep us anchored into the family of God.
 - AND the early church took these things to heart.

NOW... IN (v.42) NLT – IT SAYS THEY WERE *devoted*.

This literally means: *They were in a state of constant engagement.* ²

- This verse shows us four areas of **devotion OR engagement**:
 - *Teaching / Fellowship / Worship / & Prayer.*

LET'S OPEN THESE UP.

1) *Teaching* = This is the priority Jesus left with Peter in (John 21)...

² Swindoll's Living Insights New Testament Commentary (vol. 5) (p.60). Copyright 2016 by Charles R. Swindoll Inc.

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AND it’s the priority the church continues in today.

- **Getting & keeping** the church grounded in...
 - The truths of scripture.

PASTORS BRING THE HEART OF GOD...

- Close to man... we talk about how Jesus bridges the gap...
 - Saving us from the isolation of sin & death.
- And how life is changed when I’m assured of God’s love for me!

THIS HAPPENES HERE...

- Sunday-by-Sunday as the Bible is unfolded & applied to our lives.
 - And... SO TOO... the early church was devoted to learning!

They were dedicated to knowing the scriptures!

- They approached God’s word with a reverence...
 - And their hearts were open to OBEY what they heard.

CAN I REMIND YOU OF THIS TRUTH?

- (John 20:31) NKJV

FOLLOWING JESUS STARTS...

- By being devoted to His word.
 - (John 14:15) NLT

SECOND...

- We’re devoted to God’s people.

Also in (v.42) NLT...

- 2) *Fellowship* = (Grk #2842) *koinonia*. There’s no good English translation for this word.

➤ BUT we can see the texture of this word in action.

- i. (2 Cor. 6:14) NLT it’s translated *live with OR communion* NKJV.
 - (Idea is becoming one with)
 - *Fellowship* is becoming one.
- ii. (Rom. 15:26) NKJV it’s translated *contribution*.

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iii. (2 Cor. 9:13) NLT it’s translated *generosity*.

HERE’S THE POINT...

- *Fellowship* is a sweet mixture of integrated lives...
 - That are built around contribution & generosity.
- *Fellowship* is the devotion of God’s people to each other.

I LOVE WHAT (Proverbs 3:3) NLT

“Never let loyalty and kindness leave you!”

OVER THE LAST MONTH ... WE’VE LEARNED...

- When everyone is doing their part in the church...
 - The body becomes *healthy, it grows, AND is filled with love!*
 - This is devotion to God’s word & God’s people.

CAN YOU GET THAT!?!

OK...

- As we learn God’s word & apply God’s word...
 - The next natural thing we see is *worship*.
- 3) *Worship* = The phrase is “*the breaking of bread*” (v.42) NKJV

Bible Commentator Charles Swindoll notes: ³

*The breaking of bread originally mingled the idea of *koinonia* and the communion ceremony... Jesus recast the image of the traditional cup and bread to represent His blood and body.*

THE EARLY CHURCH...

- Lived simple lives of worship...
 - AND they met in homes, sang hymns, read scripture...
 - AND prayed together.
 - They worshipped Jesus!

4) *Prayer* = (Phil 4:6(b)) NLT

³ Swindoll’s Living Insights New Testament Commentary (vol. 5) (p.61). Copyright 2016 by Charles R. Swindoll Inc.

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“Tell God what you need and thank Him for all that He has done.”

GOD WANTS US TO...

- Pray **directly** to Him:
 - *Father show me your way; provide me your strength;*
 - *Grant me your favor... May Your will be done not mine.*

HE DOESN'T WANT US TO...

- **Direct Him** in our prayers...
 - By telling Him what to do & commanding Him when to do it.

NOR DOES HE WANT US TO...

- Tell stories in our public prayers...
 - To gain the attention of others.

CHURCH...

- Jesus has taught us how to pray:
 - (Matt. 6:5-13) NLT
 - DO's & DON'TS
 - (Luke 22:42) NLT
 - Simple submission!

~ IN CLOSING ~

THE EARLY CHURCH...

- Saw the hand of God at work and responded by faith.

I PRAY YOU...

- Don't forget what we've been watching God do here.
 - He's been actively moving in our midst...
 - And continues here this morning.

LET'S HONOR & ADORE HIM...

- With communion.

~ COMMUNION ~